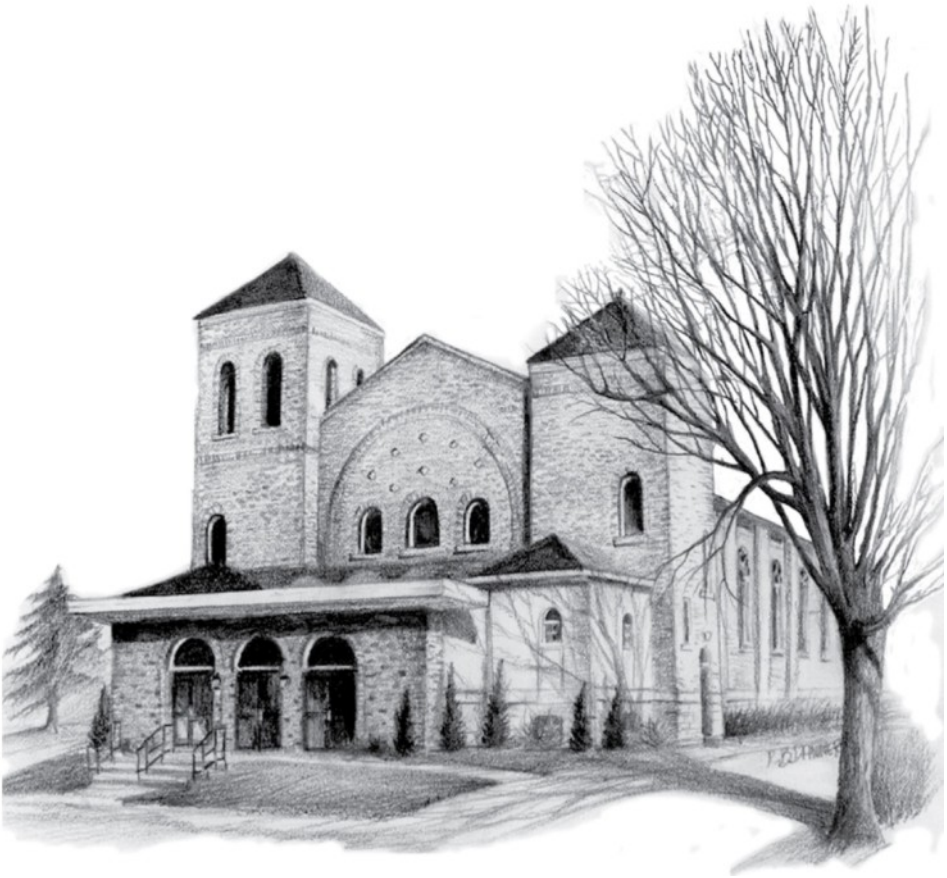
Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

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*

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11:00A.M. SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Prelude: *Invocation (*from *Melodic Suite)* Charles Callahan

* Call to Worship (from Colossians 3)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Hymn 236 ***God Hath Spoken By His Prophets***

Life of the Church

Celebration of Ministry

Choral Anthem: *Jesus Loves Me* arr. John Ferguson

Children's Sermon: *Thank You, God*

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

Prayer of Confession

Holy Father, together we confess that sometimes we approach you with our words, when our hearts are not in worship. We confess that we offer you that which costs us little. Though you are a great King, we often bring to you the leftovers of our time, energy, gifts, and worship. We have neglected your commands when it is inconvenient for us to keep them. We have disregarded our neighbors' needs and wondered why other people do not meet our needs. Father, have mercy on us! Forgive our many debts! Give us the mind and heart of Jesus, who came to serve and to give His life. In His name, and for His sake, we admit our shortcomings and come humbly to you. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***Change My Heart O God***

Scripture Reading: Jonah 3:1 –6; 3:10-4:11a

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Greeting One Another

Song of Gathering: ***The Doxology***

Sermon: **Jonah and the Mercy of God – But Nineveh**
Pastor Randy Craker

*Closing Song ***Instruments of Your Peace*** (insert)

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Prelude in G minor, BWV 535a* J. S. Bach

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*Please stand if able **Acolyte**: Willow Knapp **Scripture Reader:** Marilee Olsen

Musicians:
Michael Jordan and Susannah Denham; Christopher Moller, guitar;
Kevin Dibble, piano & vocals; Jill Jordan, violin;
Dan Zambrano, cajón

We are grateful to Benjamin Van Tine, assistant organist, for accompanying this morning's anthem and offering the organ postlude.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The apostle Paul writes, "So now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; (Romans 8:1). As we gather here, or wherever you are in our streaming audience, may we embrace the freedom that God has bestowed on us. Let us unite ourselves in Christ, that we may exercise this freedom and use it to cultivate a community of faith. May our worship today leave us renewed by His power and convinced of His love.

PRAYER MINISTRY: This afternoon Pastor Randy is hosting a conversation about prayer ministry throughout the pastoral transition season. If you are interested in participating, we invite you to join him and others in the sanctuary at 4:30 p.m. to organize the effort.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: Pastor Randy will begin the wrap up to his series on the church with two final sermons. Next Sunday..."The Church Gathered: Worship and Formation." The final installment will be: "The Church Scattered; Unity and Mission." Join us for indoor worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We will receive Holy Communion in both services next week. The 11:00 service will be streamed as usual. Discipleship Hour, Youth Sunday School and Kids Connect are at 9:45 a.m.

ADDITIONAL GIFTS FOR THE BUILDING PROJECT: Thank you for your generosity that enables us to serve one another and others. To assist us in planning, new pledge cards are available at the church office and in the sanctuary foyer during services. Newly promised commitments would be **due by March 2026**, as the work's completed. The previous pledges are still due by December 31. **Any completed pledge cards should be returned to the church office by October 5 through the offering collection or direct delivery.**

CONNECTING: If you are not currently receiving either a text or email for Pastor Randy's weekly letter, the monthly Highlights, or other periodic updates and would like to, please contact Patty at the church office and we will update your information. (office@hwchurch.org/585-567-2264)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE
October 5 – December 14

- 8:30 a.m. Indoor Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Kids Connect, Youth Sunday School, Adult Discipleship Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Indoor Worship/Streaming

MISSION MOMENT--Anthony and Nancy Petrillo – SIM – Ten3
There have been many decisions to be made recently, and we thank you for your continued prayers to work everything out. There was a situation where paperwork was submitted incorrectly which could have shut down a ministry. But God is faithful and was able to clear things up so the ministry could continue. We praise God for keeping this door of ministry open and for prayer partners to come along side us in this matter. God is in control of all things.

STEWARDSHIP
Budget Needed: $285,898.14 **Monies Received:** $247,256.03

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Harold Blew, Paul and Linda Roth, Nathan Danner, Kristen Massey, Mike Mathiason (Doug Mayhle's colleague), David Mercer, David Pullen, Jane Allen, Terry Ayers, James Bates, Scarlett Gildemeister, Bruce Hess, Linda Leax, Jane Roeske, Gary Wickard, Beth Pocock, Kim Pegula, Karen Gaerte, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Mark Mayhle, Jeshu, Kurtis, and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, and Emily Crikelair; for refugees and displaced persons in the U.S. and across the world; for cessation of hostilities, wisdom, and peace in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other places of unrest and war; for Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church, Williamsville, and Pastor Pat Jones