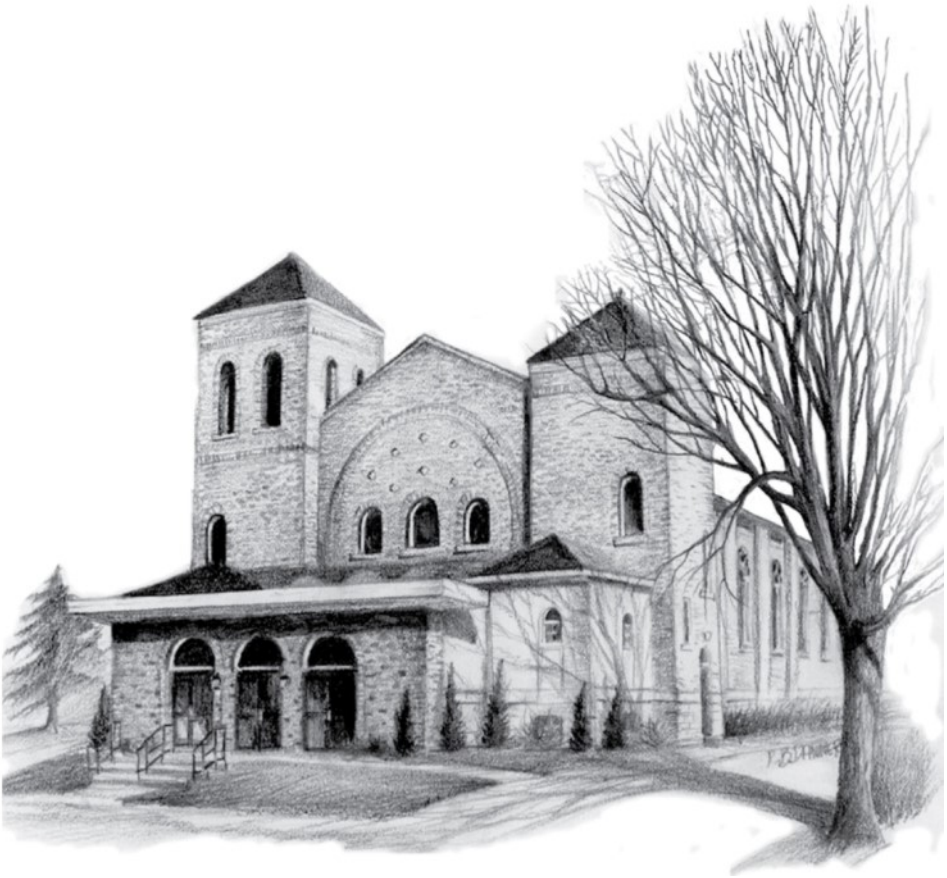
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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*

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
8:30AM February 2, 2025

Welcome

Gather Us In; Is He Worthy?; King of Kings
(Offering will be received during the third song)

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: *King of Kings (chorus only)*

Scripture Reading: Revelation 7

Children's Sermon: **He Cares About It All**

Life of the Church

Greeting One Another
Children in Grades Pre-K through 1st are dismissed for Children's Church

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

Communion:
Here I Am to Worship; Jesus Messiah

Benediction

Acolyte: Christian Roorbach **Scripture Reader:** Don Haingray

Musicians:
Emily Quick, Bridget Walton, vocals; Sharon Johnson, piano & vocals;
Christopher Moeller, guitar; Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals;
Dianna Clem, flute; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. We worship each week to focus our attention on God, to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ and open our lives to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May God do more today than we might dream or imagine.

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, we have set up stations 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 intinction servers and proceed to the trays. If coming to the front is difficult for you or if you prefer, please inform the usher and we will serve you in your seat.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed. Pastor Wes will be preaching from another biblical number: *The Most Challenging Number in the Bible* (Luke 4).

KIDS MIN

New February Series: "Miraculous: When we visit an aquarium, we find a whole world filled with sea creatures, plants, and more. Some of the discoveries we've made about what lives underwater can seem almost like a miracle. But it's not just under the sea where miracles happen—Jesus used water in some of his most well-known miracles! In this four-week series, kids will learn about some of the incredible miracles Jesus performed to help people grow closer to God. As they do, they'll learn how Jesus does everything out of love, calls us to follow him, knows what we need, and, most of all, that Jesus can do anything!"

- February Memory Verse: "You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples." — Psalm 77:14 (NIV)
- This week in Kids Connect, kids will see the miracle of Jesus turning water into wine. BIG IDEA: Jesus does everything out of love. BIBLE: John 2:1–12; 1 Corinthians 13:1–7

Thank you for supporting Valley Preschool at the annual Stone Soup Dinner on Friday! It was a great success!"

PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENT: On Monday, we sent out a mailing (digital and mail) with a letter from Pastors Wes and Cindy announcing their intent to retire at the end of May 2025. The letter also included a note from Daryl Stevenson, vice-chair of the Elders, to inform the congregation that the Edlers are starting the process of seeking God's direction for our next pastor and the assurance that the Elders will continue to communicate updates with the congregation.

BUILDING PROJECT:

Fundraising Goal:		$250,000.00
Gifts Received:	$140,877.00	
Pledges Outstanding:	$ 98,750.00	
TOTAL RECEIVED:		$239,627.00
Remaining to Goal		**$ 10,373.00**

MISSION MOMENT: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"
The Mission Committee are so thankful for those who gave gifts for the Christmas offering this year.$18,000 was collected and distributed equally between the three requests that were presented:
1. Cedric Rodrigo's youth camp project in Sri Lanka - $6,000
2. Jon Ortlip's youth soccer and Bible lessons in Liberia - $6,000
3. Houghton Teens under Jon Cole and Chris and Melissa George leadership – a trip to Australia for sports camps and VBS outreach - $6,000
Thank you again for your generous gifts to help the youth around the world.

PERSECUTED CHURCH Around the World: The YouVersion Bible App is growing in popularity around the world, including in countries where Christians face persecution. Downloads of the popular App hit a record high on Jan. 5, with 798,000 installs in one day. It's the most single-day downloads the app has experienced since it launched in 2008. This is occurring despite a report from Open Doors that "more than 380 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith" worldwide. The regions with the highest concentration of downloads were in various parts of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. As Christians continue to be persecuted around the world, we give thanks for the access to God's word through technology.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $593,983.05 / **Budget Received:** $583,982.45

PRAYER CONCERNS: all the family and friends of Willis Beardsley and Alice Fletcher and for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Beth Beardsley, Gary Wickard, 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 protection, wisdom and peace in many places of conflict; for all recovering from recent tragedies and disasters; for Wellsville Full Gospel Church (Pastor Dave Williams).