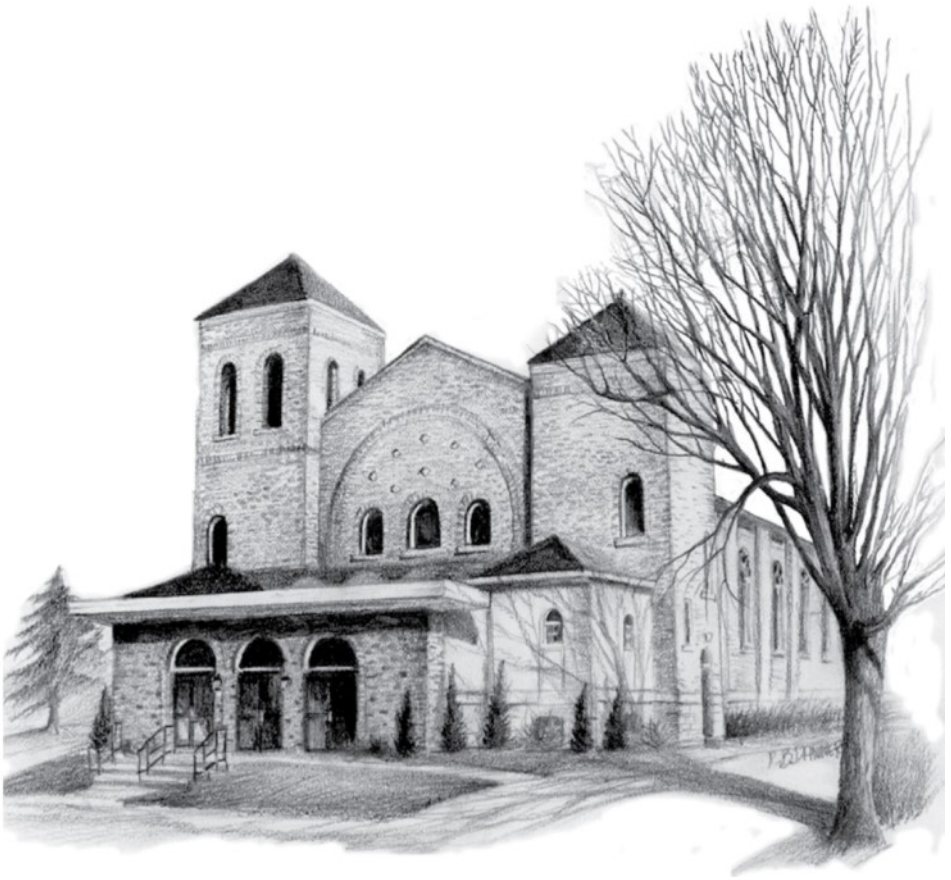
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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*

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
11:00am October 13, 2024

Prelude: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" ……...J. S. Bach (arr. D. Johnson)
Rachel Huchthausen, violin

Call to Worship (Zephaniah 3:14-17)

Choral Introit: *And the Father will Dance* …….Mark Hayes
Jonathan Niemi, piano

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry: Youth

Children's Sermon: *Share God's BIG Love in Small Ways*

*Songs of Adoration: ***Song of My Heart; King of Kings***
(Offering will be received during the second song)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, who has created all people, we acknowledge that we do not see people who are different from us as you do. We confess that we struggle with bias and prejudice toward people whose skin color is different from ours, whose nationality is different from ours, whose language is different from ours, whose perspective about life is different from ours, whose experiences are different from ours. Forgive us our sin that blinds us to the unique blessing of others. Open our eyes to see each other as you see. Fill us with joy and gratitude for all of the different ways in which you create us, love us and unite us in Jesus. In whose name we pray. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***You are My Hiding Place***

Scripture Reading: Genesis 16 & 21 (selected verses)
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 506 ***Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life***

Greeting One Another

Sermon: ***Who Gets God's Attention?***
Pastor Wes Oden

*Song ***Give Us Your Heart***

*Benediction

*Postlude: Processional on "Lift High the Cross" ……...Donald Busarow

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*Please stand if able Acolyte: Violet Bates Scripture Reader: Emily Spateholts

Musicians:
Angelina Dowling, Emily Quick, Mike Jordan, vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Christopher Moeller, guitar;
Tim & Sharon McGarvey, horns; Simon Sardina, cajón

Notes on the Choral Introit

Composer, conductor, and pianist Mark Hayes (b. 1953), a graduate of Baylor University, has published over 1,000 compositions, most of them in the sacred choral music genre. "And the Father Will Dance," composed in 1983, is adapted from two passages of scripture, Zephaniah 3:14, 17 and Psalm 34:2, 4.

Though the verb "dance" does not appear in these passages, the scripture verses Hayes has adapted and paraphrased do present an image of God "rejoicing over [us] with singing" along with the affirmation that God takes delight in those whom he loves. The liberty Hayes has taken, not only adding text describing the Father "dancing" over us but also clothing much of the text in energetic dance-like music, perhaps helps us better understand God's love for his people as more than an abstract concept; it is a vibrant, pulsating reality!

And the Father will dance over you in joy!
He will take delight in whom he loves.
Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God?
No, the Lord God himself is exulting o'er you in song!
And he will joy over you in song!

My soul will make its boast in God,
For he has answered all my cries.
His faithfulness to me is a sure as the dawn of a new day.

Awake my soul! Awake, my soul, and sing!
Let my spirit rejoice in God!

Sing, O daughter of Zion, with all of your heart!
Cast away fear for you have been restored!
Put on the garment of praise as on a festival day.
Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant song!
And he will joy over you in song!

And the Father will dance over you in joy!
He will take delight in whom he loves.
Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God?
No, the Lord God himself is exulting o'er you in song!
God rejoices over you in song!

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The goodness of God is evident in His wondrous gift of creation. At this time of year when the leaves are changing and the air is cooler, we rejoice in our creative God. On this day set aside for corporate worship, let us turn our full attention to Him and give thanks for every gift of His grace.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Wes continues our journey through Genesis. Next week's sermon focuses our attention on Esau giving away his birthright for a bowl of stew (Genesis 25): Is God Good for It? Next Sunday we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00, both indoors. The 11:00 service will be streamed. Adult Discipleship Hour, Youth Sunday School and Kids Connect is at 9:45 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS: Pastor Wes is organizing a class for all who are interested in becoming a member of HWC or who are interested in knowing more about membership. If you are interested in knowing more about the class, please contact Pastor Wes (567-2264 or wesoden@hwchurch.org).

HURRICANE HELENE RESPONSE: In response to reported damages and awareness of immediate and long-term needs, General Superintendent Wayne Schmidt has activated the Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund (WERF). Wesleyan Church leaders are focusing on urgent relief measures including community provision distribution, immediate structural repairs and debris removal. Several pickup loads of relief have already been delivered; more is on the way. How can you help? Please pray for the many who have had their lives altered by loss and who need signs of encouragement and assurance of God's care for them. Consider giving, online: **https://wes.life/WERF-Helene** or by mail: WERF, 13300 Olio Road, Suite 100, Fishers, IN 46037. Thank you for your support of people in need.

HWC KIDS

- This week in **Children's Church** and **Kids Connect**, kids see how Job's friends comforted Job. BIG IDEA: We can show God's love in small ways. BIBLE: Job 2:11–13; 16:1–5; Hebrews 4:12–16

- **Harvest Festival**: Saturday, October 19th from 10am-1pm: Food, hayride, fire truck bucket rides, bounce house, games and prizes, goodie bags, crafts, sensory area at the Valley Preschool Open House, Magic Show from 11-12, and MORE! Free family event for all ages!

- Donations of snacks and candy for **Harvest Festival** needed! Please drop off individually packaged snacks (i.e goldfish, pretzels, fruit snacks, chips, etc.) and candy at one of the donation baskets at the Church office, CE building foyer, and sanctuary foyer. Thanks!

-Next **Preteen Hangout** is Sunday, October 20 from 6-8pm for grades 5 & 6!

STEWARDSHIP:

Budget Needed: $318,512.65 / **Budget Received:** $322,328.11

MISSION MOMENT: Joel & Barb Trudell praise God for strength in completing their recent move and getting settled in. Pray for Joel and his teammates as they prepare a digital presentation of their team, that they may have focus, inspiration and creativity to do this well. Pray for Barb as she prepares to give a webnar on the importance of language instruction in the classrooms. She will be giving this message once in English and the second presentation will be in Spanish which she would like prayer for the necessary vocabulary for a seminar like this. Pray that the presentations go well.

PERSECUTED CHURCH Eleven Christian women were arrested and arraigned on false charges of trying to forcefully convert school children in Bhagwanpur, Bihar. In one of the villages, the women entered a school and, with permission from the school's principal, distributed gospel books and New Testaments to the children. As they exited the school, the police were called and detained the women. After finding nothing incriminating in their activities, the police prepared to release them. However, local government officials threatened to hold a massive protest and shut down the town if the women were released. They called the media, gave false information about the women and published it on social media and in the newspapers. Incidents of arresting people without any proof and booking false cases of conversion are on the rise due to the pressure from Hindu nationalist groups across the country. Please pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in India.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the family and friends of Ruth Miller and for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Peter Lingenfelter, Linda Leax, Beth Pocock, 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 many places of conflict; for all recovering from Hurricanes Helene and Milton; for Freedom Baptist Church.