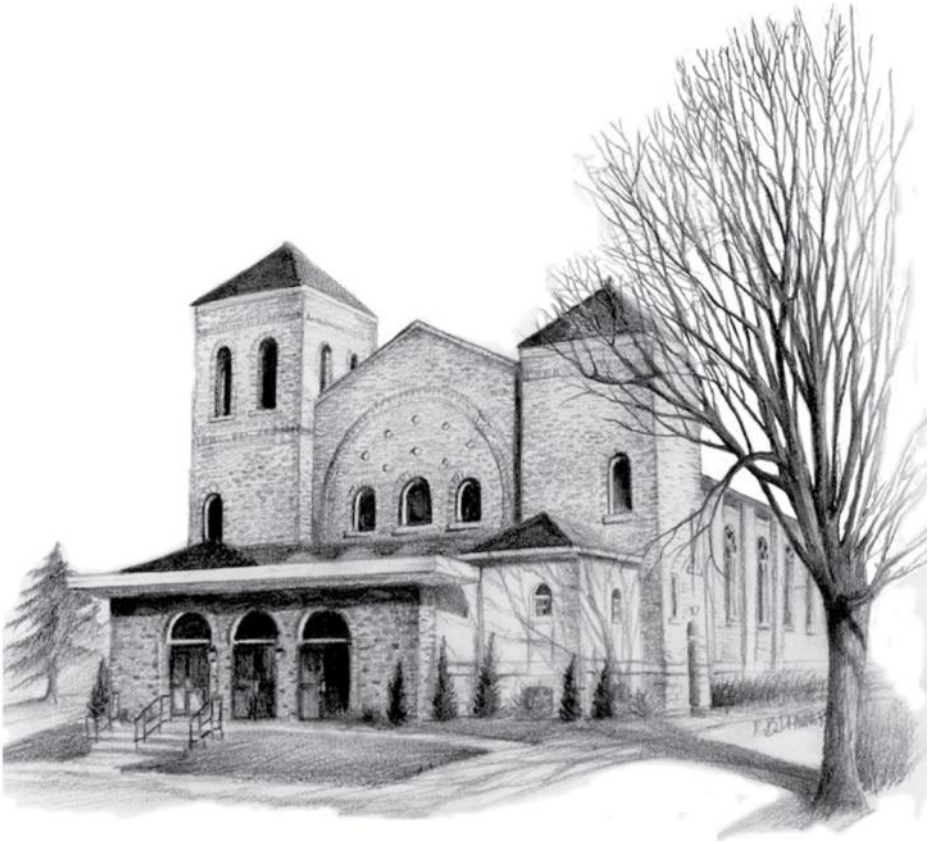
Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

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*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 5, 2024
8:30 A.M.

Firm Foundation

Life of the Church

Children's Sermon: *God's Souvenirs*

Greeting One Another
(Children Ages Preschool through First Grade Dismissed)

God Help Me Now; I Speak Jesus
Offering will be taken during the first song.

Scripture Reading: James 5:13-20

Sermon: *Praying Boldly*

Prayer of Confession

Anointing & Prayers for Healing

Pastoral Prayer

Jesus is My Healer

Benediction

Acolyte: Grace Walton **Reader**: Mim Case

Musicians:
Bridget Walton, Alex Hill, Grace Deitrick (vocals),
Aidan Schooley (guitar), Barb Raymond (bass), Simon Sardina (cajòn),
Jill Jordan (violin), David Huizenga (piano)

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Our worship continues to be centered in the resurrection of Jesus Christ—the cornerstone of our faith. As resurrection people we celebrate the victory that is ours in Christ and we offer our lives in gratitude for his love and mercy.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING. Believing that our God who raised Jesus from the dead has power over all things, we join together this morning to pray for each other. Pastor Wes will offer a brief word related to prayer and healing, then the pastors and elders will be available at the altar rail to pray with all who desire—either for yourself or for someone else.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING Pastor Wes will preach from Acts 1 about the ascension of Jesus: *We've Been Left Behind…and That's a Good Thing* . Join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed as usual. Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School and Adult Discipleship are at 9:45.

ANNUAL MEETING: Everyone—those who are members and those who are not—are invited to a gathering of our congregation on Tuesday, May 14, 6:30pm in the Community Room. You will hear brief reports from Pastor Wes, the Elders, Facilities Stewards, and our church treasurer. In addition, you will have opportunities to discuss and ask questions about the budget or anything else. Childcare will be provided.

ANNUAL ELECTION: The Nominating Committee has put together a ballot for this year's election of church leader. Sample ballots are posted in various places around the church. The election of leaders will take place on Sunday May 14 (in person) and the week of May 8-14 (online).

HWC FINANCIAL PLAN: The Elders are submitting for members approval the 2024-2025 Financial Plan. Copies are available today. You may also access the FP on the church website.

STAYING CONNECTED: Pastor Wes continues sending out a weekly update on Tuesday and a video meditation on Thursday. Both can be accessed through email, text or the church website and Facebook pages. If you are not receiving these communications and would like to, please contact the church office (office@hwchurch.org) or 585-567-2264.

MISSION MOMENT – Did you know that the Lilias Trotter Center team has a third member – Gail Schlosser, who not only prepares courses and manages other support roles for international training for workers amongst Muslims. Gail also very actively ministers to refugees migrants and asylum seekers in Buffalo, NY. Pray for her recently joining others who reach out to Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and even atheist students at the University of Buffalo.

HWC KIDS

- **Kids Connect May Series** = "One Small Step": Astronaut Neil Armstrong once said landing on the moon was "one small step for man." The biggest adventures start in such a simple way — especially when it comes to space! Asteroids, distant planets, and brand new galaxies await us once we leave earth's atmosphere. Being the first to explore such uncharted territory can be intimidating. In this four-week series, we'll take a look at the Book of Acts to learn from the first Christians. Through their stories of faith and bravery, kids will learn how to take the first step of believing in Jesus, the next step of praying for others, and an even bigger step of trusting the Holy Spirit makes us brave. But they won't want to skip the last step of telling others about Jesus.
- **This week,** kids will read how the disciples were with Jesus when he went up to heaven after the resurrection. BIG IDEA: Take the first step — believe in Jesus. BIBLE: Acts 1:1–11; 1 John 5:1–6
- **May Memory Verse:** "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." — Psalm 19:1 (NIV
- **Mark Your Calendars**: Kids Club on Saturday the 18th from 9:30-11:00am for grades PreK-6th - "Go For the Gold"

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $802,430.88 / Budget Received: $786,477.33

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Venezuela's Presidential election is less than three months away. In order to capture the 30.9% of population who are evangelicals, some politicians are offering pastors cash handouts to win the support of their congregations. We must pray for this country in desperate need of stability and Christians proclaiming the loving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Carol Castor, 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 KonXions United Methodist Church, Belmont (Pastor Stephen Crowell).