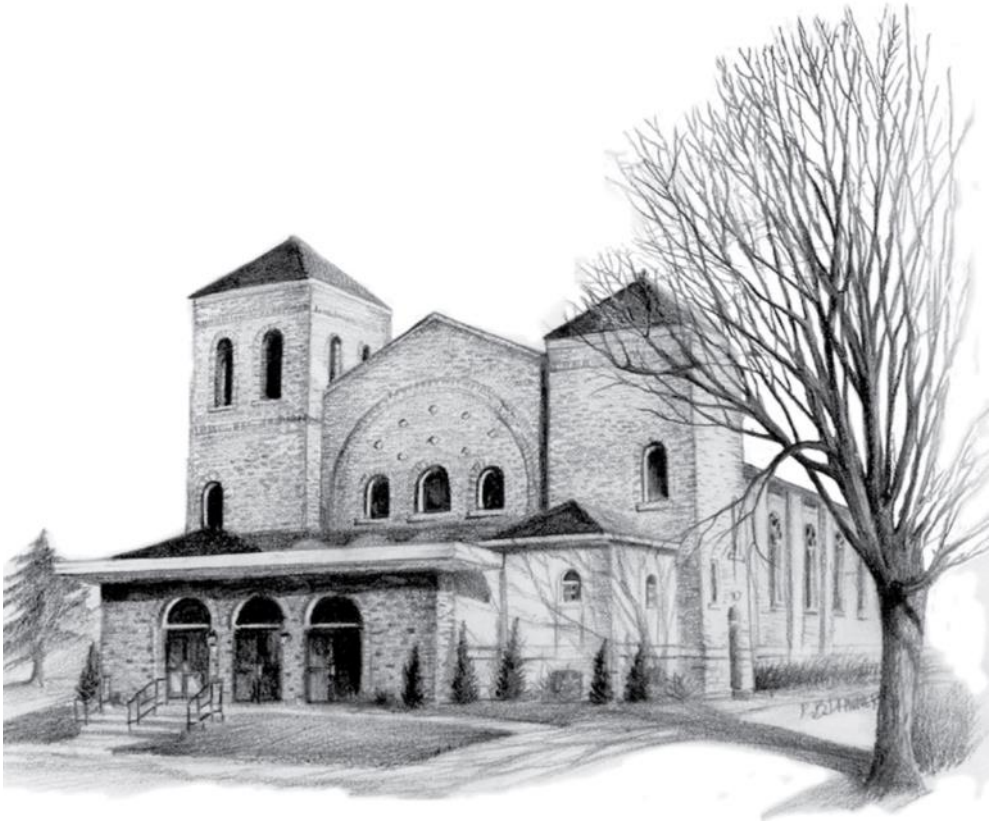
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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

Third Sunday In Lent

March 3, 2024
11:00 A.M.

Prelude: Voluntary on "Love Unknown" — Robert Lind

Call to Worship

A Thousand Hallelujahs; Show Us Christ

Offering will be received during the first song.

Life of the Church

Children's Sermon: *Let the Light Shine*

Confession & Time of Prayer

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness that we may see and choose your will and obey your commandments. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Response: ***My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*** **(refrain)**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:57-66

Greeting One Another

Sermon: *When We Struggle with Blindness*

Communion

Choral Anthem: *Ave Verum Corpus* — W.A. Mozart

Hymn: *And Can It Be?* **(#273)**

Benediction

Postlude: Fugue in E-flat major — J. S. Bach

Acolyte: Indigo Knapp — **Reader**: Kristen Massey

Musicians:
Joanna Bates (vocals), Mike Cox (vocals), Alison Young-Ruesser (vocals & guitar), Dan Wartinger (cajòn), Dianna Clem (flute), David Clem (viola), Sharon Johnson (piano)

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Lent is a time to remind 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 be our Redeemer and the Redeemer of all people and to call us to be agents of his redemption for others.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Fourth 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 Truth* is from John 18:28-19:22. We will gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed.

TIME CHANGE: Just a reminder that we turn our clocks ahead next Sunday.

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: March Series - "Glow In The Dark" - In the dark, a world of neon colors comes to life. Whether it's the soft green of glow-in-the-dark stars or the bright colors of bioluminescent creatures, light can break through the darkness. When the world needed some light, God sent Jesus because he glows in the dark, and he can teach us how to shine with God's light, too! In this five-week series through the Gospels, we'll follow Jesus' life leading up to Easter to see some of the ways he can shine bright in our lives. As we explore, we'll see Jesus is the light in the darkness. We'll also learn how we can choose Jesus and know God hears our cries while celebrating how Jesus died and rose again!
- Kids Connect: This week, kids see Jesus shine when he clears the temple courts. BIG IDEA: We can shine God's light. BIBLE: John 2:13–22; Matthew 5:14–16
- March Memory Verse: "The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?" — Psalm 27:1a (NIV)
- Kids Club: Family Swim - Saturday, March 16 from 10am - 12pm, Houghton University pool, parents must accompany children

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $651,975.09 / **Budget Received:** $621,110.72

MISSION MOMENT – We pray for those anticipating short-term outreach this Spring and Summer. Some of our flock will travel to Tanzania, Costa Rica, Indonesia, and Zambia, and more, Lord willing. Spiritual preparation, funding and prayer support are vital needs.

NOTE: Applications for church fund assistance are due at the church office by March 20th. Short Term Mission Trip Applications are available from the church secretary or at **hwchurch.org/global-outreach/**

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Malays are assumed to be Muslim, according to the Malaysian constitution. The most vulnerable are ethnic Malay who convert to Christianity - breaking the law and punishable under Shariah law. Pray for Christian who witness to others and for those who respond to the Good News.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Jim Szymanski, 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 Northern KonXions United Methodist Church, Belfast (Pastor Craig Buelow).