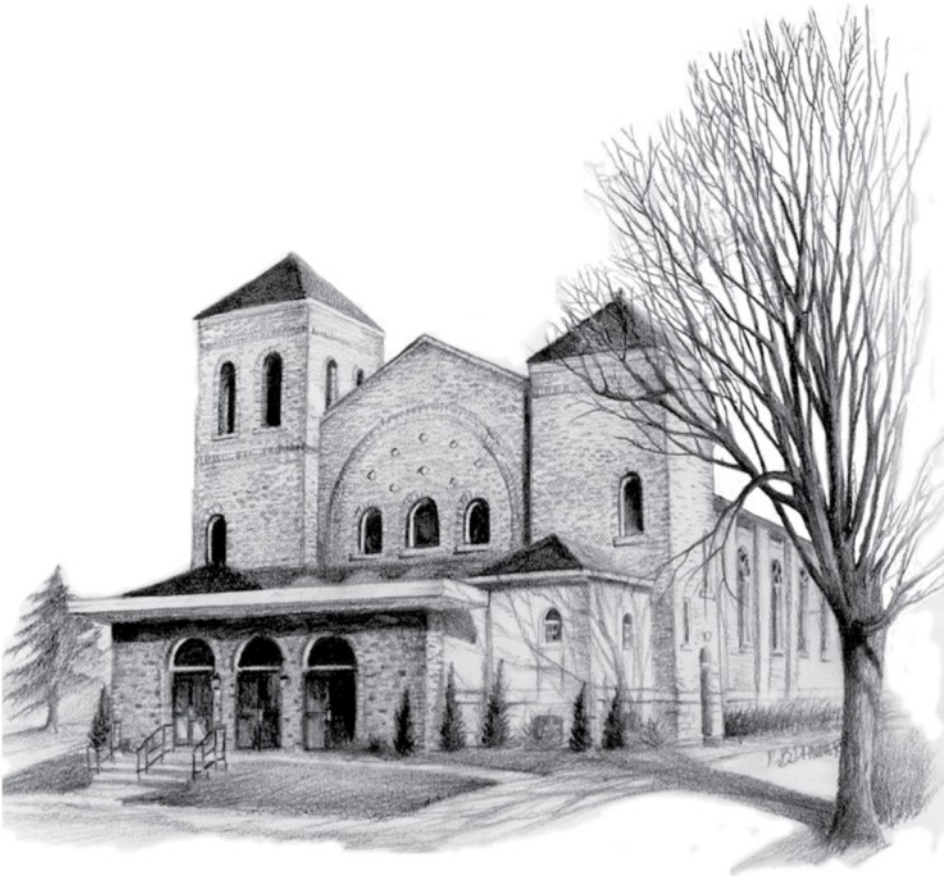
Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

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*

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10:00AM AUGUST 24, 2025

Prelude: *Two Gospel Preludes* John Spong

*Call to Worship (from Hebrews 12)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.

And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

*Hymn 7 ***All People That On Earth Do Dwell***

Life of the Church

*Songs of Praise: ***Oh How Good It Is; Jesus There's No One Like You***
(Offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord, we confess that within us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and mercy. We are poor in spirit, but you are rich with mercy to the spiritually poor. We are empty vessels needing to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We become discouraged; bolster our resolve to be encouragers. We are cold in love; warm us. Make our hearts fervent for you, that our love may go out to embrace and encourage one another toward eternal peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***I Stand In Awe***

Scripture Reading: Acts 4:36-37; Acts 9:26-27; Acts 11:22-24; Acts 15:36-39
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

Greeting One Another

Sermon: **The Ministry of Encouragement**
Pastor Randy Craker

*Closing Song ***The Servant Song***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Processional in D* David Johnson

*Please stand if able Acolyte: Amelia Esh Scripture Reader: Terry Sweet

Musicians:
Angelina Dowling, Indi Knapp vocals; Caleb Hilsher, guitar;
Kevin Dibble, piano & vocals; Dianna Clem, flute; Jon Hutmire, cajon

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The Psalmist proclaims, "The Lord is great…and he is high above all the people…Exalt the Lord our God, and worship…for the Lord our God is holy" (Psalm 99:2, 9). We worship today to acknowledge that God is great and holy, that we are his people and that we owe our lives to him. Through music, prayer, Scripture reading, and the proclaimed word we have an opportunity to experience the grace of God in Christ.

PREACHING SERIES: We have looked at the life of Andrew, the often-overlooked disciple who when he's talked about is bringing someone to Jesus. Then we met John who needed the transforming work of Jesus in his life. This led him to become the "beloved disciple." This Sunday we will look at a character found in the book of Acts, Barnabas, the encourager. This is a man who made a difference by the life he chose to live.

THIS MORNING, FOLLOWING WORSHIP: Last week's post-worship informational meetings provided a Q&A for congregation members to learn more about our imminent building project and additional fundraising needs. Following both services today, church members are asked to approve by vote some additional potential borrowing, but only if necessary to complete the project. After the 8:30 a.m. outdoor worship, the brief meeting will be in the Community Room and after the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the meeting will be in the sanctuary. Thank you for your presence and input for this decision.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Join us for either the 8:30 a.m. outdoor worship or the 11:00 a.m. indoor worship/streaming. ***Note that next Sunday our later service moves to 11:00 a.m.***

ICE CREAM KICK-OFF: Today at 3:00, come enjoy ice cream and gobs of toppings. The church will provide everything. Young and old, student or not, everyone come and enjoy this summer opportunity to connect and fellowship with each other and newcomers. Please use the south driveway to enter and park.

ALL-CHURCH ASSESSMENT REPORT: **At 4:30 pm today,** join everyone in the sanctuary for the anticipated report of the Next Step Church Services (NCS). As part of our pastoral transition process, NCS Executive Director Lonnie Bullock returns to share what his team found were our strengths and what we need to strengthen. If you cannot attend in person, and would like to receive a link at a later date, please email the church office at office@hwchurch.org or call and leave a message (567-2264) with your contact information.

STEWARDSHIP:

Budget Needed: $199,262.34 / Monies Received: $179,299.81

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 spoke to the prophet Jeremiah at the potter's house. BIG IDEA: God takes the time to forgive. BIBLE: Jeremiah 18:1–10; Hebrews 12:18–29
- August Memory Verse: "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart." — Ecclesiastes 3:11a (NIV)
- Kids Connect for all ages starts on Sunday, September 7th at 9:45 a.m.. Watch your mailboxes for class information, information update links, and more.

CONNECTING: If you are not currently receiving either a text or email for Pastor Randy's weekly letter, please contact the church office (567-2264/office@hwchurch.org) and we will update your information.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for those with health concerns: John Aina (Josie Adenuga's dad), 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 displaced refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other war torn places; for North Collins Wesleyan Church, North Collins, NY, and for Pastor Jordan Kizewski.