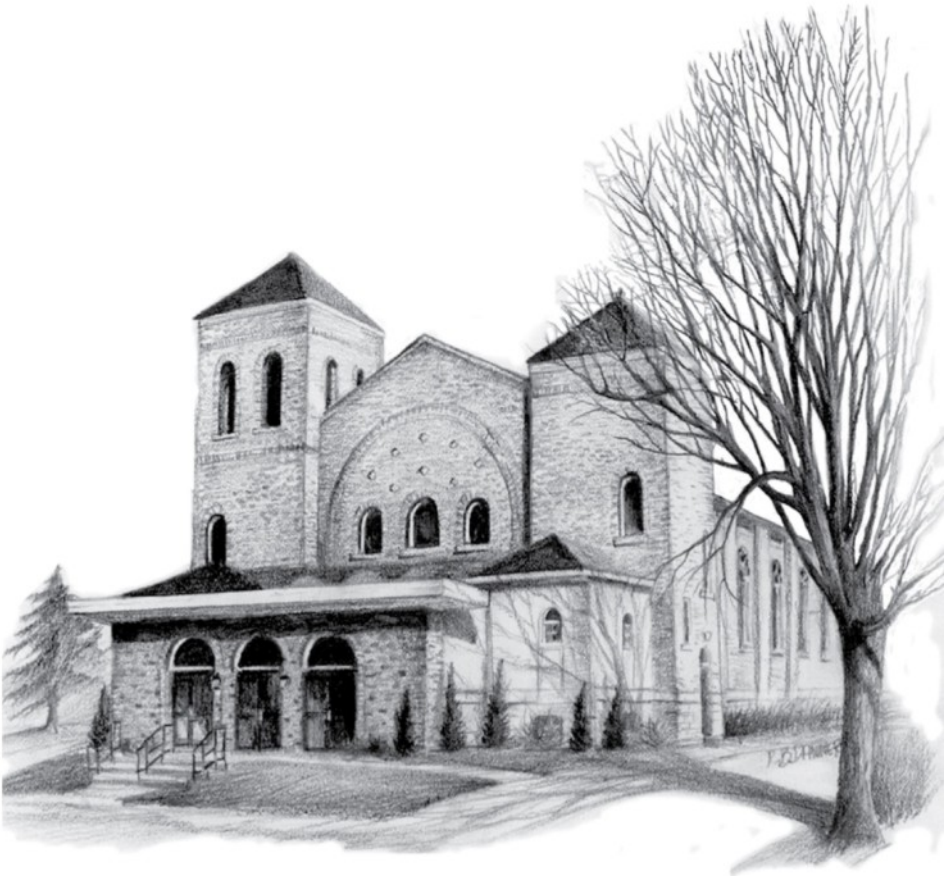
Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others



RANDY CRAKER, *Interim Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

DAVID HUIZENGA, *Assistant Pastor*

KEVIN DIBBLE, *Music and Worship Director*

EMILY SPATEHOLTS, *Children's Ministry Director*

JUDY CONGDON, *Organist and Choir Director*

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00AM AUGUST 17, 2025

Prelude: *Elevation: Tierce en Taille* *Francois Couperin*

* Call to Worship (from Hebrews 10)

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

*Hymn 20 ***Stand Up and Bless the Lord***

Life of the Church

*Songs of Praise: ***Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me; Living Hope***
(Offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess together our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor, nation against nation, even disciple against disciple. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us through the promise of Christ. In his name, set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***He Knows My Name***

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:16-20; Acts 4:13; Luke 9:49-50; Mark 10: 35-37; John 15:9-10

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

Greeting One Another

Sermon: **The Transformation of John**
Pastor Randy Craker

*Hymn 269 ***Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Processional on "Lift High the Cross"* Donald Busarow

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*Please stand if able **Acolyte:** Audra Harrison **Scripture Reader:** Mark Getzin

Musicians:
Josey Ikker, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar and vocals;
Kevin Dibble, piano & vocals; David Clem, Viola; Dan Zambrano, cajon

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Every Sunday is a time for remembering all that God has done and to celebrate the victory of Christ's resurrection. May God open our eyes, our ears, our minds and our hearts to him.

TODAY Robbie and I continue to find our way forward with joy. We are engaged in meeting people, hearing stories, figuring out maps, working with the staff, praying for the church, and anticipating what God wants to do among us. This Sunday I explore with you, the transformation of the disciple John. We often identify him as the beloved apostle but what is overlooked is the work Jesus did in him. As people following the Jesus Way we want to let the Spirit do his work in us. Looking forward to worshiping with you today.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we continue our regular summer worship schedule--8:30 outdoors, 10 in the sanctuary with streaming. We look at *The Ministry of Encouragement* from Acts 4:36-37. Members are invited to vote about our Building Project following each service.

- In the afternoon at 3pm come to the north lawn for Ice Cream and fellowship.
- Curious about our feedback on the recent all-church assessment? We meet at 4:30 in the sanctuary for interview and survey results from Next Step Church Services.

HWC KIDS
•Nursery (both services) and Children's Church (early service) will continue through the summer.
•This week in Children's Church, kids learn about how God shows us what is good in a message to the prophet Micah. BIG IDEA: God is good all the time. BIBLE: Micah 6:1–8; Hebrews 12:1–3

STEWARDSHIP:
Budget Needed: $181,935.18 **Monies Received:** $158,761.39

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
August 24:
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship / 10:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship
August 31 – October 28:
8:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship / 11:00 a.m. Indoor/Streaming Worship
September 7:
9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour restarts

MISSION MOMENT: Kevin & Cindy Austin--The Lord has blessed them in their 45 years of marriage – serving the Lord together. Praises for their ministry through Global Partners, they are learning the importance of praying WITH people –not just for them. They are grateful for Cindy's successful cataract surgery. They are thankful for Discovery Bible Studies that led to decisions for Jesus and baptism, and for technology to keep in touch with everyone over the years in the US and Europe. As they celebrate God's goodness, they thank everyone for your prayers and help over the years.

PERSECUTED CHURH: **INDIA--**Front-line workers who bear witness to Christ in restricted nations do so at great cost. Rahul, a ministry leader in India, was one of several from his church who were imprisoned for their refusal to deny Christ. Situations like Rahul's are not unique in India. Front-line workers who serve as pastors are routinely arrested, and many Christian workers report being repeatedly evicted from their homes and driven from their communities. They suffer public beatings, vandalization of their churches and homes, and attacks through both social media and traditional media. Many of India's states have enacted anti-conversion laws that target Christians. And as the Hindu nationalist movement has gained strength and influence across India, the laws have become stricter and have been applied more broadly. Pray that front-line workers like Rahul will sense God's presence, will be encouraged and will see a harvest of souls coming to faith in Christ through their ministry efforts.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Nathan Danner, Kristen Massey, Mike Mathiason (Doug Mayhle's colleague), Doug Melton (Sharon Johnson's uncle), David Mercer, David Pullen, Jane Allen, Terry Ayers, James Bates, Scarlett Gildemeister, Bruce Hess, Linda Leax, Jane Roeske, Gary Wickard, Beth Pocock, Paul and Linda Roth, 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 refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine, Sudan, the Middle East, and other places of war; for Joy Community Church, Machias, NY, and Pastor Judy Gallegos.