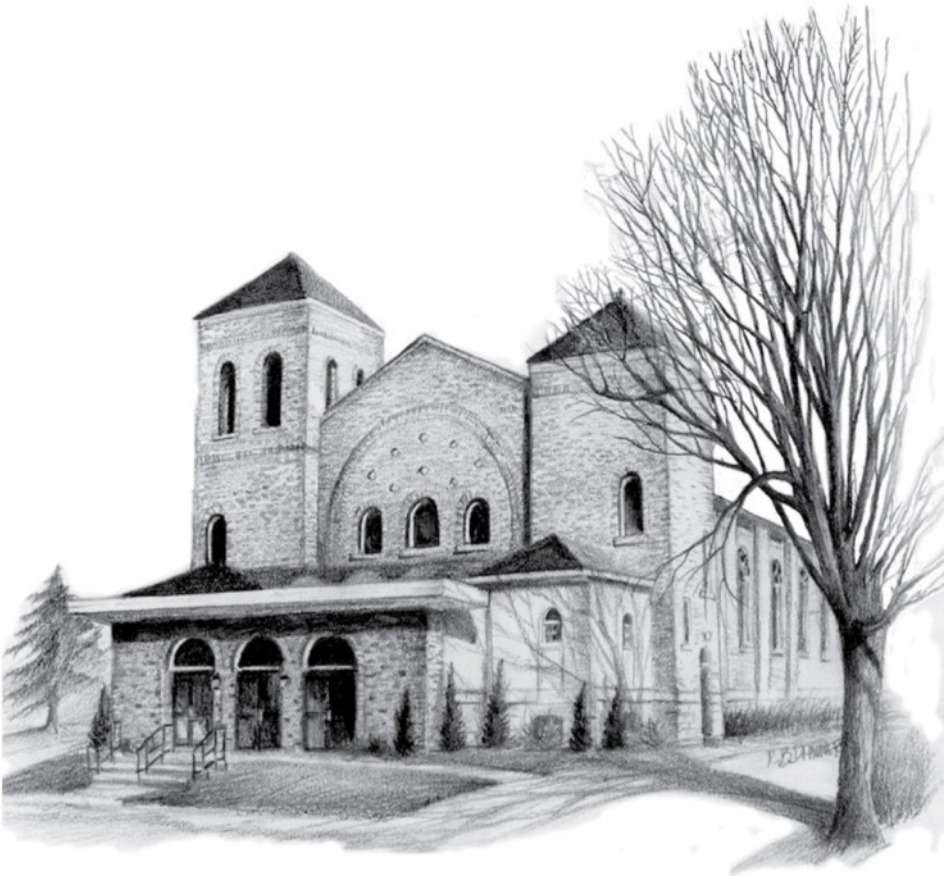
Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others



RANDY CRAKER, *Interim Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

DAVID HUIZENGA, *Assistant Pastor*

EMILY SPATEHOLTS, *Children's Ministry Director*

AMANDA COX, *Music and Worship Director*

JUDY CONGDON, *Organist and Choir Director*

Prayer Requests May Be Submitted by Prayer Card (pew) or QR Code (back)

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
8:30AM November 16, 2025

Welcome

Light of the World; Christ is Risen; Lord, I Need You
(Offering will be received during the third song)

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us***

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:5-15

Children's Sermon: *Teamwork*

Life of the Church

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

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

Sermon: **Lead Us, Rescue Us, We Say Amen**
Pastor Randy Craker

The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)

Benediction

Acolyte: Christian Roorbach **Scripture Reader**: Stephan Schilke

Musicians:
Bridget Walton, Josey Ikker, Mike Jordan, vocals;
Christopher Moeller, guitar; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Jill Jordan, violin;
Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The psalmist calls all people to praise God in every way with everything. As we gather for worship today, may we remember all that God has done for us and may these memories inspire us to praise with our mouth, our mind, our body, our spirit and may our worship enable us to hear God and to respond to him with joyful love.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR EVANGELINE (VANGIE) GRANT takes place today at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The burial in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery follows.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING our thanksgiving service will be a time of praise. We will have a morning of stories, testimonies, songs, scripture, and prayer. Come in anticipation as we celebrate with thankful hearts God's faithful love and care. We expect to gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00, with the later service being streamed. Adult Discipleship Hour, Youth Sunday School and Kids Connect are at 9:45 a.m.

PRAYER FOCUS**:** Thanks to all who are participating in our Monday prayer days. Tomorrow's hourly Prayer Guide will be our final one. We are also grateful for the prayer teams who are covering Transition Team meetings and Sunday morning worship times. Remember, too, that prayer cards are in the pews for completion during the service (via offering plate or foyer basket) or use the QR code in the bulletin to send any request to the prayer team privately and instantly. Through prayerful engagement together, the Spirit of Jesus will renew us and guide us in the days ahead.

ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP "open" positions for 2026 include: Director and Assistant Director in training (incoming individuals would shadow the current Director in 2026); Hopper (serves camper meals family style); Individual Counselors and Roving Counselors; Activities assistants (crafts, take apart, fishing, etc). For more information, including application deadlines, contact Nancy Murphy at rfkc@gmail.com or go to go https://www.houghtonrfkc.com

HWC KIDS-

- The story of Esther continues this week in Kids Connect as kids uncover the story of how Mordecai asked Esther to help their people.
- BIG IDEA: I can stand up for God and others.
- BIBLE: Esther 4:1–17; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13
- November Memory Verse: "The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good." — Proverbs 15:3 (NIV- Join us for Kids Club this Saturday from 9:30-11:00am (grades PreK-6th) and for Preteen Hangout on Sunday from 6:00-8:00pm (grades 5 & 6)!

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $407,188.26 **Monies Received:** $358,858.14

RFKC CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE: Once again, we have the opportunity to support our chapter of Royal Family Kids Camp through our giving tree initiative. Two Christmas trees will be set up, one in the CE building foyer and one in the sanctuary foyer. These trees will have tags on them with supplies needed by RFKC, ranging from toiletries for campers to birthday gifts for the "all-kids birthday" celebration at camp. Grab a tag (or two or three), shop for the new, quality item, and return it to the box near the tree or to the Church office by December 14th. Your gifts last year were an incredible blessing to camp, saving hundreds of dollars and making the campers feel very loved.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – **RUSSIA:** Russian courts banned three more Baptist churches in October for failing to register with the government, according to the religious freedom watchdog **Forum 18**. These churches, located in the southern region of Krasnodar, are part of the Council of Churches Baptists, which has seen seven other congregations banned. It is unclear why officials have specifically targeted congregations of the Council of Churches Baptists since 2024. However, it may relate to the numerous cases of "unlawful missionary activity" in the Krasnodar region. When a church is banned by court order, it is prohibited from meeting not only at its usual location but anywhere within the city or district. The reason these churches choose not to register lies in their foundational purpose. The Council of Churches Baptists was established during the Cold War to resist Soviet control over its congregations, unlike registered churches, which were strictly regulated by the state. Although the Council continued its activities after the fall of the Soviet Union and now meets openly, they do so only in private homes or on private land. Please be in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Russia.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the Grant family grieving the loss of Vangie; and for all with health concerns: Harold Blew, Paul Roth, Daryl Stevenson, Kristen Massey, Nathan Danner, Mike Mathiason, David Pullen, Jane Allen, Terry Ayers, James Bates, Scarlett Gildemeister, Bruce Hess, Linda Leax, Gary Wickard, Beth Pocock, Kim Pegula, Karen Gaerte, Cameron Green, Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Mark Mayhle, Jeshu, Kurtis, and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, and Emily Crikelair; for anguished 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; and for Fillmore Wesleyan and Pastor Mark Harley.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER AND PRAISE REQUESTS &/OR SIGN-UP FOR MONDAY HOURLY PRAYER PROMPTS 6:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.