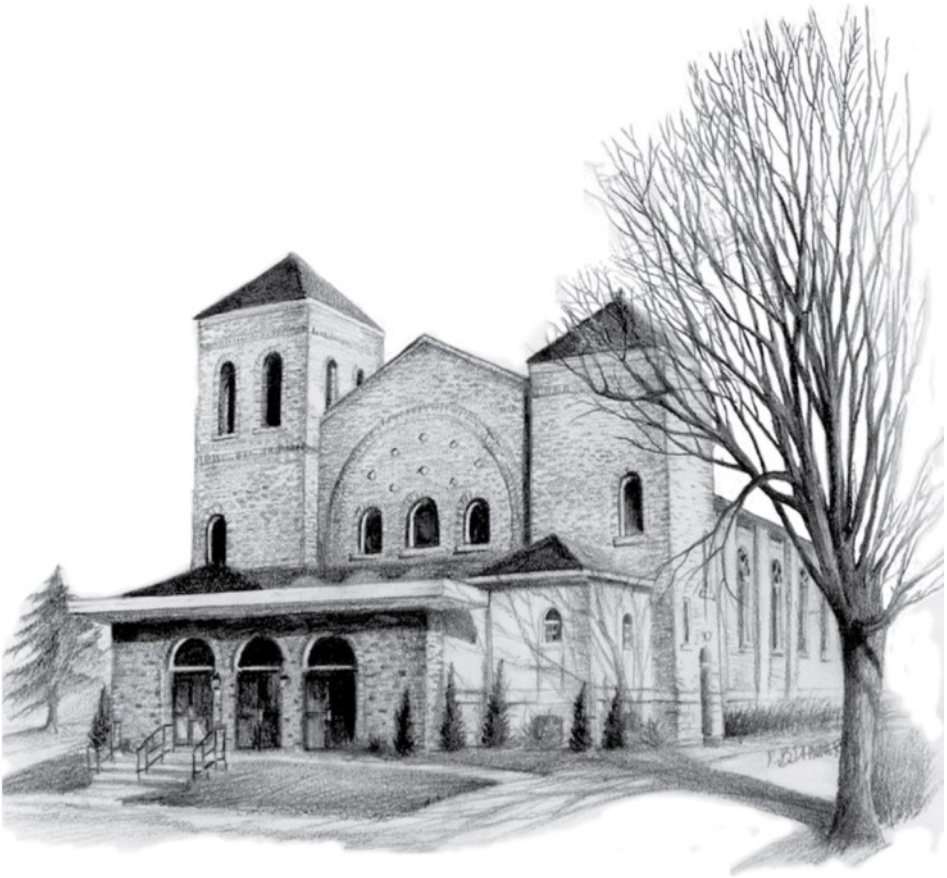
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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 OF EASTER – MISSIONS SUNDAY
8:30AM April 27, 2025

Welcome & Call to Worship

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
Jesus also said to the people, and He says to us still today,
"You are the light of the world."
"A Town build on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.
Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.
"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may
see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

May the Peoples Praise You; Si tuvieras Fe; He Reigns
(Offering will be received during the third song)

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***Tu Fidelidad***

Scripture Reading:
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Peter 2:6-8; Romans 1:16

Celebration of Ministry: **Walk For Life**

Song: ***Kabiyesi, O Hosanna!***

Life of the Church

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

Sermon: **I Am Not Ashamed**
Rev. Ben Hegeman

Facing a Task Unfinished

Benediction

Acolyte: Alexa Fulkrod Scripture Reader: Paul Shea

Musicians:
Josie Adenuga, Luke Ogden, vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Matt Cox, guitar & vocals; Tim McGarvey, Sharon McGarvey, Sarah Goldthrite, horn;
Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The Psalmist proclaims, "The LORD is king! He is robed in majesty. Indeed, the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken" (93:1, NLT). We come together today to worship the Lord who is king and sovereign overall the earth through the resurrection of Christ.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING Pastor Cindy will preach from Deuteronomy 32 about **A Portrait of God.** . Join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. The 11:00 service will be streamed as usual. Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School and Adult Discipleship are at 9:45.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE: Families, friends, and community members are invited to a Service of Remembrance for the children in our Church family who left us too soon, from the unborn and just born to adult children. Please join us at the church on Saturday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. for a time of song, scripture, and memorial as we honor our children and their families. All are welcome.

CHURCH WORK DAY: We are hosting our annual work day on Saturday, May 3, 8:30 a.m. – Noon. You can stay the whole time or part of it. We will be working mostly outside and mostly sprucing up the grounds. We will supply some tools. If you have tools you can bring, be sure to label them. We will provide cinnamon rolls and coffee. Families are welcome. It's a great time to meet new people as we work together.

HWC KIDS

- This week in Kids Connect, kids hear about how Jesus showed his scars to his disciples. BIG IDEA: Jesus connects us to God. BIBLE: John 20:19–31; John 15:1–13
- April Memory Verse: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." — 2 Peter 3:18a (NIV)
- Preteen Hangout, Sunday from 6-8pm, combined with the youth for missions weekend

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $800,585.85 / **Budget Received:** $773,291.71

ANNUAL ELECTION: The Nominating Committee has put together a ballot for this year's election of church leaders. Sample ballots are posted in various places around the church. If you would like for the Nominating Committee to consider any other potential nominees, please contact Pastor Wes by Wednesday, April 30. The election of leaders will take place on Sunday May 18 (in person) and the week of May 12 (online).

ANNUAL MEETING: On May 11, 9:45am in the Community Room, we will be gathering for our Annual Meeting of the congregation. We are experimenting with this time when many people are already here. Adult Discipleship classes will not meet. Children and youth classes will meet. During this time together, brief updates will be presented from Pastor Wes, Daryl Stevenson (Chair of the Elders), David Mercer (Treasurer), Mike Spateholts (Facilities Stewards Chair) and Paul Young (Stewardship Committee Chair) who will explain the 2025-2026 Community Financial Plan. There will also be an update on the pastoral transition. This is an opportunity to get information and to ask questions related to the various areas of our church.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH—INDIA As a small church in Gujarat, India peacefully celebrated Easter on Sunday, several men with alleged ties to Hindu nationalist organizations interrupted the service, carrying sticks and knives and claiming the Christians had no right to practice their faith. According to eyewitnesses and videos, the assailants entered the church chanting slogans like "Jai Shri Ram" or "Glory to Lord Rama." The men accused the Christians of forcefully converting Hindus. Gujarat is one of 12 Indian states that have anti-conversion laws. Eventually, police ordered the men to leave the church. No arrests have been made. Please pray for the continued boldness and safety of our brothers and sisters in India.

MISSION MOMENT: Chris and Melissa George – Perth, Australia--Thank you for holding our arms up when we are tired! for Charlotte who has leukemia; for praying for Zane – a baseball player who lived here with us for six months; for Jacqui who had a brain tumor removed; for Makayla, Chris and Brayden as they go to baseball state nationals. Pray for youth camp and for the 20 youth attending from the church there; Pray for the next interns as they raise support for the ministry; and for the team from Houghton that they are able to raise the support they need to go there to minister.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Bruce Hess, Jane Allen, Jane Roeske, 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 grieving and recovering from the recent earthquake in Myanmar, Thailand and surrounding countries; for Big Tree Wesleyan Church (Pastor Doug Ingersoll).