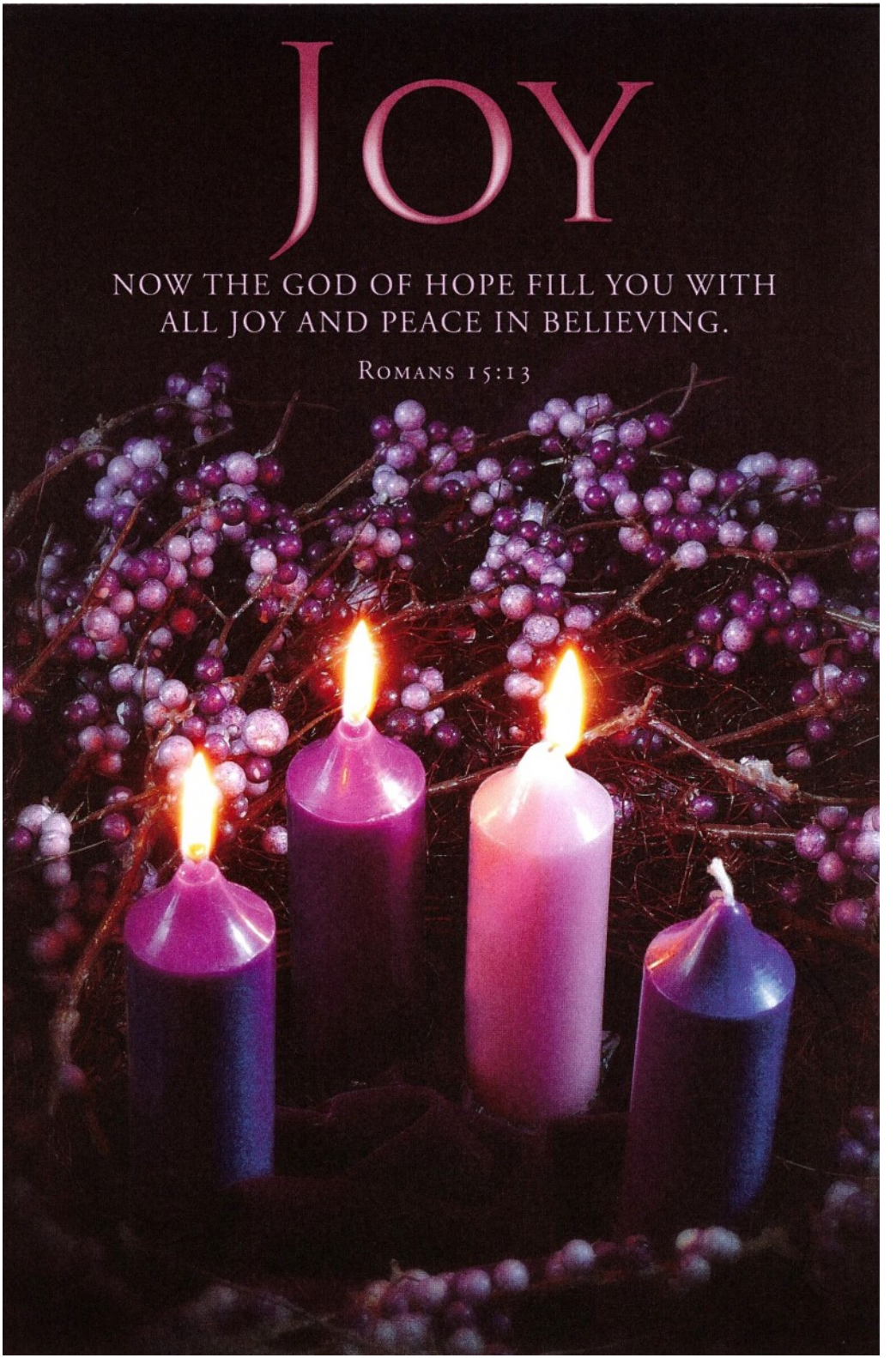
JOY
NOW THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH
ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING.
ROMANS 15:13

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:30AM December 15, 2024

Welcome

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Decker Family

Christ is Come; What Child is This?
(Offering will be received during the second song)

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***Meekness and Majesty***

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Celebration of Ministry: Missions

Children's Sermon: **Jump for Joy**

Life of the Church

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

Sermon: **But What Will People Think?**
Pastor Wes Oden

Welcome to Our World

Benediction

Acolyte: Addie Boon **Scripture** Reader: Isaac Gasparri

Musicians:
Joanna Bates, Emily Quick, vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Christopher Moeller, guitar; Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals; Dianna Clem, flute; Steve Olsen, bass; Simon Sardina, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. On this third Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves in the middle of December—looking back and looking forward, pondering what has taken place and wondering what is yet to come. As we prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming, let's ask for open hearts and minds to Christ who is the Living Word.

CAROL SING: Today at 4:00pm, we are gathering in the church sanctuary to sing your favorite Christmas Carols. Following the carols, we will host a cookie reception in the Community Room. If you are able, please bring a dozen (or more) cookies or bars to share.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Please join us for worship at 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: We will host two Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 and 6:00. Both services will include the Lighting of the Christ Candle, a Children's Time, Congregational Candle lighting, the reading of the Christmas story and music. The 6:00 service will be streamed.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Thanks to all who attended the congregational meeting this past Wednesday night and to all who watched online as well. Between the two options of in-person and online more than 200 people participated! If you didn't get a chance to witness the presentation, you may access it through the church website. The website also includes a floor plan and rendering of the proposal. In addition, you will find the financial figures. Go to **www.hwchurch.org/building-project-2025/** We have scheduled a follow-up meeting on January 12, 2025 immediately following the 10 a.m. morning worship service. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Wes (wesoden@hwchurch.org / 585-567-2264).

HWC KIDS:

- This week, kids hear how Mary visited Elizabeth to share joyful news. BIG IDEA: Jesus brings joy to the world. BIBLE: Luke 1:39–56; Zephaniah 3:14–17
- December Memory Verse: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." — Luke 1:46–47 (NIV)
- No preteen hangout this month. Come to the carol sing and cookie reception with your family!
- Kids Club: Come celebrate Christmas with us on Saturday the 21st from 9:30-11:00am with carols, cookies, crafts, and a Christmas movie.
- Reminder: No Kids Connect December 22 & 29 & January 5 & 12.There WILL be Nursery and Children's Church.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $473,464.75 / **Budget Received:** $471,558.29

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – A second part of the "Global Youth Outreach" goal is ministry to children and youth in the Perth region of Australia where our missionaries Chris and Melissa George serve. Sport and other youth activities have proven vital to planting multiple young churches. Houghton's teens will join this outreach summer 2025, and our Christmas Offering jump starts fund-raising even as our youth have already begun intensive training and preps. Designate donations "Christmas," send online, or give on Christmas eve.

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sunday, December 22	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Tuesday, December 24	4:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	6:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 29	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, January 5	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
Sunday, January 12	10:00 a.m. – Worship Service
	11:30 a.m. – Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 19	8:30 a.m. – Worship Service
	9:45 a.m. – Discipleship Hour
	11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

MISSION MOMENT: Stacia— Praise God for safe travels during the holiday seasons. Pray for the conference she will be attending with other cross-cultural workers – for spirit-led conversation, safe travel for everyone and a blessed time of equipping and encouraging each other. In II Corinthians 5, Paul encourages us: "Just as we have been reconciled to God through Christ, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation toward the world around us. Therefore we are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

PERSECUTED CHURCH: INDIA After a normal Sunday service, Jawahar and his wife held a prayer meeting with a few church leaders in their home. Their peaceful gathering was disrupted, however, by the shouts of Hindu nationalists. The activists, who had brought police with them, were demanding action against the Christians. They forcefully took Jawahar and two elders back to the police station, where they were beaten. After 45 days in jail, Jawahar was finally granted bail and allowed to go home. "My faith is still strong," Jawahar said, "and though we have struggles … we are growing more in faith. I am requesting that you pray that the work of the church can start again as soon as possible." Thank you for the difference you've made for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. We invite you to stand with them as they continue to follow Christ in hostile areas and restricted nations.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Dick Pocock, 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, including Syria; for all recovering from recent hurricanes; for Presbyterian Church of Wellsville (Pastor Tom Kristoffersen).