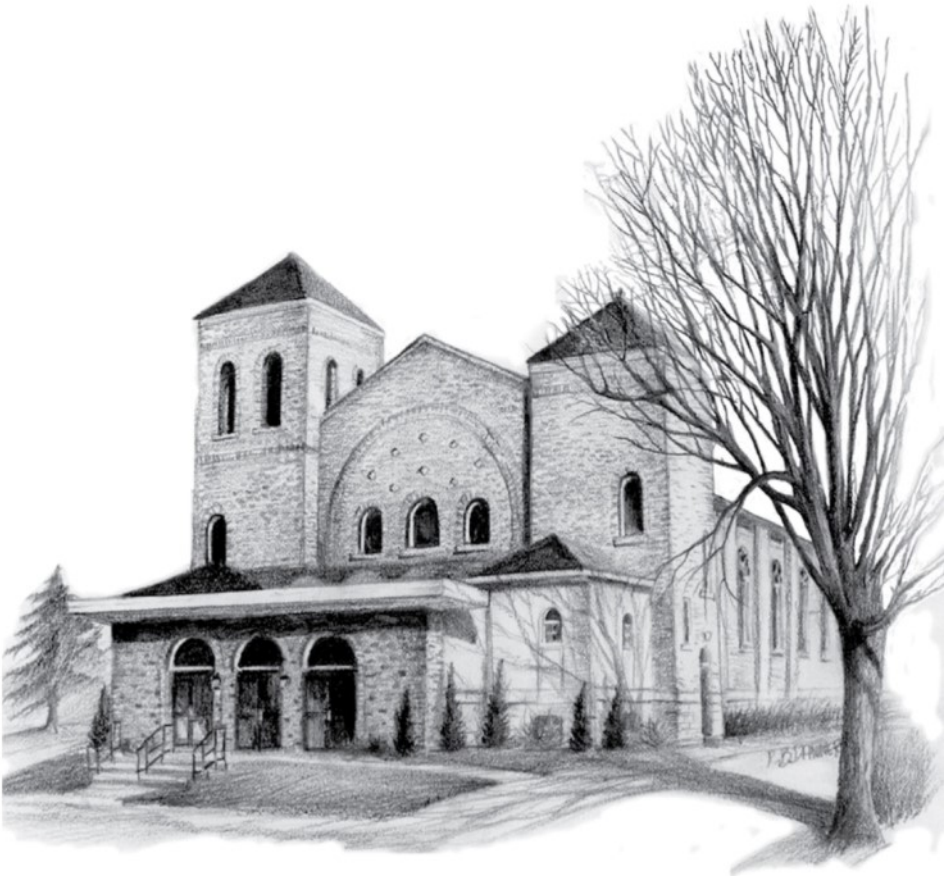
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
8:30AM May 18, 2025

Welcome

I Thank God; Light of the World; Is He Worthy?
(Offering will be received during the third song)

Time of Prayer

Song: ***King of Kings***

Scripture Reading: Ruth (selected verses)

Life of the Church

Greeting One Another
Children in grades Pre-K through I" are dismissed for Children's Church

Sermon: **God's Love Story**
Pastor Wes Oden

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Benediction

Acolyte: Isobel Walton **Scripture Reader**: Jon Case

Musicians:
Emily Quick, Jon Hutmire, vocals;
Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Dianna Clem, flute; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. We gather during this Easter Season to give thanks to God for the resurrection of Jesus that brings power and hope in our brokenness and pain. During this hour of worship, may God open our minds and hearts to his presence with us and to his work through us.

ELECTION BALLOT: If you are a member of HWC and have not yet cast your ballot for the election of 2025-2026 leaders and for the 2025-2026 Financial Plan, please do so today. We have paper ballots available in the sanctuary lower foyer and CE building foyer as well as people to assist you. The online ballot will close at 12:30 today.

MUSIC CELEBRATION: Today at 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.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING our church youth group will lead us in worship. Join us for worship at 8:30 and 11:00. Discipleship Hour is at 9:45 with classes for children, youth and adults.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 1
10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship
11:30 a.m. Pastors Wes and Cindy Retirement Celebration

June 8
8:30 a.m. Indoor Worship
9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour
11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

June 15 – August 24
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship
10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

August 10
10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship / Pig Roast and Picnic

August 31 – September 28
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship
11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship

September 7
9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour restarts

HWC KIDS

- This week in Kids Connect, kids learn about how God spoke to Cornelius and Peter to show that everyone is welcome to follow Jesus. BIG IDEA: We can love like Jesus does. BIBLE: Acts 10:1–8; 11:1–18; John 13:34–35
- May Memory Verse: "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." — Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)
- Preteen Hangout: Sunday from 6-8pm! 6th graders, it's your first chance to join the youth and, 4th graders, you get to join us! Hope to see you there!

MISSION MOMENT: John & Sylvia Christensen--Praise God for healing from the accident April 6, 2025; Naomi is able to transfer from wheelchair to bed; John can walk with walker and put 50% weight on his injured leg; and Sylvia's fractured sternum is healing. Pray for the numbness in Naomi's legs to heal completely. Pray for John's back and leg to heal completely. Pray for the Kisar team and their consultations in the books of Esther and Exodus. Praise and prayer that Micah, Bethany and Lydia could all come home to help with the family and for their safe travels to return to their homes.

PERSECURED CHURCH-- IRAN: After spending three months in Panama, Artemis Ghasemzadeh, a 27-year-old Iranian woman is still praying and searching for a safe country to accept her by June 7, when her two-month humanitarian visa expires. Otherwise, she'll be returned to Iran, where she will face extreme persecution for leaving Islam. "In Iran, being a Christian when you're born is OK," Ghasemzadeh said. But if you're a Muslim and you convert to Christianity, it's a problem. Armenian, Assyrian, and Catholic communities exist in Iran. Yet, like other Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East and beyond, Iran has strict anti-conversion laws that are punishable by imprisonment or death. Ghasemzadeh said she would "rather die" than go back to Iran, knowing the fate that awaits her. Please pray Ghasemzadeh can find safe refuge.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $852,236.55 / **Budget Received:** $824,405.63

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 Grace Community Church, Buffalo (Pastor Barb Farrow).