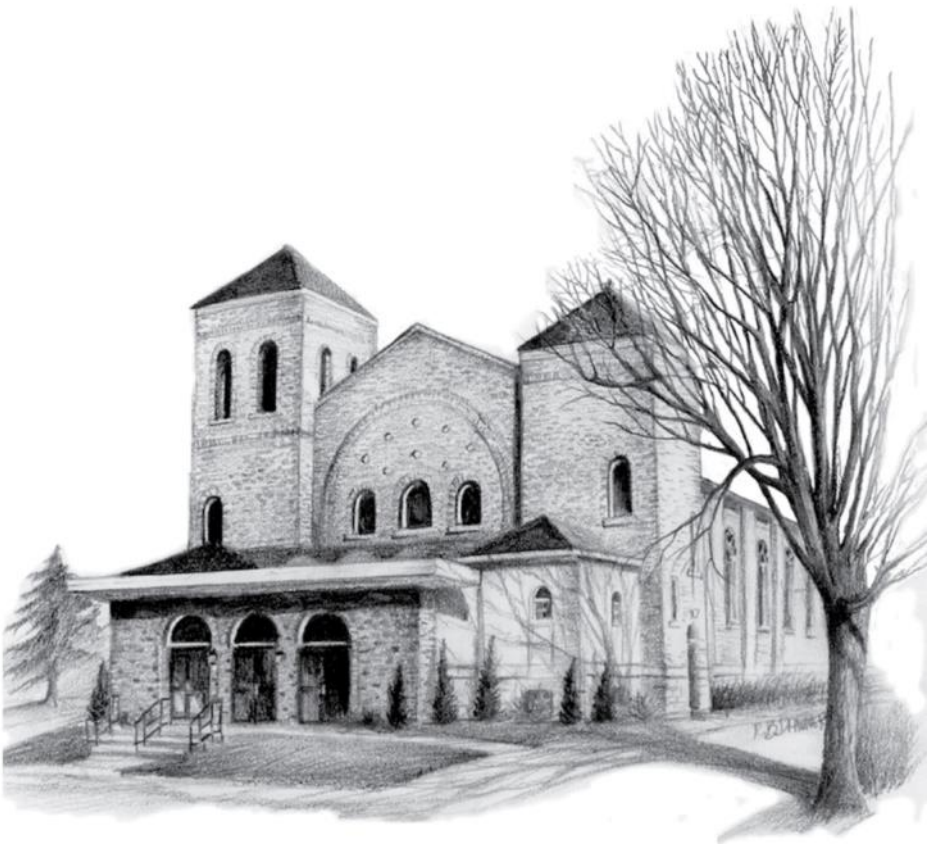
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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*

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024
11:00 A.M.

Prelude: Processional on "Lift High the Cross" (D. Busarow)

Call to Worship

Hope of the Nations

Life of the Church

Children's Sermon: *Can You Hear Me?*

Lighthouse; Siyahamba (Offering will be received during the first song.)

Confession & Time of Prayer

> Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus, who in turn sent his Holy Spirit. You are a sending God, and so you send *us* into a lost and needy world. We confess though, how frequently we are like Jonah—turn from your calling to go and make disciples, refusing to risk the conversations you prompt us to start, failing to bear to our neighbor your Good News in word and deed. Too often as individuals, as families, as a local church, as citizens of nations, even as the church global, we hoard for ourselves your love rather than lavishly sharing and multiplying it. Forgive us, we pray! Give us renewed hearts, that we may live in such a way that all may see and hear and experience your gospel of love for them. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Response: ***Spirit of the Living God***

Scripture Reading: from 1 Peter 2, 2 Corinthians 4, John 8

Greeting One Another

Sermon: *The SON Shining in Europe and Beyond*

Hymn: ***Facing a Task Unfinished (#492)***

Benediction

Postlude: "Blessed and Sent" (Tune #501) (J. Congdon)

Acolyte: Avery Chapman **Reader**: Steve Strand

Musicians:
Mike Cox, Kayleigh Verspoor, Rylee Sorrells (vocals),
Aidan Schooley (guitar), Dan Zambrano (cajòn), Jill Jordan (violin),
David Huizenga (piano)

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Today we focus on the church around the world. This year's missions convention spotlights friendship evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. Kevin and Cindy Austin from Global Partners, Europe will be sharing with us.

FLAG DISPLAY - Thanks to The Missions flag group (Jim and Donna Zoller, Calvin Schierer, and Daryl Stevenson) for the beautiful gift of crafted stands and the display - reminder that Jesus loves the whole world

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING Pastor Grace Deitrick will preach from Matthew 6 about The Resurrection and Our Possessions. Join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed as usual.

CHURCH WORK DAY: We are hosting our annual work day on Saturday, May 4, 8:30 a.m. – Noon. You can stay the whole time or part of it. We will be working mostly outside and mostly sprucing up the grounds. We will supply some tools. If you have tools you can bring, be sure to label them. We will provide cinnamon rolls and coffee. Families are welcome. It's a great time to meet new people as we work together.

WALK FOR LIFE—Saturday, May 4, 3-6pm; celebration picnic 5pm. Our goal is to help CompassCare serve 10 women facing an unplanned pregnancy. Walk (easy stroller and wheelchair friendly route) or sponsor a walker. Register at www.2X.LIFE. Join team "Houghton Wesleyan ".

HWC KIDS

- Kids Connect: This week, kids hear Jesus tell a story about the workers in the vineyard. BIG IDEA: Jesus is always fair. BIBLE: Matthew 20:1–16; John 10:11–18
- April Memory Verse: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."— Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

MISSION MOMENT – Praise God for the whole team of global missionary partners, our hands and feet reaching across the globe, to share the Light of the World. There are nineteen family units and you can visit their pictures on the new C.E. building atrium wall display. We also praise God for the faithful giving of this congregations to help support these Kingdom workers.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Headlines bring the news of chaos in so many places – Haiti, Sudan, Yemen, Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and beyond. Think of it, also in each of these places are followers of Jesus who are praying to be salt and light. They face the same hunger, safety issues, and precious family concerns as others. "Lord Jesus, Light of the World, Shine your love and peace into the dark corners of our world.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $768,996.26 / **Budget Received:** $760,084.06

PRAYER CONCERNS: For the family of Grace Taylor; for Betsy Webb and her family at the death of her faither and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Jane Roeske, Jack and Linda Leax, Jim Arthur, Beth Pocock, Kyle Boon, Linda Roth, Paul Roth, James Bates, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Karen Gaerte, 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 refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine and throughout the Middle East; for Hunt Baptist Church (Pastor Jerry Feulmer).

For more information about church activities, to read Pastor Wes's weekly letter, or to watch Pastor Wes's weekly video, to receive periodic updates, visit our website: www.hwchurch.org.