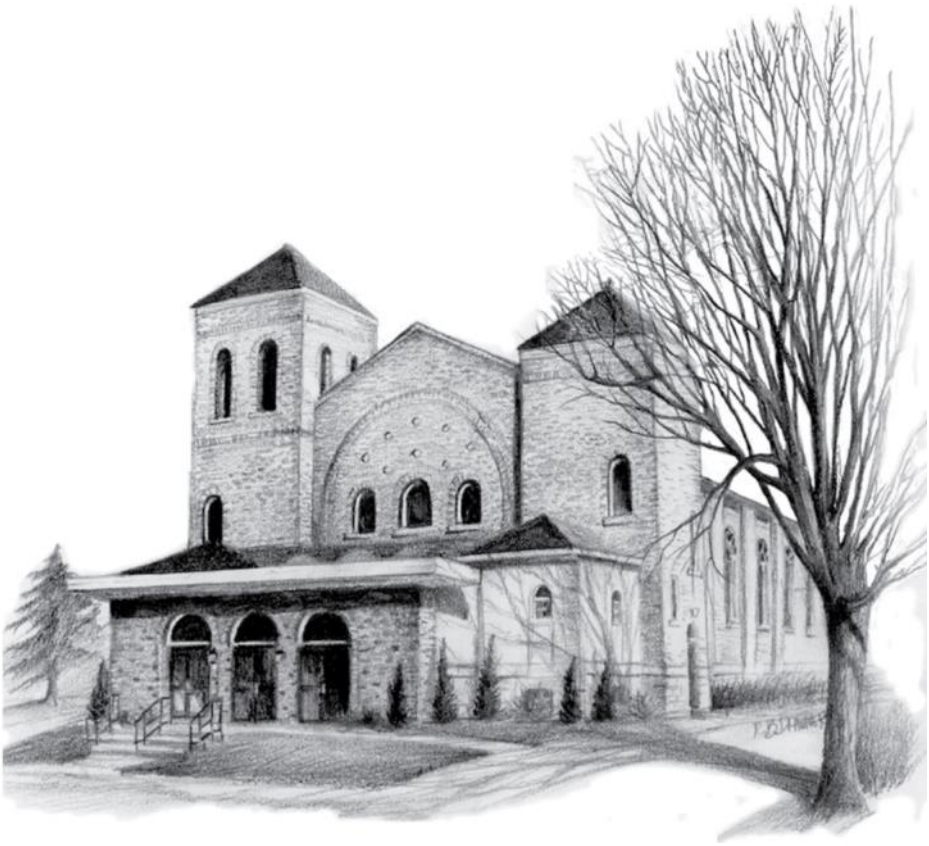
Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others



WESLEY ODEN, *Senior Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

DAVID HUIZENGA, *Assistant Pastor*

CINDY ODEN, *Assistant Pastor*

AMANDA COX, *Music and Worship Director*

EMILY SPATEHOLTS, *Children's Ministry Director*

JUDY CONGDON, *Organist and Choir Director*

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00AM AUGUST 4, 2024

Prelude: *Intermezzo* .....Craig Phillips

Call to Worship (from Psalm 148)

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created, and he established them for ever and ever – he issued a decree that will never pass away. Praise the LORD!

*Songs of Adoration ***All Creatures of Our God and King*** (Hymn 26)
May the Peoples Praise You; King of Kings
(Offering will be received during the third song)

Life of the Church

Choral Anthem: *It is Well with My Soul* .....arr. Dale Grotenhuis
Houghton University Reunion Class of 1979

Prayer of Confession

Our heavenly Father, we are people who have been blessed beyond our ability to give thanks. Even with the struggles and difficulties of life, we have been and continue to be recipients of your blessings. Forgive us that far too often our first response is to complain about what we do not have rather than to express gratitude for what we do have. Forgive us for being so focused on getting more that we forget so many others who have little to begin with. Forgive us for taking your gifts for granted and help us to see all the ways in which you fill our lives with good. As we confess our sin, open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to hear your promise to us: *In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.* Amen.

Time of Prayer

Song of Response: ***You are My Hiding Place***

Scripture Reading: Genesis 47:1-12

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

*Song ***My Worth is Not in What I Own***

Greeting One Another

Sermon: **Keepin' it Real**
Rev. Dr. Jon Case

*Hymn 155 ***Beneath the Cross of Jesus***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Antiphon* ……Craig Phillips

*Please stand if able. Acolyte: Alexander Zambrano Scripture Reader: Mike Cox

Musicians:
Lydia Rech, Kristen Sanasith, Mike Cox, vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Christopher Moeller, guitar;
Tim McGarvey, horn; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The Psalmist exclaims, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" We come to worship today to offer to God our praise. May God fill our hearts and lives with his glorious presence.

GUEST PREACHER: Today we welcome the Rev. Dr. Jon Case as our guest preacher. Jon is Professor of Theology at Houghton University.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING will be a special day of worship and fellowship. We will gather for one outdoor service at 10:00am followed by an all-church barbeque. See the note below for more information. Pastor Wes will preach from Psalm 112, *Doing the Math*.

CHURCH BARBEQUE: next Sunday, August 11, we are combining our worship services for one outdoor service at 10:00 a.m. with a picnic barbeque to follow. The service will be streamed, and a radio broadcast will be available for all who desire to remain in a vehicle. The church will provide meat and table service. We are asking you to bring a couple of dishes to share. You are also invited to bring lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on in case we run out of table space. We will have some games for children. In the case of inclement weather, the picnic will be moved inside. Thank you.

HWC KIDS August Series: "Game Plan" - On your mark, get set, go! When a shepherd named David became king, it was a whole new ballgame! He had some big wins and some big losses, too, but he also had a great plan for how to overcome his challenges. In this 4-week series, kids will team up with David and learn that making peace, following God, showing kindness, and forgiveness are all part of God's game plan for us!

August Memory Verse: But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." — Psalm 33:11 (NIV)

VBS: Join us next week, August 5th-8th from 6-8pm at Fillmore Wesleyan Church as we dive deep in God's word and His love for us! Sign up today to participate and/or volunteer: https://vbspro.events/p/75cd70. Join us tonight, July 30th at 7pm at FWC to create decorations or Saturday morning at 10am to help set up.

STEWARDSHIP
Budget Needed: $146,343.65 / **Budget Received:** $124,917.17

Interested in being a part of our HWC Kids team? We are looking for team members for the fall who want to have fun, connect with our HWC kids, and grow closer to God! While we need a few teachers and assistants, we also need subs who are willing to substitute 2-3 times each semester (generally or with a specific age group). Please email Emily today at emilyspateholts@hwchurch.org for more info or to sign up!

VALLEY PRESCHOOL at Houghton Wesleyan has openings for children ages two (by September 1st) to five years old for the 2024-25 school year! We meet mid-September to mid-June on Monday through Friday mornings from 9:00 - 11:45 with enrollment options for two mornings (Tuesdays & Thursdays), three mornings (Monday, Wednesday, & Friday), or five mornings (Monday - Friday) per week. Tuition discounts and partial scholarships are available. https://hwchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/VPS-2024-Letter.pdf

MISSION MOMENT – Today is the final day of a second annual outreach to Bangladeshis in mainly Buffalo's East Side. Gail Schlosser (LTC) asks for prayer as Bengali believers and others have engaged in conversations and distributed Bible portions and Gospel stories over the last 5 days. Pray for planted seeds to grow and for wisdom for those doing follow-up in the days ahead.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Recently a 40 year old Pastor was shot and killed in his home leaving a wife and two children in a South Asian "closed" country where anti-Christian discrimination and attacks have existed for in varying degrees for a long time. We pray for brave Christians who continue to witness for Christ in this land, and for those who lend support to this family and others.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Jack and Linda Leax, Jim Arthur, Beth Pocock, Kyle Boon, Paul and Linda Roth, James Bates, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Karen Gaerte, Denise Zambrano, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Mark Mayhle, Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Crikelair; for refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine, the Middle East and other places of war; for the United Church of Friendship.