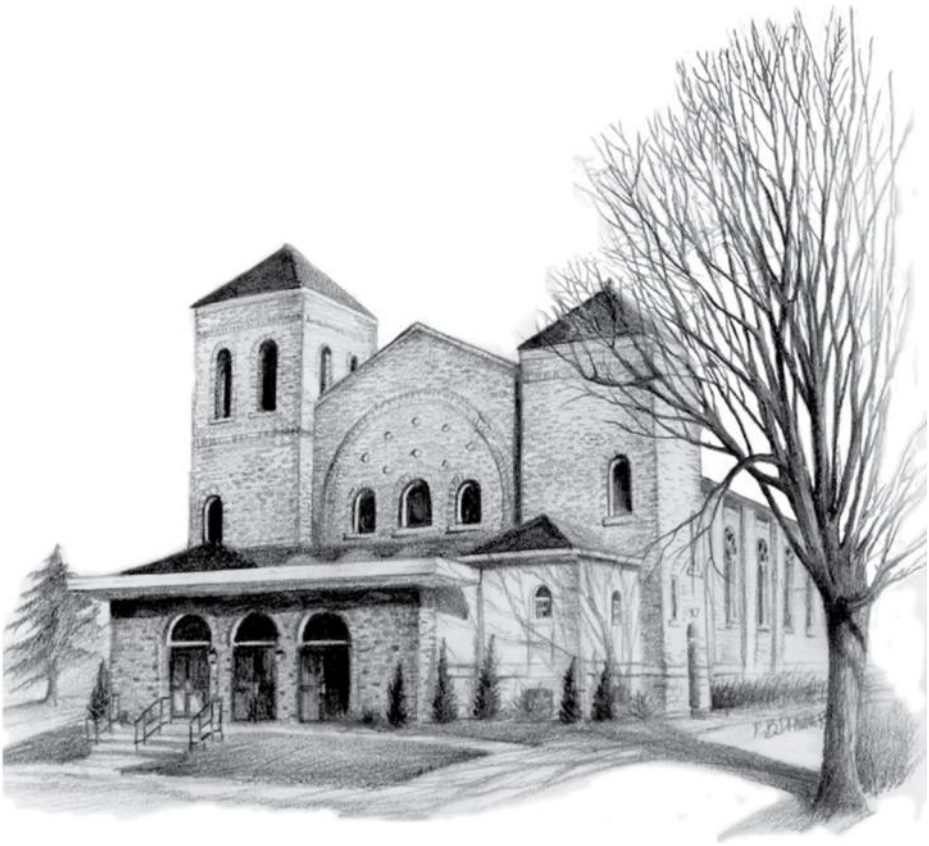
Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

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*

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11:00AM SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

Prelude: "Christe, aller Welt Trost" BWV 670 .....J. S. Bach

Call to Worship (from Psalm 33)

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous;
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.
The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him.

For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. Praise the Lord!

*Hymn 26 ***All Creatures of our God and King***

Life of the Church

*Songs of Adoration: ***Thrive; God of Wonders***
(Offering will be received during the second song)

Meditation: *How Great You Are*

Time of Prayer

Song of Response: ***Doxology***

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-5; 1:24-2:7
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Greeting One Another

Sermon: **The Delight of Creation**
Pastor Wes Oden

Prayer of Confession

O God, your being is love and all your works toward us are mercy. Forgive us when we stray from our confession of faith into thinking that you are like the gods of this world, who demand destructive sacrifices in exchange for your favor. Cleanse us from the injustice that goes hand in hand with idolatry. Illumine our minds with knowledge of who You are, acknowledging you as the Source, the Giver, whose attitude toward us is one abounding in unfailing generosity and steadfast love. In the name of Jesus Christ, who trusted you through death to new life. Amen.

The Lord's Supper ***Is He Worthy?***

Goodness of God
O Worship the King (Hymn 2)

*Benediction

*Postlude: Psalm 19: "The Heavens are Telling" ……Benedetto Marcello

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*Please stand if able. Acolyte: Micah Mulema Scripture Reader: Larry Mullen

Musicians:
Evie Cox, Angelina Dowling, Mike Cox, vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Christopher Moeller, guitar;
Jill Jordan, violin; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. In our worship today, we remember that God loves us, that he is for us, and that his desires for us are far greater than we could ever imagine. As we embark on a new academic year, we gather asking God's Spirit to work in us and to transform us by His grace.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: This morning we are receiving the elements of communion by intinction (*to dip in*). When your row is released, come to the front, tear off a piece of bread, dip it into the cup and eat it. You may return to your seat by the outside aisle. As an alternative to intinction, stations are set up on both sides with trays of bread and cups as well as gluten-free bread. If you prefer to use these elements, feel free to walk past the servers and proceed to the trays. If coming to the front is difficult for you, please inform the usher and we will serve you in your seat.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Wes continues in Genesis. Next week's sermon is from Genesis 3 about Adam and Eve eating the fruit: *Living with Consequences.* Join us for worship at 8:30 (outdoors) and 11:00 (indoors/streaming). Discipleship Hour begins at 9:45 a.m.

CONNECTING: If you are not currently receiving either a text or email for Pastor Wes's weekly letter and brief weekly video chat, please contact the church office (567-2264/office@hwchurch.org) and we will update your information.

VALLEY PRESCHOOL Applications are available in the church office.VPS 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. See Important Information for Prospective Student Families on the church website. Feel free to contact the church office (585-567-2264) or Casda Danner, director (casdadanner@hwchurch.org) with questions or for additional information.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE: September 1 – September 29
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship/11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship
September 8 9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour restarts

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HWC Kids

• Kids Connect starts on September 8th at 9:45am!

• September Lessons - "Under Construction: King Solomon is best known for his wisdom and for building God's temple. Thankfully, he passed on his wisdom so others could have a strong foundation for building up their faith. In this 5-week series, kids will hear from Solomon and the wisdom he shared about the kind of life God wants to help us build. They'll see that God gives them directions to follow, listens to their requests, is worthy of their worship, gives them true wisdom, and helps them do big things!"

• This week in Children's Church, kids hear about how Adonijah tried to become the next king. BIG IDEA: God gives us directions to follow. BIBLE: 1 Kings 1:5–14, 29–35; James 1:19–25

• September Memory Verse: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously

MISSION MOMENT – This Fall's enrollment for a Lilias Trotter Center course on discipling new believers and planting churches has reached a record 47 students from across the globe including 31 pastors and students from the northern Nigerian plateau region. We are urged to pray for safety and funding for these students in an area of persecution and stress. Pray for Dr. Don Little as he leads these strategic zoom sessions beginning in September.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Tabi, an 18 year old Christian youth in Kalaywala Kasur, Pakistan, was recently arrested under false blasphemy accusations. We pray for his safety and release, and for the government to not allow the weaponization of blasphemy laws against Christians on unfounded charges.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $215,211.25 / **Budget Received:** $191,183.30

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 Sojourners Mennonite Fellowship, Belfast (Pastor Tory Bonners).