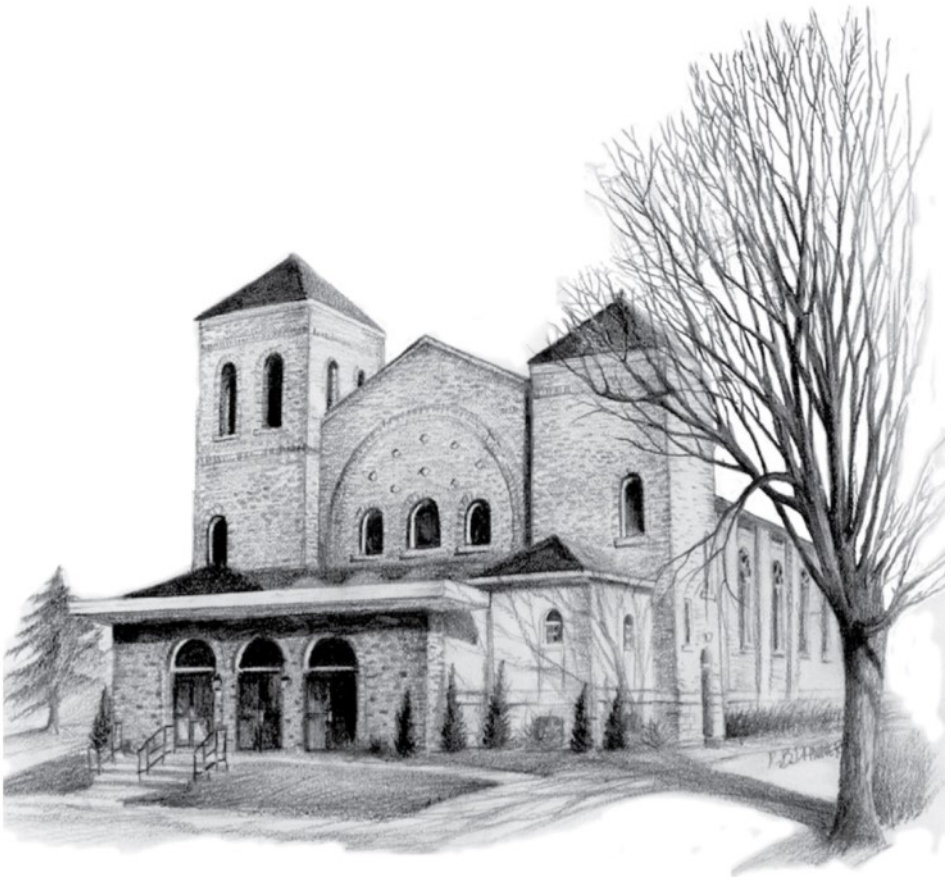
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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-Second Sunday after Pentecost
8:30am October 20, 2024

Call to Worship (from Psalm 51)
Have mercy on us, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out our transgressions.
Wash away all our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin.
Create in us pure hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.
Do not cast us from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us.
Restore to us the joy of your salvation
and grant each of us a willing spirit, to sustain us.

Christ is Risen; Back to Life; Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners
(Offering will be received during the third song)

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***You are Good***

Scripture Reading: Genesis 25: 19-34

Celebration of Ministry: Global Missions

Children's Sermon: **God is Bigger**

Life of the Church

Greeting One Another
(Children in grades PreK-1st are dismissed for Children's Church)

Sermon: **Is God Good For It?**
Pastor Wes Oden

Kyrie Eleison

Benediction

Acolyte: Cora Sanasith Scripture Reader: Jan Schilke

Musicians:
Joanna Bates, Bridget Walton, vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Jill Jordan, violin; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. God tells the prophet Jeremiah, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know" (33:3). We worship today calling out to God, asking for Him to reveal the unsearchable richest of His grace. May God give us ears to hear.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Wes preaches from Genesis 18 about Abraham welcoming visitors: *Laughing at God*. Next Sunday we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed. Adult Discipleship Hour, Youth Sunday School and Kids Connect is at 9:45 a.m.

PRAYER VIGIL EVENT: Our three-week, 24-hour a day prayer vigil begins two weeks from today. You can sign up this morning in the sanctuary foyer or anytime online (hwchurch.org) for an hour or more. Please contact the church office if you do not have internet access or are unsure about signing up online. Please note that security personnel will be on duty during the late night, early morning hours. This year's theme is *Thinking about God,* centered on Philippians 4:4-9. The prayer room has been designed in a variety of ways to help us experience this theme.

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 has 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 God spoke to Job about his suffering. BIG IDEA: God is bigger than we could ever understand. BIBLE: Job 38:1–7, 34–41; Matthew 6:25–34.
- October Memory Verse: "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." — Psalm 121:8 (NIV)
- Preteen Hangout - students in grades 5th and 6th can join us on Sunday from 6-8pm for a time of fun fellowship with friends and food!

THANK YOU to everyone who donated time, talents, and food to make this year's Harvest Festival a huge success!

STEWARDSHIP:

Budget Needed: $335,729.55 / **Budget Received:** $337,825.73

MISSION MOMENT: Kevin & Cindy Austin give thanks to God for answering prayers and for His protection and provision.. The focus for this year's conference was "NEW", which was helpful for many going through major transitions and challenges. The major take-away points that were presented were "When God calls us to NEW things, it is new to us but not new to Him and it is going to take inner work to change our mindsets and perspectives to align with His thinking and plans. Pray for Kevin and Cindy as they share with several churches in the weeks ahead – to help the churches see their possible roles in reaching out to the world.

PERSECUTED CHURCH: **SOUTHEAST ASIA** The Sandas family were raised as strong Hindus but became Christians in 2021. When they chose to follow Jesus, they quickly realized the cost of their decision as their relatives beat them and drove them from their village. By God's grace, the family found refuge through a church and lived on the church's land for several years. Members of the church also discipled and supported the Sandas in their new-found faith in Christ. Earlier this year, the Sandas had to leave the church land. But God's hand intervened again, and a local ministry helped them rent 27,000 square feet of land to build a home, grow crops, and provide for their children. Mr. Sanda used his background in construction to build a house for his family. Despite the risk of doing so, the Sandas continue to grow in their faith and share about Jesus with locals. Please join them in prayer that more Hindus will come to faith in Christ.

PRAYER CONCERNS: 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 Genesis Bible Church, Scio (Pastor Marc Chamberlain).