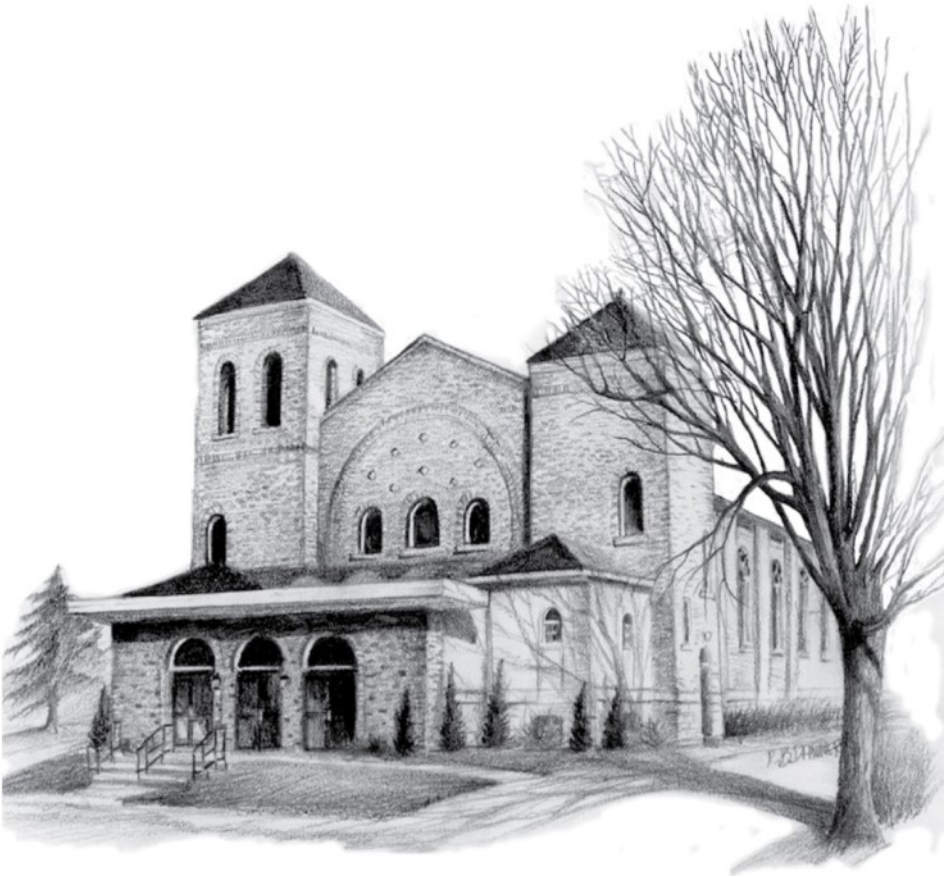
# Houghton
Wesleyan Church

*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 IN LENT

11:00AM MARCH 16, 2025

Prelude: *Voluntary on "Love Unknown"* .....Robert Lind

Choral Introit: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* .....arr. Gilbert Martin

Call to Worship (from Ephesians 3)

We kneel before the Father, from whom every family
in heaven and on earth derives its name.

***We pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen us
with power through his Spirit in our inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.***

And I pray that each of us, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

***Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we
ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Alleluia!***

*Hymn 144 ***O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High***

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry: Tech Team

*Songs of Adoration: ***Before the Throne; Arise, My Soul, Arise***
(Song sheets available in the foyer; offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession

**Our great God and Savior, as we look to the cross, we are reminded that the victory is Yours. Sins forgiven. Death conquered. Your people redeemed, and Your Kingdom come. Though we affirm this truth, we often resist your call to embrace the cross. Forgive us Lord. In our weakness and fear, in our arrogance and apathy, lead us to the cross and into the victory of Your resurrection that we might know and experience your promised forgiveness in Christ. Amen.**

Time of Prayer

Song of Response: ***Speak, O Lord***

Scripture Reading: Matthew 12: 15-45 (selected verses)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
***People: Thanks be to God!***

*Hymn 273 ***And Can it Be?***

Greeting One Another

Sermon: **Seeing the Cross Through the Lens of Slavery**
Pastor Wes Oden

*Song ***Death Was Arrested***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Prelude in C minor*, BWV 546a ……..J. S. Bach
Jonathan Niemi, organ

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*Please stand if able
**Acolyte:** Everly Lundeen **Scripture Reader**: Pastor David Huizenga

**Musicians:**
Joanna Bates, Josey Ikker, vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; David Clem, viola;
Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano, cajón

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH**. The season of Lent is a time for reflection and action as we ponder the death of Jesus. These 40 days lead us through the deserts and valleys of life and through the peaks and joys of life. On this Fourth Sunday in Lent, we remember the depths of God's love for us in Christ. May our worship help us to focus on our need and on his grace.

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** is the Third Sunday in Lent. Pastor Wes continues a Lenten series of sermons focusing on lenses through which we see the cross. Next week's sermon, Seeing the Cross through the Lens of Shame is from Philippians 2. We will gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed.

**EASTER BAPTISM**: If you are interested in being baptized on Easter Sunday morning, April 20, contact Pastor Wes (office@hwchurch.org) about attending the baptism class.

**HWC KIDS**

- This week in Kids Connect, kids hear Jesus tell a story about a Samaritan who helps a wounded man when no one else did. BIG IDEA: God sends us helpers. BIBLE: Luke 10:25–37; Psalm 27:1–5
- March Memory Verse: "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." — Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)
- Preteen Hangout - Sunday from 6-8pm for 5th and 6th graders.

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Budget Needed:** $697,284.45 / **Budget Received:** $685,722.75

**BUILDING PROJECT:**

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| Fundraising Goal: | | $250,000 |
| Gifts Received: | $170,763 | |
| Pledges Outstanding: | $ 79,900 | |
| TOTAL RECEIVED: | | $250,663 |
| Remaining to Goal | | $ (663) |

**MISSION MOMENT:** Joel and Barb Trudell--Barb did a ZOOM presentation to the Global Schools Forum about literacy, language and basic skills to help kids learn better. She is thankful that it went very well. Barb also was part of a Mother Language Day event to get the African governments and teachers to teach in the kids' own language so they can understand and learn in school. Pray for the programs in Africa to be continued and that the finances for them will be made available, so they can continue to teach the learning programs to the kids and teachers.

**PERSECUTED CHURCH: SYRIA**--The Church in Syria is under violent attack. Militants have unleashed brutal, unthinkable violence against Christian communities—wiping out entire towns. Survivors report militants celebrating these killings and directly threatening pastors with the chilling message: "Once we have greater control, you will be next." Yet even in this darkness, God's light prevails. At least two men who were trained for suicide missions heard the Gospel and gave their lives to Christ instead. The courage of our Christian family in Syria is inspiring. Despite facing death threats and targeted violence, their faith remains unshakable. Their strength to continue living the Gospel amid such danger is a courageous expression of faith that challenges us all. Please pray for:

- Protection for vulnerable Christians
- Strength and courage for church leaders
- Wisdom for our partners delivering aid

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Karen Szymanski, Jane Allen, Jane Roeske, Beth Beardsley, Gary Wickard, 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 Our Lady of Angels Roman Catholic Church, Cuba.