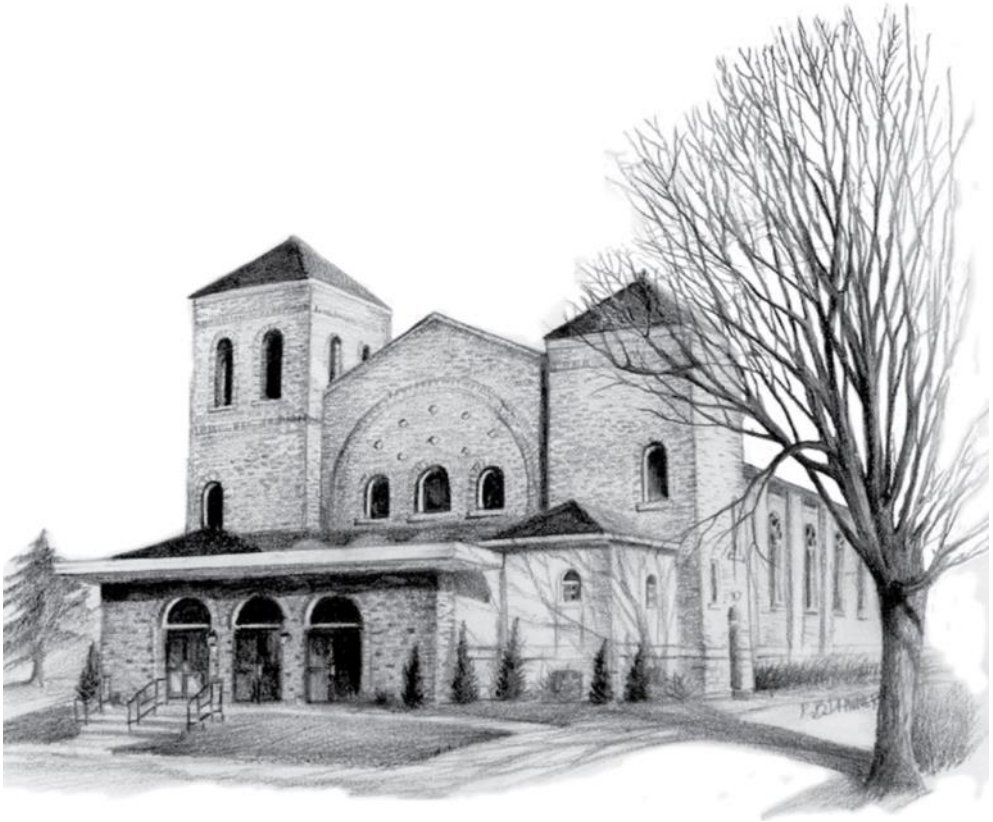
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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

Second Sunday In Lent

February 25, 2024
11:00 A.M.

Prelude: *Elevation: Tierce en Taille* F. Couperin

Call to Worship

Hymn: ***O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*** **(# 144)**

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry: Melissa & Chris George

Children's Sermon: *Walking on Water*

Jesus is My Healer; The Lord's Prayer
(offering received during the first song)

Confession & Time of Prayer

Dear Christ, we repent. Instead of displaying poverty in spirit we have been rich in self-sufficiency. Instead of mourning sin we have down-played our misdeeds. Instead of embracing meekness we have de-manded our own way. Instead of hungering for righteousness we have thirsted for power. Instead of delighting in showing mercy we have quickly passed judgment. Instead of pursuing purity of heart we have divided our loyalties. Instead of making peace we have welcomed a fight. Instead of accepting persecution for allegiance to you we have sought to avoid hardship at all costs. Gentle Jesus, forgive us we pray. By grace, fashion us into your likeness. Amen.

Response: **Refrain of *He Giveth More Grace***

Scripture Reading: John 18:1-12

Greeting One Another

Sermon: *When We Struggle with Power*

Hymn: ***How Gentle God's Commands*** **(#66)**

Benediction

Postlude: *Dialogue sur les grands jeux* F. Couperin

Acolyte: Ella Pocock **Reader**: Grayson Cox

Musicians:
Bridget Walton (vocals), Kurtis Perry (vocals & guitar),
Betsy Webb (vocals & keyboard), Simon Sardina (cajòn),
David Huizenga (piano)

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.
The season of Lent is designed by the ancient church fathers 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 Third 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.

HWC KIDS

- Kids Connect: This week, kids will be amazed by the story of Jesus walking on water. BIG IDEA: Wow! Jesus has the power to save. BIBLE: Matthew 14:22–36; Mark 8:31–38
- February Memory Verse: "In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all." — 1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)
- Save the Date for the next Kids Club - Family swim time, Saturday, March 16th, 10:00am - 12:00pm!

YOUTH: Tonight, Sunday the 25th, it's youth group meal night! Come ready to eat! We'll start YG by having dinner together.

STEWARDSHIP
Budget Needed: $635,257.78 / **Budget Received:** $613,377.38

MISSIONARY MOMENT – Last year's Missions Speakers, Joel and Barbara Trudell of Wycliffe Bible Translators, have a busy month ahead – a five week trip that includes four cities, two international conferences, two team meetings, two paper presentations and countless meetings with colleagues in Africa. May God grant safety, energy and success.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – We think of a nation like Iran as posing a unified wall of opposition to Christianity. Truth is, there are over a million Iranian Christians inside and outside of its boundaries. Recently 11 Christian Iranian diaspora agencies met to cooperate in witness, discipleship and encouragement. We join untold numbers of house churches and individuals in the country in prayers for Christ to be lifted up among their people.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Sharon Hamilton and her family at the death of her brother a couple of weeks ago and 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 two years; for Belfast Free Methodist Church (Pastor Jonathan Coates).