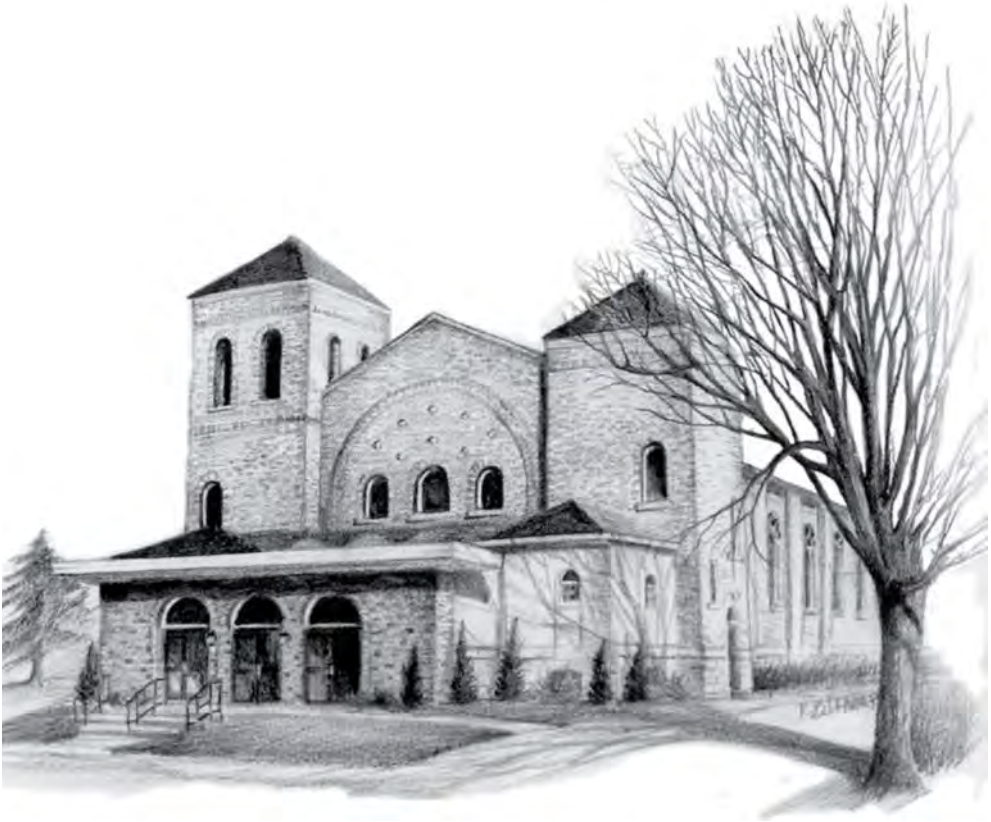
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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*

P.O. Box 127, Houghton, NY 14744-0127 • (585) 567-2264 • www.hwchurch.org

First Sunday In Lent

Febr uary 18, 2024
8:30 A.M.

You are God Alone

Opening Prayer

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry: *Follow* Youth Conference

Children's Sermon: *Food for All*

Cornerstone; I Speak Jesus
Offering will be received during the second song

Time of Prayer

Response: **Refrain of *Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus***

Scripture Reading: Luke 22:47-53

Greeting One Another
Children dismissed during the Greeting

Sermon: *When You Struggle With Jesus*

Jesus is My Healer

Benediction

Acolyte: Keagan Oyer **Reader**: Kathie Hilsher

Musicians:
Alison Young-Ruesser (guitar & vocals), Kayleigh Verspoor (vocals),
Robin Pawling (vocals), Dan Zambrano (cajòn), Dianna Clem (flute),
David Clem (viola), David Huizenga (piano)

The rose on the pulpit is in honor of the birth of Elsie Adalyn Falcone on January 8th to parents Melody and Isaac and big sister, Everlee. Congratulations!

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The season of Lent is designed by the ancient church as a means of reminding Christ's disciples that the passion, suffering and death of Christ are central to our faith. Though this is a solemn season in which we contemplate our sin, it is also a season to give thanks that Jesus goes to the cross to redeem all of creation.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Second Sunday in Lent. Pastor Wes continues a Lenten series of sermons focusing on some of the interactions between Jesus and others in the last hours of his life. Next week's sermon, When We Struggle with Power is from John 18:1-12. We will gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed.

EASTER BAPTISM: If you are interested in being baptized on Easter Sunday morning, March 31, contact Pastor Wes (office@hwchurch.org) about attending the baptism class.

MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY (February 24) 8:00 a.m. in the Community Room.

HWC KIDS

- Kids Connect: This week, kids will be amazed by the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. BIG IDEA: Wow! Jesus has the power to provide. BIBLE: John 6:1–15; Psalm 25:1–10
- February Memory Verse: In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all." — 1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)

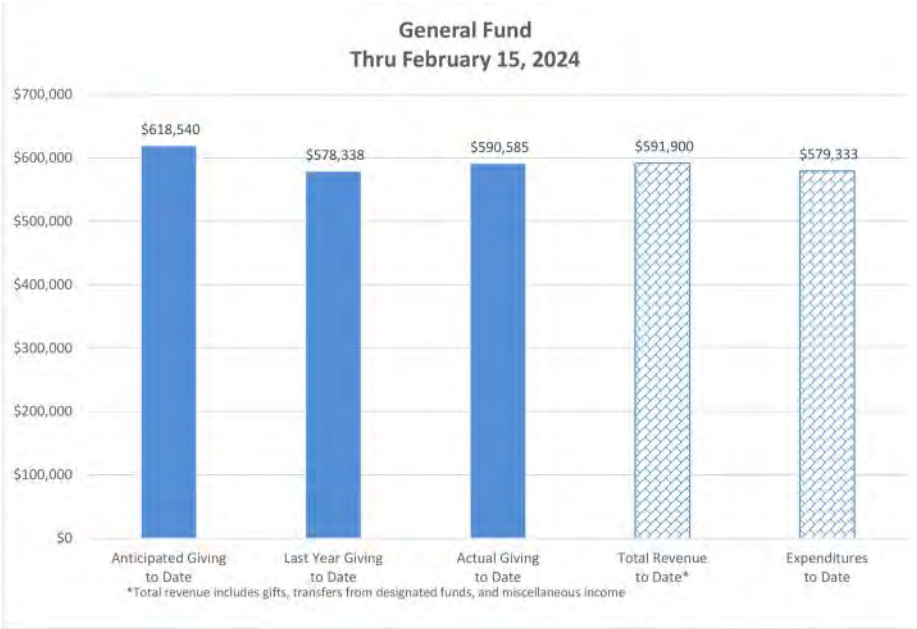
MISSION MOMENT —Let's surround with prayer the Mission of Christ Church in Buffalo, NY, its pastor, Yoshua Bashizi, and the dozens of Congolese refugees who attend this our sister church. Some, including Pastor Yoshua, have family still in refugee camps with violence still broiling in their homeland. May God give joy and growth to this vital ministry close to us.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Who is behind persecution of believers? Young Christian woman, Miracle, in Sierra Leone, W. Africa, would quickly say - Satan and his demons are the source. She escaped the grip of secret societies and their incantations to the evil spirits but faces threats of death from those she left behind. We pray for all dear children of God fighting in spiritual warfare with the Enemy wherever in the world. (See *Voice of the Martyrs* for this and other reports).

REMINDER: Revs Chris and Melissa George, missionaries to Western Australia, will speak in Kaleidoscope class at 9:45 next Sunday, February 25.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $618,540.47 / **Budget Received:** $590,770.45



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, 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 Northern KonXions United Methodist Church, Rushford (Pastor Craig Buelow).

STEWARDSHIP – A Life of Generosity

The Local Outreach Committee

As the Pastoral liaison to our Local Outreach Committee (LOC), it's my privilege to be a part of our church's response to the needs that exist right here among our friends and neighbors in Allegany County. The LOC mission statement states, "The Local Outreach Committee is a ministry of Houghton Wesleyan Church that focuses on expressing Christ's love in practical and tangible ways to those living closest to us: our neighbors in Allegany county and surrounding areas."

While there are a variety of ways that we go about this mission, this article will focus on our church's benevolent fund.

The benevolent fund exists to help people in crisis. That help usually takes the form of financial assistance for things like disaster recovery (floods, fires, etc), assisting with heat or other utilities, and the loss of critical appliances or household systems. We have helped with housing and assisted with transportation needs. We regularly help people with medical bills or transportation to and from medical appointments. People access this resource in a variety of ways. In some cases, the pastoral staff are aware of a developing need; in others, friends or family members will let us know that help is required. In still other cases, individuals call the church directly to make us aware of the situation. The Benevolent Fund helps people in need, both inside our community of faith, and those around us. This fund is part of the church's regular annual budget but would be much less effective without generous offerings from you, our church family. You make this possible.

I am super grateful to be part of a community of outward-facing believers who are looking for ways to show Christ's love to the people around us. If you are interested in this type of outreach, I would love to sit down over a cup of coffee with you and talk about it. There are lots of ways that you can be involved.

Pastor Jon

"Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God." 2 Cor. 9:11 NLT