



Houghton

WESLEYAN CHURCH

*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others*



WESLEY ODEN, *Senior Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

DAVID HUIZENGA, *Assistant Pastor*

CINDY ODEN, *Assistant Pastor*

GRACE DEITRICK, *Assistant Pastor*

EMILY SPATEHOLTS, *Children's Ministry Director*

JUDY CONGDON, *Organist and Choir Director*

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 21, 2024

11:00 A.M.

Prelude: *Chorale Prelude on "Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist"*

D. Buxtehude

Call to Worship

To God Be the Glory (#42)

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry: Discipleship

Children's Sermon: *God's Plan*

Rescuer; Receive Glory (Offering will be received during the first song)

Confession & Time of Prayer

Heavenly Father, our sin is ever before us—an unkind word, a jealous spirit, a harsh reply, a twisted truth, an apathetic response, an unrealistic expectation, a sinful choice. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and we have not loved our neighbor as our selves. Set us free from the insecurities that drive us and forgive us for the self-centered ways in which we too often live. Let us hear once again your words of pardon, "In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven." Amen.

Response: ***Precious Lord, Take My Hand***

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:1-15

Greeting One Another

Sermon: *Christlike Living Unawares*

I Speak Jesus

Benediction

Postlude: *Menuet Gothique*

L. Boellman

Acolyte: Daniel Mulema

Reader: Joanna Bates

Musicians:

Alison Young-Reusser (guitar & vocals), Kristen Sanasith (vocals),
Joanna Bates (vocals), Alex Hill (vocals), Dan Zambrano (cajòn),
Tim & Sharon McGarvey (horns), David Huizenga (piano)

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Life is a maze of ups and downs, of joys and sorrows. In the midst of our lives, we live with confidence that Jesus is Lord, and that this truth is the bedrock of how we live. In our worship today, may God open our eyes to the power and grace of Jesus for us and for the whole world.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed. Pastor Wes continues this series of sermons on hospitality. Next Sunday's sermon is from Luke 7: Redefining Hospitality.

YOUTH GROUP meets 5:00 to 6:30 today.

THE WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets every Wednesday through mid May at 9:30-10:45 a.m. in **ROOM 105** across from the church Library We would be glad to have you come for a time of Bible study and prayer.

HWC KIDS

- Kids Connect: This week, kids see how Jesus called Andrew, Peter, James, and John to become his disciples.
- BIG IDEA: I can trust God's plans for me.
- BIBLE: Mark 1:14—20; Psalm 62:5—12
- January Memory Verse: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." — Philippians 4:13 (NIV)
- Stone Soup Dinner: Want a night off from cooking next Friday while also helping a ministry of the Church? Join us for the annual Stone Soup Dinner on Friday, January 26 from 5:15-6:45 at the Community Room. Eat-in, take-out, or order ahead for a delicious, hot meal of soup, bread, and dessert to support Valley Preschool scholarship funds.

MISSION MOMENT- Each year we send funds and prayers to support the ministry of He Sapa New Life Church in Rapid City, South Dakota, a Native American ministry in western South Dakota largely among the Lakota and Dakota tribes. We also pray for the Wesleyan Chapel on the Cattaraugus Reservation in WNY. Let us not forget to pray for God to do great things among the native peoples in North America.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$551,671.23 / **Budget Received:** \$527,663.08

PERSECUTED CHURCH - The 2024 World Watch List (Open Doors) ranks the 50 countries where Christians face the most extreme persecution. N. Korea, Somalia, Libya, Eritrea, Yemen, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Iran, and Afghanistan top the list. We pray for our brothers and sisters who face daily severe restrictions and even death in these and other land. God have mercy.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Denise Campbell and her family at the death of her father this week and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Jim Arthur, Beth Pocock, Kyle Boon, Linda Roth, Paul Roth, Matthew Pierson (Kim Prins-Moeller's brother-in-law), James Bates, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Grace Taylor, Karen Gaerte, Andy Mikolajczyk (Mary Lingenfelter's brother), Denise Zambrano, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Lenore Paige, Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Crikelair; for all dealing with tragedies and disasters including the recent storms; for refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine and in Israel, Gaza and the entire Middle East; for a Chinese pastor who has been detained by the police for more than a year; for First Baptist Church, Hume (Pastor Joel Stroud).