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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00AM DECEMBER 7, 2025

Prelude: Hymn Preludes on
"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" Paul Manz
"Of the Father's Love Begotten" T. Frederick H. Candlyn

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Dave and LuAnne Brubaker Family

*Hymn 116: ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

Life of the Church

Children's Sermon: *Guides*

*Songs of Adoration: ***Sing We the Song of Emmanuel; Hope is Alive***
(Offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess that we have been distracted by the busyness of this season and have not prepared our hearts for your coming. Forgive us for not seeing the needs of others or the quiet way you are at work. Pour out on us the Spirit of Christ's peace within us, that we may truly welcome your ministering to our hearts and be renewed through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***Emmanuel***

*Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-45
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

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

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

Sermon: **Encouraged by a Friend**
Pastor Randy Craker

Communion ***What Child is This?***
Who Would Have Dreamed
Of the Father's Love Begotten (Hymn 107)

*Benediction

*Postlude: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Noel Rawsthorne

*Please stand if able **Acolyte**: Zoey Clem **Scripture Reader**: Judy Hopkins

Musicians:
Bridget Walton, Mike Jordan, vocals;
Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals;
Gwenna Haas, trombone; Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. Advent is a bittersweet time: it's a time of hopeful anticipation for what God is going to do and a time of painful waiting for God to do what He has promised. On this Second Sunday of Advent, we are reminded that the promises of old are still true and that God's peace is still with us.

THIS MORNING we begin our celebration of the Second Sunday of Advent by lighting the Candle of Peace. Pastor Randy will invite us to look at the Mary and Elizabeth story. These women in different locations and stages of life need one another in the unfolding journey of their lives.

We will also celebrate holy communion. We invite all worshipers to participate because the invitation to the Lord's table comes from Christ to all who believe and seek him as Lord and Savior. We are receiving the elements of communion by intinction (meaning, to dip in). When you are released, come to the front, receive a piece of unleavened, gluten-free bread offered on the plate, dip it into the cup, and eat it. You may return to your seat by the outside aisle. All the elements are unleavened and gluten-free. As an alternative to dipping in, you are offered individual cups. If you prefer, take a piece of bread, then step past the chalice server and receive an individual cup. If desired, we will serve you in your seat when you inform the usher.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is the Third Sunday of Advent. Pastor Randy will take a fresh look at the Mary of the Manger scenes. Her role is far greater than being a quiet observer, she has a major role to play. We want to "Let Mary Sing!" We invite you to join us for worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (streaming).

POINSETTIAS: The church welcomes your Christmas poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. You may purchase them for $16.00 in memory or honor of a loved one. Please email the church office via pattystalker@hwchurch.org or call the church office (567-2264) before December 11.

CAROL SING AND COOKIE RECEPTION: On Sunday, December 14, 5:00 p.m., we invite you to join in singing your favorite Christmas carols and join other musicians in an impromptu orchestra. Afterwards, we will enjoy cookies and other treats. If you are able, bring a dozen or two of your favorite treats to share.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: We will host two Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Both services will include lighting of the Christ Candle, hearing a children's story, congregational candle lighting, hearing the Christmas story read, and enjoying ample Christmas music. The 6:00 service will be streamed.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING will support local community outreaches, sharing the love of Christ with our local mission field. We will have an update on this in both services on December 14.

HWC KIDS

 Reminder: There will be no Kids Connect from December 21 - January 11.

 December Lessons: Follow the Star: Many families hit the road during the Christmas season, whether it's to visit loved ones or take a much-needed break. It's a time-honored tradition—one that might even be traced back to the first Christmas when a bright star dropped a pin on a special location to guide people to the birthplace of the savior. In this 4-week series, kids will learn that God gives people to guide us, God gives hope to guide us, God gives a Savior to guide us, and God gives direction to guide us."

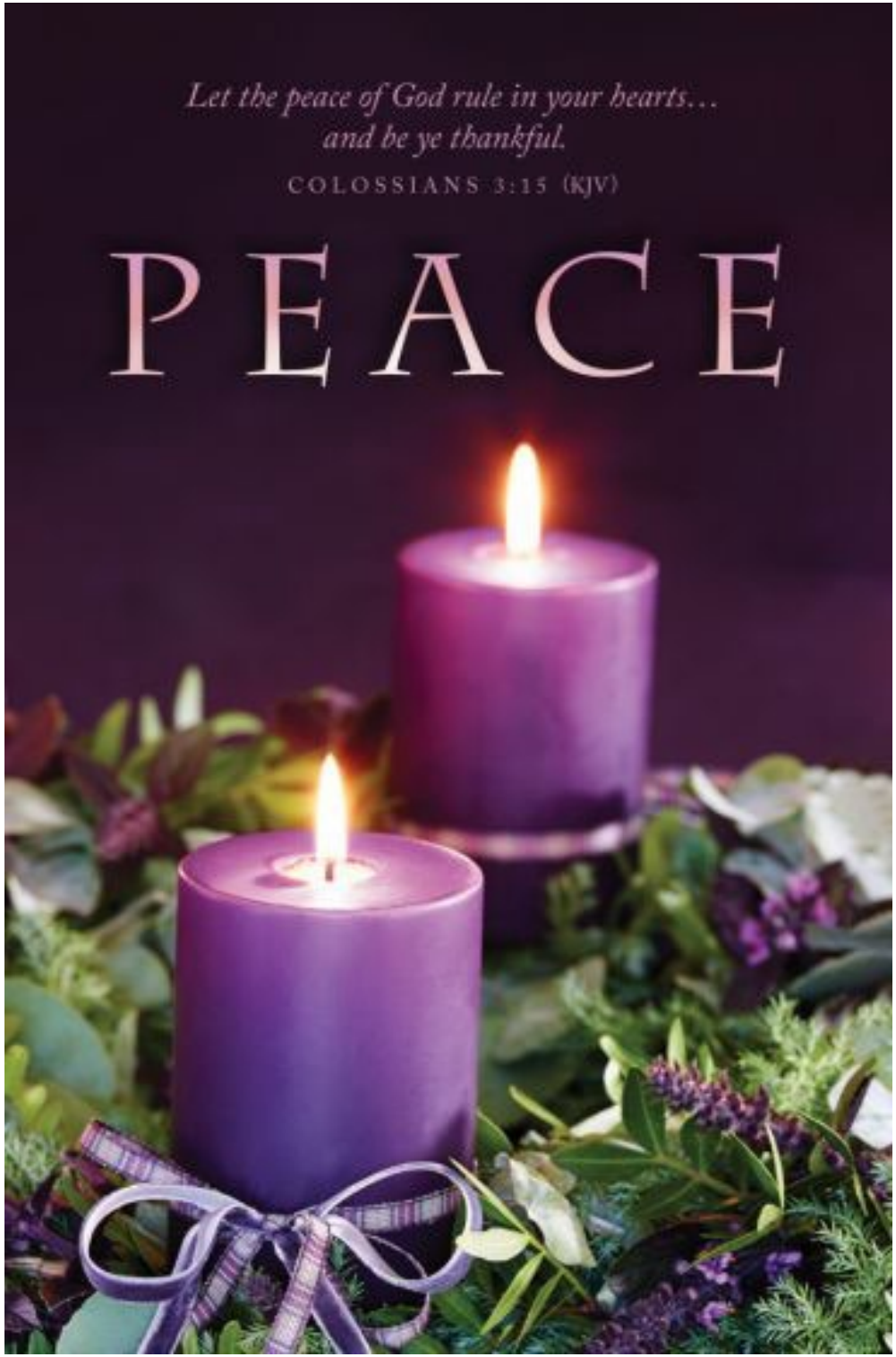
 December Memory Verse: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." — John 8:12b

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE: Support our chapter of Royal Family Kids Camp through our giving tree initiative. Two Christmas trees are set up, one in the CE building foyer and one in the sanctuary foyer. These trees 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 next to the church office by December 14th.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $459, 169.61 Monies Received: $420,391.61

NOTICE: Gail Trail, former Wycliffe Missionary supported by Houghton Wesleyan Church, died December 2. Her funeral will take place tomorrow (December 8) at 11:00 a.m. at Higgins Wesleyan Church; visitation with the family at the church beginning at 10:00 a.m.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the Trail, Schierer, Grant, and Sanasith families, and all others who are grieving; for all with health concerns: Karen and Ken Gaerte and daughter Lori, Peter Luckey, Harold Blew, Paul Roth, 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, 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 the Higgins Wesleyan Church

Sunday Morning Prayer & Praise Requests