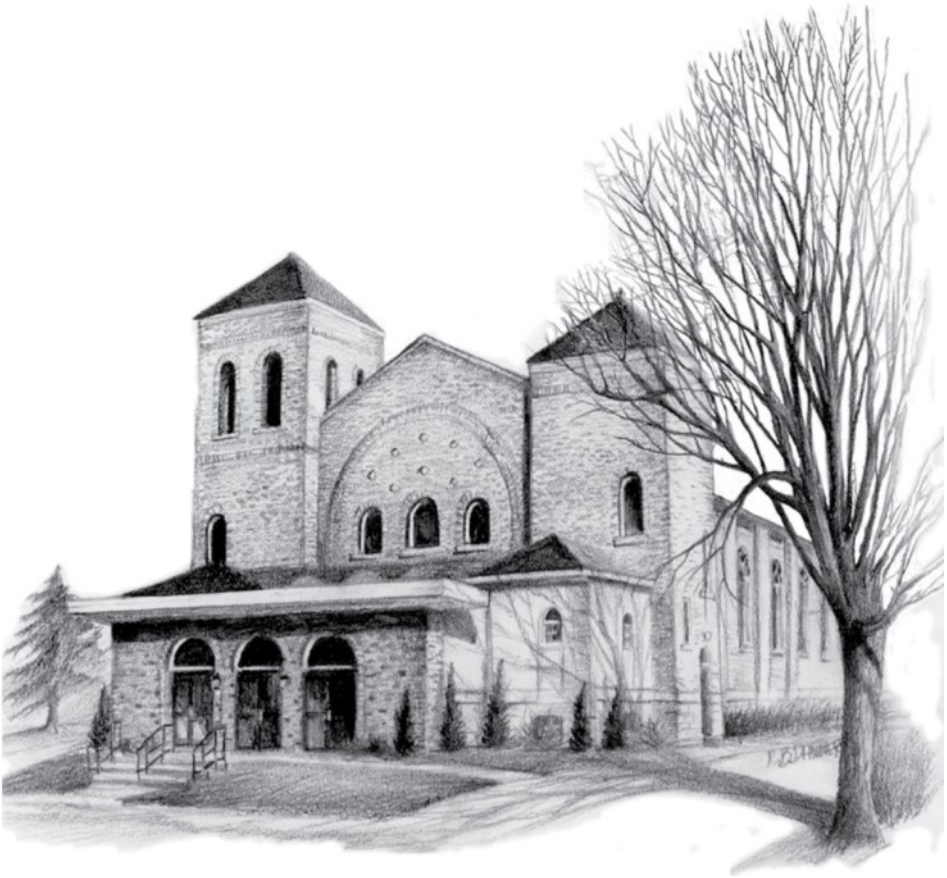
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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 OF EASTER

11:00AM MAY 11, 2025

Prelude: *Adoration* .....Florence Price
Katrina Kaufman-VonBuren, organ

Call to Worship (from Philippians 4)
Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Hymn 69 ***Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah***

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry: Royal Family Kids Camp

*Songs of Adoration: ***Your Great Name; Great I Am***
(Song sheets available in the foyer; offering will be received during the first song)

Scripture Reading: James 5:13-20
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

*Song ***O My Soul (Remember)***

Greeting One Another

Sermon: **Praying Boldly**
Pastor Wes Oden

Prayer of Confession
Jehovah Jireh, our Provider, in the same way people come to Jesus in deep humility yet bold faith, so we affirm: "Lord, we are not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and we shall be healed." Heavenly Physician, we confess the sickness of our wayward hearts and yearn for you to heal us from sin. Forgive us for the injuries we have inflicted on others through our words, our neglect, our anger, our selfishness, our fear. And heal also those who have endured our sinful actions and attitudes. By your match-less grace, purify all of us and sanctify our prayers through the righteousness of Christ, that you may receive his intercession and heal us now and forever. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Time of Prayer

*Song ***I Know Whom I Have Believed***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Trumpet Tune in G* .....Martha Sobaje

*Please stand if able **Acolyte:** Evelyn Esh **Scripture Reader**: Matt Cox

Musicians:
Joanna Bates and Mike Jordan, vocals; Caleb Hilsher, guitar;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals;
Jill Jordan, violin; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. As the Easter season continues, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of our resurrection as well. On this day when we celebrate God's gift of human relationships, we give thanks for mothers and family, recognizing that all of our human relationships are rooted in our relationship as children of our heavenly Father.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING. Believing that our God who raised Jesus from the dead has power over all things, we join together this morning to pray for each other. Pastor Wes will offer a brief word related to prayer and healing, then the pastors and elders will be available at the altar rail to pray with all who desire—either for yourself or for someone else.

ANNUAL MEETING: Today, May 11, 9:45am in the Community Room, we will be gathering for our Annual Meeting of the congregation. 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.

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. The election of leaders will take place next Sunday, May 18 (in person) and throughout this week online. The online ballot will close on May 18, 12:30pm.

HWC FINANCIAL PLAN: The Elders are submitting for members approval the 2025-2026 Church Financial Plan. Copies are available today. You may also access the CFP on the church website.

MUSIC CELEBRATION: Next Sunday May 18, 5:00pm, you are invited to a celebration of music in the church sanctuary. This gathering will include songs by the church choir, an ensemble, a men's quartet and Pastor Wes.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $835,019.65 / Budget Received: $808,035.98

CHURCH ASSESSMENT: Anyone 15 years or older and who attends regularly (i.e., university students and all other adults) can complete this survey digitally. Take a picture of this QR code, be patient while it loads, complete anonymously the "Written Survey," and submit. Thank you.

HWC Kids

- This week in Kids Connect, kids learn about how Peter prayed for a woman to come back to life. BIG IDEA: We can pray for others. BIBLE: Acts 9:36–43; James 5:13–16
- May Memory Verse: "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." — Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)
- Kids Club - May 17th, 9:30-11:00am
- Preteen Hangout - May 18th, 6-8pm - 6th graders are invited to join the youth and 4th graders are invited to join the preteen hangout!

MISSION MOMENT-- Corey & Kris Thede – Haiti/Zambia Praise God for a good harvest in Zambia and that Zembo Bible School hosted a mission conference. Please pray for Zembo Bible College students to have a good last semester of classes. Pray for protection of crops and field workers for a good harvest and the completion of water tank and solar power for the new well. In Haiti pray about instability: food, medical, resources, safety. Many people are being displaced from their homes. LaGonave's School of Nursing is having a leadership transition. Gangs continue to push into Haiti which has closed major hospitals causing lack of medical care. These gangs are being called terrorists as they threaten the people of Haiti.

PERSECUTTED CHURCH: INDONESIA After more than three decades of worshiping in limited social facilities, the Huria Kristen Batak Protestant (HKBP) Pamulang Resort Ciputat Banten District finally got a permit to build its church building. The congregation has been worshiping in the Social Facility Building while waiting for the government to grant its building permit. "Praise God! This is the answer to the prayers and hopes that we have prayed for years," said Rev. Bintang Siregar, leader of the congregation. He added that the congregation's joy is great, and they are now preparing for the next stages of construction.

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 our church and the leadership of our church as we move toward this time of pastoral transition; for Anchor Church, Buffalo (Pastor Steve Johnson).