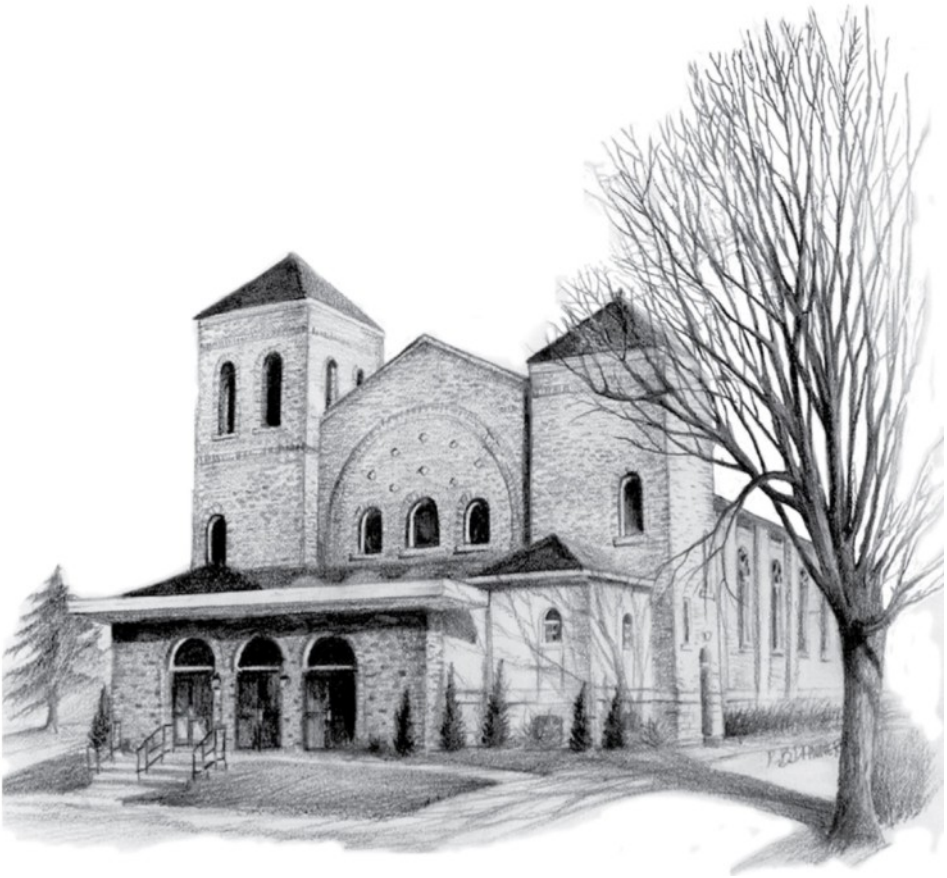
Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

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*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30am October 5, 2025

Welcome

*Songs of Praise: ***Here I Am to Worship; King of My Heart; Holy Spirit***
(Offering will be received during the second song)

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***We Fall Down***

Life of the Church

Children's Sermon: *Choices, Choices, Choices*

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:19-20, 4:13b-16

Greeting One Another
Children Grades PreK through 1st Grade are released for Children's Church.

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

Sermon: **The Church Gathered – Worship and Formation**
Pastor Randy Craker

Communion

*Communion Songs ***Mighty to Save; No Longer Slaves; Death Was Arrested***

*Benediction

*Please stand if able **Acolyte**: Evie Fink **Scripture Reader:** Amanda Zambrano

Musicians:
Angelina Dowling and Josey Ikker, vocals; Matthew Cox, guitar & vocals;
Kevin Dibble, piano, vocals, cajón; Dianna Clem, flute;
Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano, cajón, piano & vocals

The rose on the pulpit is in honor of Tioluwanimi Zion Sorinolu (baby girl) born on September 10 to parents Babafemi and Pelumi.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. We worship today because Christ who was dead is risen and all who believe have life in Him. May God help us worship today so that we go forth to live in His grace and power every day.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: This morning we are receiving the elements of communion by intinction (to dip in). When your row is released, come to the front, receive the element, dip it into the cup, and eat it. You may return to your seat by the outside aisle. As an alternative to intinction, we have set up stations with trays of bread and cups as well as gluten-free bread. If you prefer to use these elements, feel free to walk past the intinction servers and proceed to the trays. If coming to the front is difficult for you or if you prefer, please inform the usher and we will serve you in your seat.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING: We have the privilege of hearing one of our own proclaim the word. Our Children's Ministry Director, Emily Spateholts, is completing her last few courses through the district, Houghton University, and Kingswood University for permanent licensure for vocational ministry in the Wesleyan Church. One of her current classes offered through the district, Intro to Preaching, is under the tutelage of Pastor Wes. The early service is at 8:30, the Adult Discipleship Hour, Youth Sunday School, and Kids Connect are at 9:45, and the 11:00 service will be streamed.

ANDREW WALTON'S ORDINATION: On the evening of October 19, at Revive Wesleyan Church, Hamburg, NY, Dr. Andrew Walton will be ordained in the Wesleyan Church along with other candidates. We are gathering a few from our congregation to assist with hosting the reception by either being a greeter, servicing food tables, or assisting with clean up. Contact Patty in the office soon if you would like to be part of our team as we honor and congratulate Andrew.

STEWARDSHIP
Budget Needed: $303,225.30 **Monies Received:** $257,048.89

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 in March 2026, following work completion. The previous pledges are still due by December 31. Any completed pledge cards should be returned to the church office by October 12 through the offering collection or direct delivery.

HWC KIDS

- Kids Connect New October Series: "Now You See Me: Magic tricks and illusions have a way of sparking wonder and curiosity. But long before today's magicians, Daniel and his friends stood out during the Babylonian exile. They were wiser than the magicians and astrologers of their time because they looked to God for wisdom. Through their brave actions and wise choices, they showed God's power to everyone around them—no tricks needed! In this 4-week series, kids will learn that God helps us choose wisely, God is ready to rescue us, God's words show us what to do, and our courage can help others see God."
- October Memory Verse: "For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods." — 1 Chronicles 16:25 (NIV)
- This week in Kids Connect, the story of Daniel's training in Babylon reveals how to choose God. BIG IDEA: God helps us choose wisely. BIBLE: Daniel 1; 2 Timothy 1:7–14
- Looking ahead: Kids Club on October 18, Preteen Hangout on October 19, due to construction Harvest Festival is postponed this year (watch for a fun spring event)

MISSION MOMENT John & Sylvia Christensen & Naomi send praise reports as they recover from their accident last April – After 3 months of bedrest and no weight bearing, Naomi was given the GO on putting weight on her legs. She started PT and is now standing and walking. Pray for continued healing and strength for John and Naomi and for renewed strength for Sylvia. Pray too for Sylvia's trip to Ambon to work with the Kisar team Thanks for 2 grandbabies on the way – pray for healthy moms and babies. Thanks for being a blessing and for the many prayers you have sent up on their behalf.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Jill Baker, 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 Resurgence City Church, Buffalo, and Pastor Tim Deporter