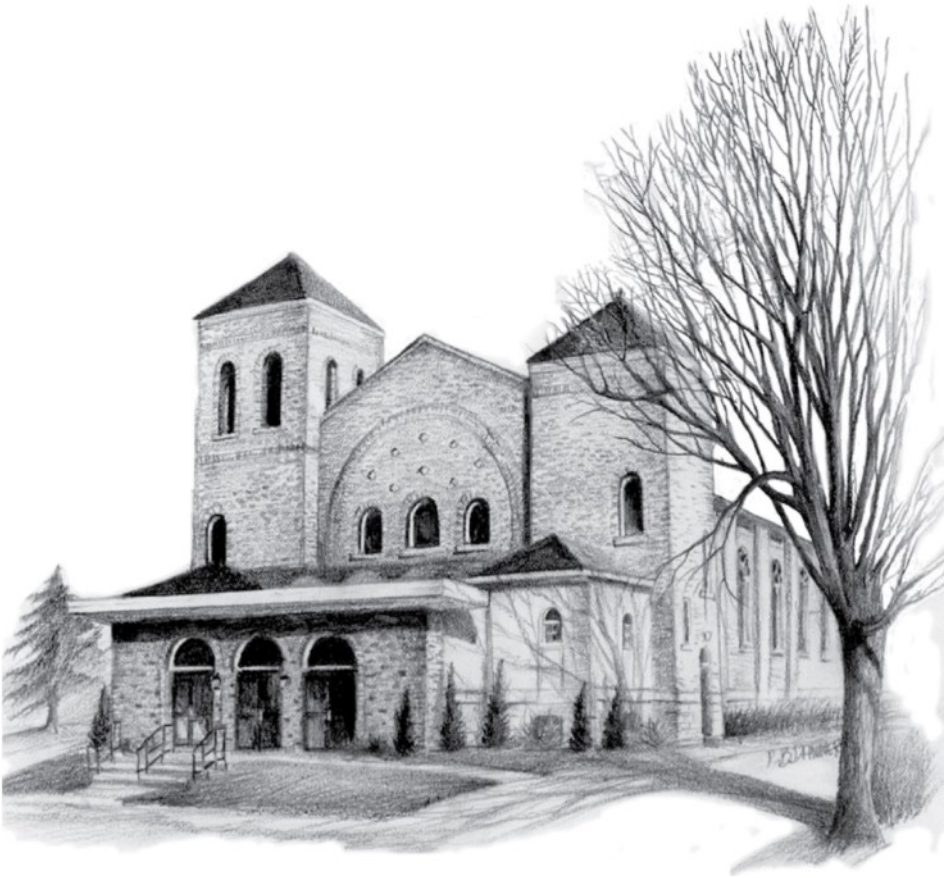
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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*

Second Sunday after Epiphany

11:00am January 19, 2025

Prelude: Fugue and Andante from Sonata No. 6 (Op. 65) ….Felix Mendelssohn

Anthem: *Children of the Heavenly Father* …….arr. Eric Nelson
Jonathan Niemi, organ

Call to Worship (from Psalm 62)
Truly our souls find rest in God; our salvation comes from him.
Truly he is our rock and our salvation;
he is our fortress; we will never be shaken.
Yes, we will find rest in God; our hope comes from him.
Truly he is our rock and our salvation;
he is our fortress; we will not be shaken.
Our salvation and our honor depend on God;
he is our mighty rock, our refuge.
We will trust in him at all times; we will pour out
our hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

*Hymn 59 ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry: College Ministries

Children's Sermon: **Small but Mighty**

*Songs of Adoration: ***Lord, You are Good; Peace, Be Still***
(Offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession
God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness and fill us with your joy and love through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Song of Response: ***You are Good***

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:24-2:4
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 375 ***Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose***

Greeting One Another

Sermon: **The Most Rhythmic Number in the Bible**
Pastor Wes Oden

*Song ***Be Still, My Soul***

*Benediction

*Postlude: Fugue in G major, BWV 541 …….J.S. Bach

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*Please stand if able **Acolyte:** Anna Harrison **Scripture Reader:** Azmat Ayub

Musicians:
Gracie Gasparri, Mike Jordan, vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Jill Jordan, violin; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Life is a maze of ups and downs, of joys and sorrows. In the midst of our lives, we live with confidence that Jesus is Lord, and that this truth is the bedrock of how we live. In our worship today, may God open our eyes to the power and grace of Jesus for us and for the whole world.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed. Pastor Wes continues this series of sermons on numbers in the Bible. Next Sunday's sermon is from Matthew 25: *The Most Freeing Number in the Bible.*

BUILDING PROJECT: We are continuing to raise funds for the building project to create an indoor, accessible walkway between our buildings, upgrade the sanctuary basement, expand our current handicap parking, upgrade our maxed-out electrical service and add a layer of security to our buildings.
Here is an update on giving for the building project:

Fundraising Goal:		$250,000
Gifts Received:	$133,264	
Pledges Outstanding:	$ 99,800	
TOTAL RECEIVED:		$233,064
Remaining to Goal		**$ 16,936**

YOUTH: TIME CHANGE! Tonight's (1/19) youth group will be from 4 pm - 6pm. Go Bills!

The Annual Valley Preschool STONE SOUP DINNER is Friday, January 31! Twelve of our seventeen students are benefiting from having a discount on tuition from the funds raised last year. We will have beef or vegetable soup, breads/rolls, and dessert available for eat-in or pick-up. We are looking for people (or groups) to make cookies or brownies for dessert for our event. If you can help with this, please contact Casda Danner casdadanner@hwchurch.org. Come enjoy some warm soup on a cold evening and support Valley Preschool!

HWC KIDS

- Kids Connect resumes this week! This week we're jumping into Jesus' early ministry; kids will learn about how Jesus is tempted in the wilderness and used God's words to defend against the tempter.
    - BIG IDEA: I believe God is powerful.
    - BIBLE: Matthew 4:1–11; Psalm 36:5–10
- Preteen Hangout tonight from 4-6pm for 5th and 6th graders! Note the change in time this week!

MISSION MOMENT: Stacia, our partner in ministry from Eastern Europe, will be presenting in Koinonia next Sunday (1/26 at 9:45 a.m.) on connecting well with God, ourselves, and each other.

STEWARDSHIP:

Budget Needed: $559,549.25 / **Budget Received:** $556,751.69

PERSECUTED CHURCH IN NIGERIA: Life is a constant struggle for our persecuted Christian family in northeastern Nigeria. Gwom's husband, a pastor, was killed after he and several other men traveled to a neighboring village to help victims of an attack by militant Fulani Muslims. The men traveling with Gwom's husband as well as 17 men from the village were also murdered, presumably by the militants. Gwom doesn't know how her husband died or where he is buried, but today she wants others to know the God who has restored her soul."I want people to know that God is a merciful God," Gwom said. "He knows us and our destiny. He does things in a way that man cannot understand unless you give your life to him." Please pray for our Nigerian brothers and sisters.

PRAYER CONCERNS: all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Beth Beardsley, Gary Wickard, Dick Pocock, Peter Lingenfelter, Linda Leax, Beth Pocock, Paul and Linda Roth, James Bates, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Karen Gaerte, 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 tragedies and disasters; for Shongo Country Chapel, Wellsville.