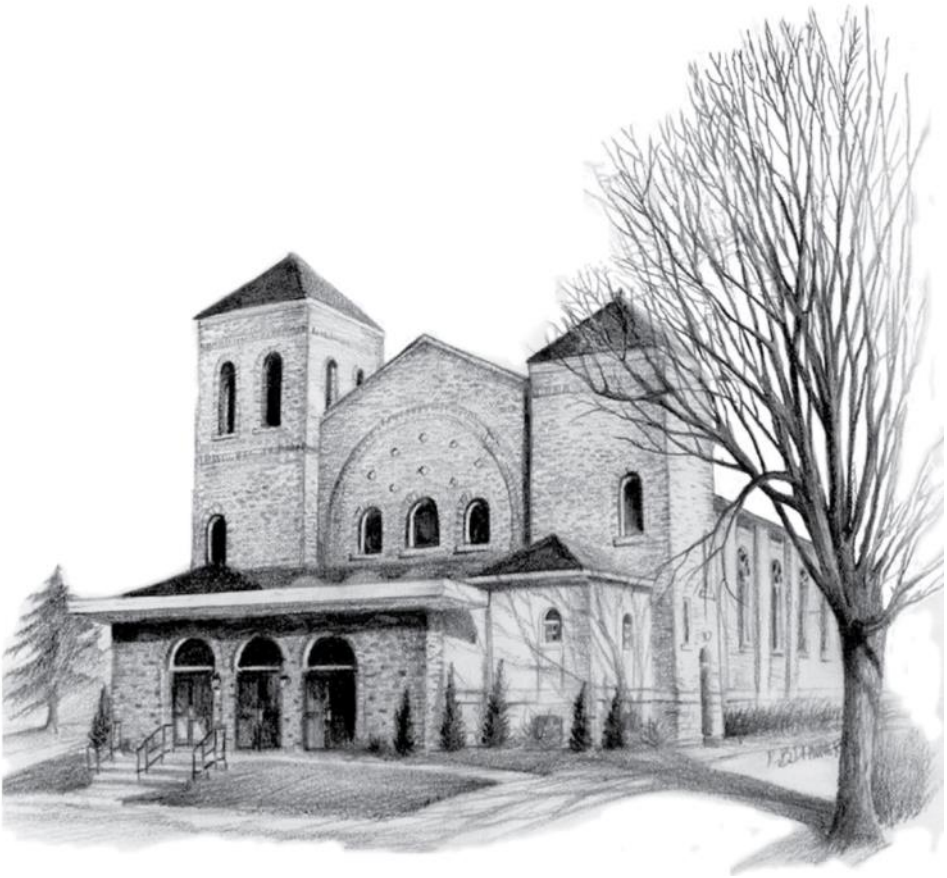
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

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 OF EASTER — YOUTH SUNDAY
11:00AM — MAY 25, 2025

Prelude: *Aria* .....Flor Peeters

Call to Worship
We come to you, O God, to thank you for what is good.
We come to you, O God, to cry out for what is wrong.
We come to you, O God, to ask for help and restoration.
We come to you, O God, with aching hearts and glad souls.
Let us worship God.
Lord, be our guide and our vision! Alleluia!

*Hymn 357 ***Be Thou My Vision***

Recognition of Seniors

Celebration of Ministry: Valley PreSchool

Children's Sermon: **Spread the Word**

*Songs of Adoration: ***Faithful Now; Champion***
(Song sheets available in the foyer; offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession
Our Father in heaven, we come today with a need to confess our sins to You. We have spoken harshly not gently. We have broken confidence even though we were trusted with sensitive information. We have acted arrogantly despite Your call to humility. We have allowed our work to drive us while ignoring the rest that You command and that we need. We have not honored others above ourselves. We have been selfish with our time, our gifts, and our resources. In Your loving mercy, forgive us and in Your wondrous grace, make us more like Christ as we hear his words of pardon that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***Our God Will Go Before Us***

Scripture Reading: Esther 4
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Life of the Church

Greeting One Another

Sermon: **God Has a Purpose for YOU!!**
Evelyn Cox

*Song: ***Our God Will Go Before Us***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Paean* (Hymn of Praise) .....Robert Lau

*Please stand if able **Acolyte:** Audra Harrison **Scripture Reader:** Kadee Hoffman

Musicians:
Scarlet Dowling, Indigo Knapp, Evelyn Cox, vocals;
Caleb Hilsher, guitar; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Brooklynn Templeton, flute;
Dan Zambrano, cello; Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Wartinger, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Psalm 19 begins: *The heavens declare the glory of God The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.* As we gather for worship today, we come to join creation in declaring God's glory—that he is good and just, that he is grace and truth. In every moment of worship today, let us open our hearts and minds as well as our mouths and bodies to him that we might experience his grace and truth and leave more like Jesus than we have come.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we are gathering for one worship service at 10:00 a.m. for Pastors Wes and Cindy's last Sunday. Pastor Wes will preach from Isaiah 40:25-31, *What Do We Do Now?* Discipleship Hour is cancelled next week.

ALICE FLETCHER MEMORIAL SERVICE MAY 31:

- Visitation at the church beginning at noon
- Memorial service at 1:00 P.M.
  The service will be streamed at www.hwchurch.org **"Watch Online"**

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 1
9:00 a.m. Pre-Service Music Worship Celebration
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 Paul shared the good news and Lydia decided to follow Jesus. BIG IDEA: We can share the good news. BIBLE: Acts 16:6–15; Matthew 28:18–20
- May Memory Verse: "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." — Proverbs 16:9 (NIV).

MISSION MOMENT: Alan & Cheri Shea – SIM ELWA--Praise that their two sons, Nathaniel and Zachary, were baptized on Easter Sunday. Pray for Cheri who has had a viral infection causing an elevated heart rate. Pray for strength and return to good health. Pray for Alan as he writes up documents for the ELWA Radio to move into a new building. He is also coordinating a generator maintenance trip in July. Pray for a new missionary who may be able to help in the role of ELWA's IT support team to come help with the IT department for the radio station.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $869,453.45 / Budget Received $845,497.61

ELECTION RESULTS: Thank you to everyone who voted in this year's election. Here are the results of this year's voting.

Secretary: Mike Burgett
Treasurer: Terry Sweet
Facilities Stewards Chair: Mike Spateholts
Elders: Susie Roorbach, Norm Smithley, Paul Young
Nominating Committee: LuAnne Brubaker, Pat Hager, Betsy Webb
District Conference Delegates: Mim Case, Sharon Johnson, Jill Jordan, Jamie Mullen, Mark Sweet and Terry Sweet
Financial Plan: Yes (133) / No (0)

Thank you to all who were willing to be nominated. Thank you for your prayers for all of our leaders in the coming year.

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 East Leon Wesleyan Church (Pastor Karen Cleveland).