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 Cards (pew) or QR code (back)

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

11:00AM FEBRUARY 22, 2026

Prelude: *O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß*, BWV 622 .....J. S. Bach
(O man, lament your great sin)

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 32)

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.
When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
And you forgave the guilt of my sin.
Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.
You are our hiding place; you will protect us from trouble and surround us with songs of deliverance!

*Hymn 501 ***The Church's One Foundation***

Life of the Church

*Songs of Adoration: ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***
My Worth is Not in What I Own
(Offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession

Powerful and forgiving Lord, by enduring the cross you showed us love's true cost and freed us from eternal bondage. Yet we often forget or reject your sacrifice. As we begin this Lenten journey, we confess our shortcomings and our need for your grace. Forgive us for the many times and ways we have turned from you and neglected your love. Renew our hearts and help us remember the mercy of your cross. Lead us to walk faithfully with Christ toward the hope we have in the risen Christ of Easter. We pray this together in Jesus' name, Amen.

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***Give Me Jesus***

Scripture Reading: Acts 11:19-30
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

*Song ***Freely, Freely***

*Greeting One Another

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

Sermon: **A Church Without a Letter**
Pastor Randy Craker
randallcraker@gmail.com

*Hymn 491 ***Make Us, O God, a Church that Shares***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten*, BWV 642 ……J. S. Bach
(for text translation, see #384 in hymnal)

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*Please stand if able **Acolyte**: Annie Jordan **Scripture Reader:** Judi Mayhle

Musicians:
Joanna Bates, Josey Ikker, vocals; Alison Young Reusser, guitar & vocals;
Dianna Clem, flute; Dan Zambrano, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. We live in the present, but we live with an eye to the future. As we worship this morning, we ask God to give us grace to celebrate his promise of life eternal even as we seek his grace to live in the power and presence of Jesus Christ.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., with the latter being streamed. The Discipleship Hour and Sunday School commence at 9:45 a.m. Our services allow for preferences in worship style and family convenience: the early service is more informal, while the latter is more traditional. Come worship with us again. Dr. Paul Young will be preaching in both services.

CHURCH BAPTISM CLASS will be on Sunday, March 15 at 9:45 a.m. Location to be announced. If interested, see Pastor Randy soon or see the church office.

HWC KIDS

- This week in Kids Connect, kids explore Jesus' teachings about how to talk to God through the Lord's prayer.
  BIG IDEA: Let's pray the way Jesus prayed!
  BIBLE: Matthew 6:5–15; Psalm 32:1–7
- February Memory Verse: "Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior." — Psalm 25:5a (NIV)

MEN'S BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 28: 8:00 A.M. in the Community Room. Planning to come? A heads-up would be helpful. Text or email or tell one of these guys: Bryan Davidson, Nate Jacoby, Don Little, or David Huizenga.

WOMEN'S SPRING GATHERING Please plan to join us on Saturday, March 14th for our Spring Women's Gathering from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the community room. Robbie Craker will speak to us, so come and bring a friend (or a stranger!) for a relaxing morning of fellowship, food, and reflection. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: $649,768.50 **Monies Received:** $606,418.80

YOUTH

- **Today, 9:45 a.m. Discipleship Hour *Revelation***
- Youth Group Tonight: Meal Night and a new series, ***Me, Myself, and iPhone (Part 1) Surrounded by Screens***
- Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – We often see people of other religions as "the enemy," but as Muslims around the world began their special month of fasting, Ramadan, on the 17th, we pray that true seekers after God will find Jesus as their Saviour. May Christians, even in hostile territory, show the love of Christ to their neighbors. (Want prayer helps for Muslims this month? Visit https://prayercast.com).

MISSION MOMENT: Stacia's request: "Continue to pray for my friend Sarah who had a brain aneurysm and is just now returning home for recovery." Stacia has been ministering in Czech Republic and her time there is coming to an end Pray for the transition as she returns to her home base and see her friends again. She has been busy teaching English as a second language. Pray for God's direction and opportunities to plant seeds of the Gospel, and ability to be productive in different environments.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for Aaron and Marzella Harrison and their family at the unexpected death of his mother and for those grieving over lost loved ones; for all with health concerns: Allen Yanda, Karen and Ken Gaerte, Harold Blew, Nathan Danner, David Pullen, Jane Allen, Terry Ayers, James Bates, Scarlett Gildemeister, 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 wisdom and peace to prevail in Ukraine, the Middle East, and other places of unrest and war; and for First Baptist Church, Angelica.

Sunday Morning Prayer and Praise