# 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)**

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

11:00AM MARCH 8, 2026

Prelude: *Hymn Prelude on Gibbons' "Song 24"* Healey Willan
*Hymn Prelude "Come!"* Gloria Huizenga

*Call to Worship (Psalm 121)

I lift up my eyes to the mountains – where does my help come from?
***My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.***
He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
***The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.***
The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life;
***The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.***

*Hymn ***Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*** (words on screen)

Life of the Church

Children's Sermon: **He Knows Me**

*Songs of Adoration: ***Champion; O My Soul***
(Offering will be received during the first song)

Prayer of Confession

**God our Lord and Creator, we confess right now our shortcomings in actions, attitudes, and words. We get distracted from your blessings, we chose our own interests over your commands, we fail to love you and our neighbors fully. Still, you remain an endless source of love and faithfulness. We ask for mercy and guidance to honor the Christ of the Cross, and to live out our calling until we come home to you. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

Time of Prayer

Prayer Response: ***Kyrie Eleison***

*Scripture Reading: John 8:1-11
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
***People: Thanks be to God!***

*Hymn 370: ***Come, Ye Disconsolate***

*Greeting One Another

Children PreK through 1st Grade are released for Children's Church

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

Sermon: **When Love Bends Down**
Pastor Randy Craker

*Song ***Broken Vessels***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Prelude and Fugue in D minor*, BWV 554 attr. J.S. Bach

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*Please stand if able **Acolyte**: Ella Pocock **Scripture Reader:** Ezra Knapp

**Musicians**:
Indi Knapp, Mike Jordan, vocals;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Christopher Moeller, guitar; Jill Jordan, violin;
Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano, cajón

**Welcome to the Houghton Wesleyan Church**. The season of Lent developed by the ancient church as a means of reminding Christ's disciples that the passion, suffering, and death of Christ are central to our faith. Though this is a solemn season in which we contemplate our sin, it is also a season to give thanks that Jesus goes to the cross to redeem all of creation.

**Next Sunday Morning**, Pastor Randy continues a Lenten Focus: "When Love Bends Down! Jesus and the blind man." John 9:1-38 We will gather for worship at 8:30 a.m. 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.

**Easter Baptism:** If you are interested in being baptized on Easter Sunday, April 5, contact Pastor Randy (office@hwchurch.org) about attending the baptism class on March 15, 9:45 a.m.

**HWC Kids**

- This week in Kids Connect, kids are invited to learn how Jesus talked with a Samaritan woman by the well. BIG IDEA: I'm invited to love like Jesus does. BIBLE: John 4:5–42; 1 John 4:7–12
- March Memory Verse: "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." — John 1:12 (NIV)
- CONGRATULATIONS! Our HWC Kids filled their pom-pom jar already by memorizing their monthly verse, bringing their Bible, bringing their tithe, or bringing a friend. We celebrated last week with Oreos and confetti cannons! We're so proud of you all!
- Reminder: Preteen Hangout on March 15th, 6-8pm.
- Kids Club Family Swim on Saturday, March 21st at noon.

**YOUTH**

- Sunday Evening 6-8pm, "Me, Myself, and iPhone: Our Powerful Words"
- Wednesday Prayer Breakfast, 7am
- Next Sunday: 9:45 Sunday School:—The Gospel of John
- Easter Breakfast April 5: Our Youth will again host the annual Easter Breakfast

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Budget Needed:** $684,422.82 **Monies Received:** $640,917.71

**MISSION MOMENT** Joel and Barb Trudell – SIL-- Pray for stamina and good rest as they navigate trips in the near future. Pray for the meetings they attend that the team will hear the Lord and follow His leading. Pray for Joel's efforts to connect with others who have the interest and experience of collaborating with churches around the US. May the Lord bless you – We are your hands and feet in this wonderful work – you are our hearts.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for comfort and reassurance for all who are grieving the loss of a loved one; for all with health concerns: Ben King, 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 war-torn Ukraine and the Middle East, and many other places of unrest and disruption; and for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Angelica.

Sunday Morning Prayer and Praise