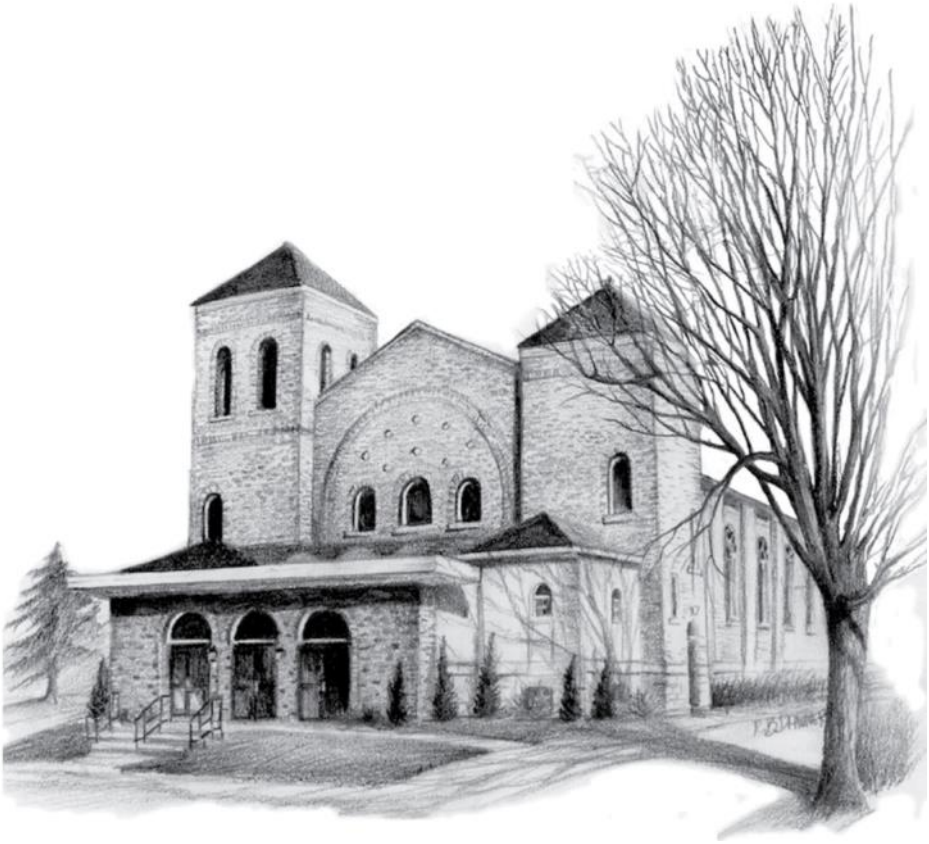
Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

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*

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension Sunday
May 12, 2024
8:30 A.M.

Cornerstone; Great Are You Lord; Bless the Lord
Offering will be taken during the third song.

Life of the Church

Children's Sermon: *Running the Race*

Time of Prayer

Response: ***Draw Me Lord***

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

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

Sermon: *We've Been Left Behind…And That's a Good Thing*

Communion

Before the Throne of God Above; May the Peoples Praise You

Benediction

Acolyte: Alexander Zambrano **Reader:** Emily Spateholts

Musicians:
Alison Reusser (guitar & vocals), Robin Pawling, Luke Huizenga,
Heidi Huizenga (vocals), Dan Zambrano (cajòn),
Gabe Huizenga (ukelele), David Huizenga (piano)

The roses on the pulpit are in honor of the births of Collins Elise and Lucas Walter born on March 11, to Kate and Nick Drum.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. As the Easter season continues, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of our resurrection as well. On this day when we celebrate God's gift of human relationships, we give thanks for mothers and family, recognizing that all of our human relationships are rooted in our relationship as children of our heavenly Father.

NEW MEMBERS: This morning in the 11:00 service, we will receive new members: Nick and Kate Drum, Steve Doty, Lynlee Van Wicklin and Grace Deitrick. Thank you for your prayers and support of these who are connecting with us as members.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING Pastor Wes will be preaching about *The Abundance of Pentecost* (Leviticus 23). Join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. Discipleship Hour for children, youth and adults is 9:45.

ELECTION BALLOT: Tomorrow the online ballot for electing our 2024-2025 leaders and for voting on the 2024-2025 Financial Plan will be available through the church website. Next Sunday morning, we will have ballots (online and paper) available as well. The online link will remain active until 12:30pm next Sunday.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING: Everyone—those who are members and those who are not—are invited to a gathering of our congregation this 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.

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.

HWC KIDS

Kids Connect: This week, kids will read how Peter and John were healing and teaching people at the gate called Beautiful. BIG IDEA: Take another step — pray for others. BIBLE: Acts 3; John 17:6–19

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, May 18th from 9:30-11:00am for grades PreK-6th - "Go For the Gold." Kids will play Olympic-themed games and learn about 'running the race' of the Christian life.

RFKC PRAYER PARTNERS—NEW OPPORTUNITY: If you have an interest or have already expressed an interest in being a RFKC Prayer Partner, you are invited to the Prayer Room (sanctuary basement) Sunday, May 19 or Sunday, June 2. Laurie Dashnau, the prayer partner coordinator, will supply you with a note card and direct you to a quiet space to write words of greeting and encouragement. Prayer partners not able to complete this task either of these times will be mailed information and a note card early in June and will have two weeks to return it by mail. Feel free to contact Laurie Dashnau (Laurie.Dashnau@houghton.edu) with any questions.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $819,148.19 / Budget Received: $803,867.94

MISSION MOMENT – Being "present" in mission for the Thedes in Zambia can mean giving a ride to the clinic, sharing a tree sapling, working to get wells repaired, praying during a local soccer game, buying books about befriending Muslims, or sitting and listening with compassion. They add this challenge to us: "Praying that you too can bless others by being present. And that you are blessed by the presence of many in your Life."
See haititithede@gmail.com for more.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Rev. G. Gebregergis had been imprisoned for his faith in Christ in Eritrea since 2004. Imagine not being home when his wife and mother of his six children passed away in 2022. There are many who suffering under long terms of punishment for simply standing up for Christ. We pray!

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).

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 2-9
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship/ 9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour
11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

June 16 – August 25
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship
10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

August 11
10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship / Pig Roast and Picnic

September 1 – October 27
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship / 11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

September 8
9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour restarts