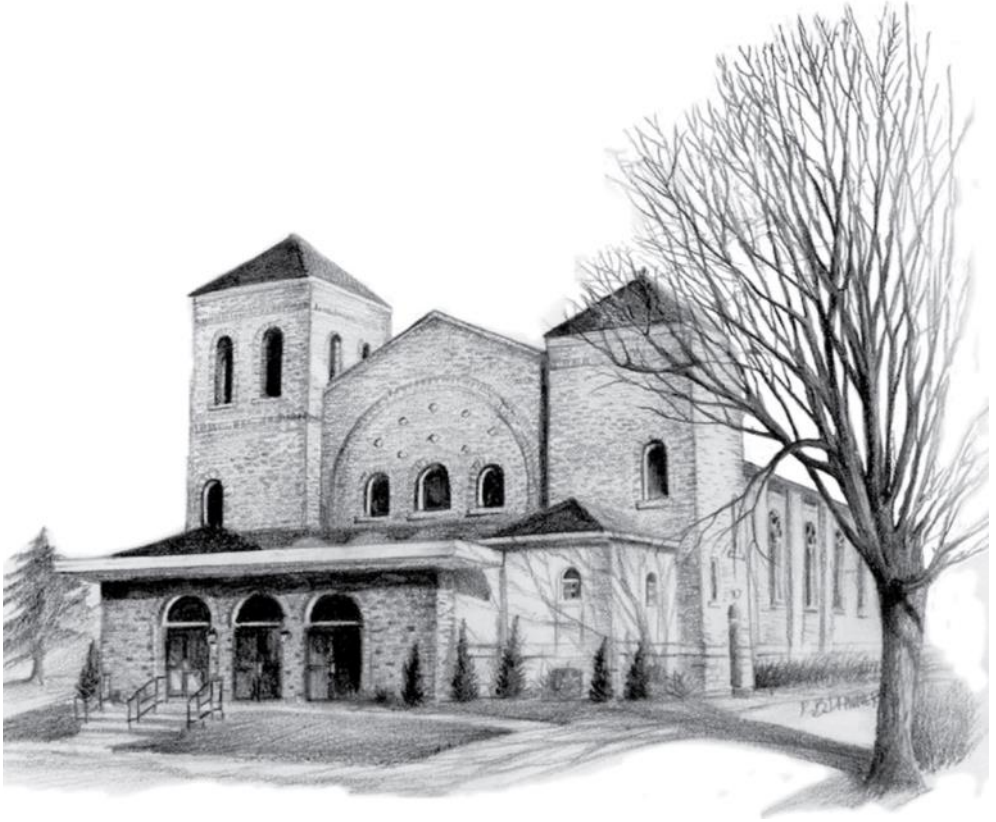




Houghton

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*

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

11:00 A.M.

Prelude: *Voluntary on "Rosedale"*

R. Lind

Welcome & Prayer

Hymn: *All Creatures of Our God and King* (#26)

Greeting One Another

Life of the Church

Most High God; Welcome Into This Place

Offering will be received during the first song

Confession & Time of Prayer

Merciful God, we confess to you now that we have sinned. We confess the sins that no one knows and the sins that everyone knows. We confess the sins that are a burden to us and the sins that do not bother us because we have grown used to them. We confess our sins as a church—hesitating to love one another, to forgive one another, to offer ourselves to one another as Christ has given himself to us. Father, forgive us. Send the Holy Spirit upon us to convince us of your unconditional pardon and to give us power to live as you have called us to live. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response: ***Holy, Holy, Holy*** (v.4)

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:36-47

Sermon: *A Culture of Hospitality*

Communion

Great Are You Lord (You Give Life); Let it Be Said of Us

Choral Anthem: *How Great Thou Art*

arr. D. Forrest

Combined Houghton University & Houghton Church Choirs

Benediction

Postlude: *Processional on "Lift High the Cross"*

D. Busarow

Acolyte: Emma Oden

Reader: Cody Johnson

Musicians:

Alison Young-Reusser (vocals & guitar), Cody Johnson (vocals),
Grace Deitrick (vocals), Simon Sardina (cajòn), David Huizenga (piano)

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. We worship each week to focus our attention on God, to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ and open our lives to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May God do more today than we might dream or imagine.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: This morning we are receiving the elements of communion by intinction (*to dip in*). When your row is released, come to the front, tear off a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and eat it. You may return to your seat by the outside aisle. As an alternative to intinction, we have set up stations with trays of bread and cups as well as gluten-free bread. If you prefer to use these elements, feel free to walk past the intinction servers and proceed to the trays. If coming to the front is difficult for you or if you prefer, please inform the usher and we will serve you in your seat.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed. Pastor Wes concludes this series of sermons on hospitality. Next Sunday's sermon is from Matthew 22, *Surprising Hospitality*.

THE WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets every Wednesday through mid May at 9:30-10:45 a.m. This week they meet 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 in February:** WOW! Whether it's a rocket car powered by soda and mints or a tornado in a water bottle, there's so much in our world that can fill us with awe. The world of STEM is full of things that look like little miracles, but they're nothing compared to the miracles God can perform. In this four-week series, kids will take a look at some of the miracles that Jesus performed during his ministry. Through stories showing the power of Jesus, they'll no doubt go, Wow! Jesus has the power to heal, to calm our fears, to provide, and to save.
- **February Memory Verse:** "In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all." — 1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)
- **Kids Club: Wow!** - The wonderful world God created! Join us for a morning of science experiments and phenomena as we explore the miraculous world that God created through activities led by a couple of science professors and students from Houghton University. It's STEAM class with a twist! Saturday, February 17th from 9:30-11:00am for grades PreK-6th.

WE ARE GRATEFUL to conductor Dr. Daniel Black and the Houghton University choir for their presence and ministry in worship this morning. As Houghton Church Choir members singing with you, and as all the listeners hearing this anthem of praise to God, we are blessed and thankful!

THANK YOU to all who joined us for the VPS Stone Soup dinner last week! Because of your generosity, we were able to add funds to our scholarship account!

MISSION MOMENT-- Because of family health concerns, Alan Shea continues serving as Technical Advisor with ELWA Ministries in Liberia from home in Indiana. (ELWA, outside of Monrovia includes a SIM related 110 bed hospital and FM/shortwave radio station serving all of Liberia). He leaves tomorrow and is joined by a team of 5 others for three weeks of critical electrical generator maintenance and repairs. They rely on prayer for God to make every day count.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – It is estimated that between 50,000-70,000 Christians are held in North Korean prison camps. Here is a nation in our world that totally outlaws Christian belief and practice for likely a half million or more Believers. As we worship in peace today, let us pray for our brothers and sisters around the globe faithfully following our same Lord and Master but under extremely difficult and costly conditions. “Lord, we pray, make us faithful and bold in our witness!”

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$585,105.85 / **Budget Received:** \$556,968.51

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Jack and Linda Leax, 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 Rushford Baptist Church, Rushford (Pastor Michael Welch).