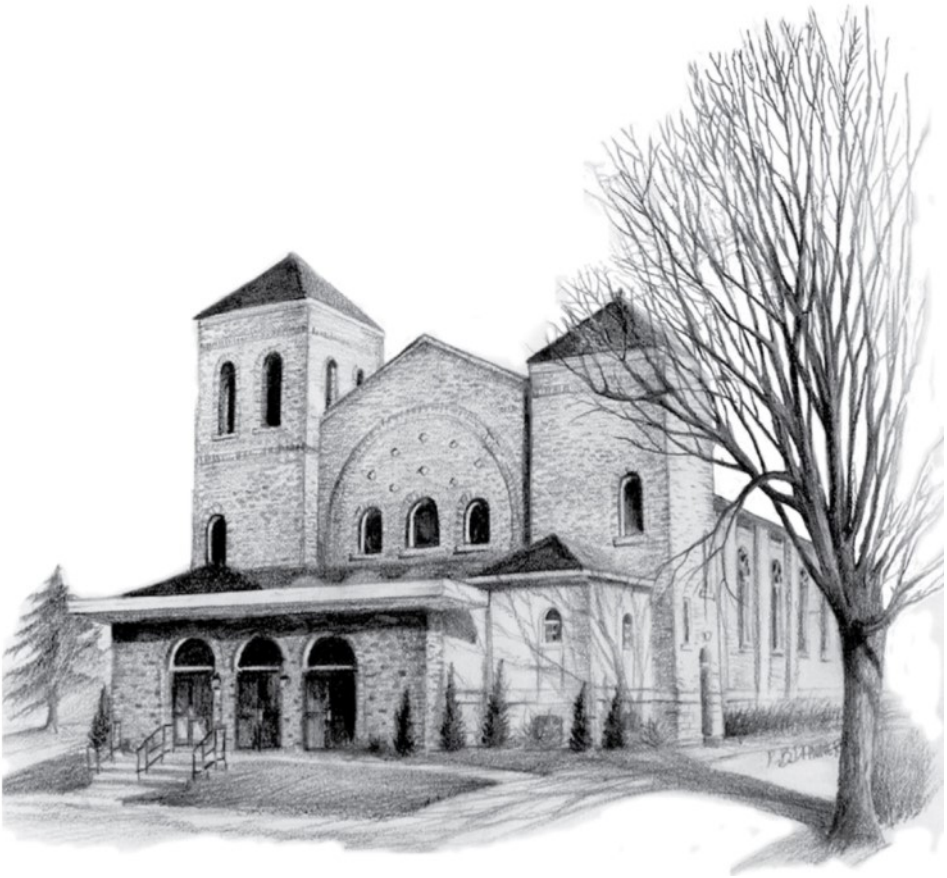
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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*

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
11:00AM **FEBRUARY 16, 2025**

Prelude: *Aria for Organ* Flor Peeters

Call to Worship (from 1 John 3)
See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be
has not yet been made known.
But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him
purify themselves, just as he is pure.

*Hymn 378 ***O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus***

Life of the Church

Anthem: *For the Beauty of the Earth* ……Eric Nelson

Celebration of Ministry: Missions

Children's Sermon: **He Knows What We Need**

*Songs of Adoration: ***Firm Foundation; A Thousand Hallelujahs; Doxology***
(Song sheets available in the foyer; Offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession
Heavenly Father, how often we allow our sin and iniquity to cloud our judgment. We deafen our ears to your voice and allow the voice of selfishness, greed, maliciousness and discontent to guide our minds and influence our ways. As a Church we acknowledge our guilt to you. Father, we thank you that you hear us, that you speak to us and that you love us. Make our hearts still, so that we may hear you call us forth with your own voice of love, charity, forgiveness and grace. Let us hear your voice that calls us "beloved," and may we rest in you that we may be your Church. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Song of Response: ***My Worth is Not in What I Own***

Scripture Reading: Revelation 13
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 49 ***Children of the Heavenly Father***

Greeting One Another

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

*Song ***Sons and Daughters***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Rigaudon* Andre Campra

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*Please stand if able **Acolyte**: Annie Jordan **Scripture Reader:** Debbie Young

Musicians:
Joanna Bates, Josey Ikker, vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Matt Cox, guitar & vocals; Sharon & Tim McGarvey, horns; Dan Wartinger, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The psalmist declares: "The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid" (27:1)? We gather for worship today and remember that in a world that provides reasons to fear, we can trust that God is greater.

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 about another biblical number: The Most Anticipated Number in the Bible (Revelation 20).

THIS SATURDAY is our monthly Men's Breakfast (8am, Community Room) and also our Men's Retreat (10am-6:30 pm, Bliss Summit Bible Camp.) Message Pastor David if you'd like further retreat details.

BUILDING PROJECT

Fundraising Goal:		$250,000.00
Gifts Received:	$160,777	
Pledges Outstanding:	$ 84,150	
TOTAL RECEIVED:		$244,927.00
Remaining to Goal		**$ 5,073.00**

HWC Kids

- This week in Kids Connect, kids will see the miracle of Jesus healing a man who could not walk. BIG IDEA: Jesus knows what we need. BIBLE: John 5:1–9a; Jeremiah 17:7–10
- February Memory Verse: "You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples." — Psalm 77:14 (NIV)
- Preteen Hangout: Sunday from 6-8pm!

MISSION MOMENT: Jim & Karen Szymanski – SIM US/ TEN3 Praise God that radiation for Jim's brain tumor is working and they are grateful for good medical help to keep them healthy. They appreciate the completion of the book that Jim wrote, "Help in Hardship." Please pray for Jim's varicose vein procedure in February and Karen's knee replacement in March. Jim's Old Testament devotional will be published soon. Many of their older, faithful supporters have died; please pray that younger financial supporters will come forth. Thank you to all who pray and support them on a regular basis.

PERSECUTED CHURCH: Egypt--On January 31, two Christian men, Abdulbaqi Said Abdo and Nour Gerges, were released from prison in Egypt after spending more than three years behind bars. Both men were arrested in 2021 on blasphemy-related charges after participating in a Facebook group that discussed and helped individuals who had converted from Islam to Christianity. Upon his release, Abdo spoke of his suffering while in prison and expressed gratitude for the support he received during his detainment. "I thank everyone who prayed for me while I was in prison, cared about and followed up on my case, and shared the joy of my release from prison."

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $628,416.85 / **Budget Received:** $620,999.44

Prayer Concerns: for the family of Paul Parks 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 Bible Church (Pastor Dan Kenyon).