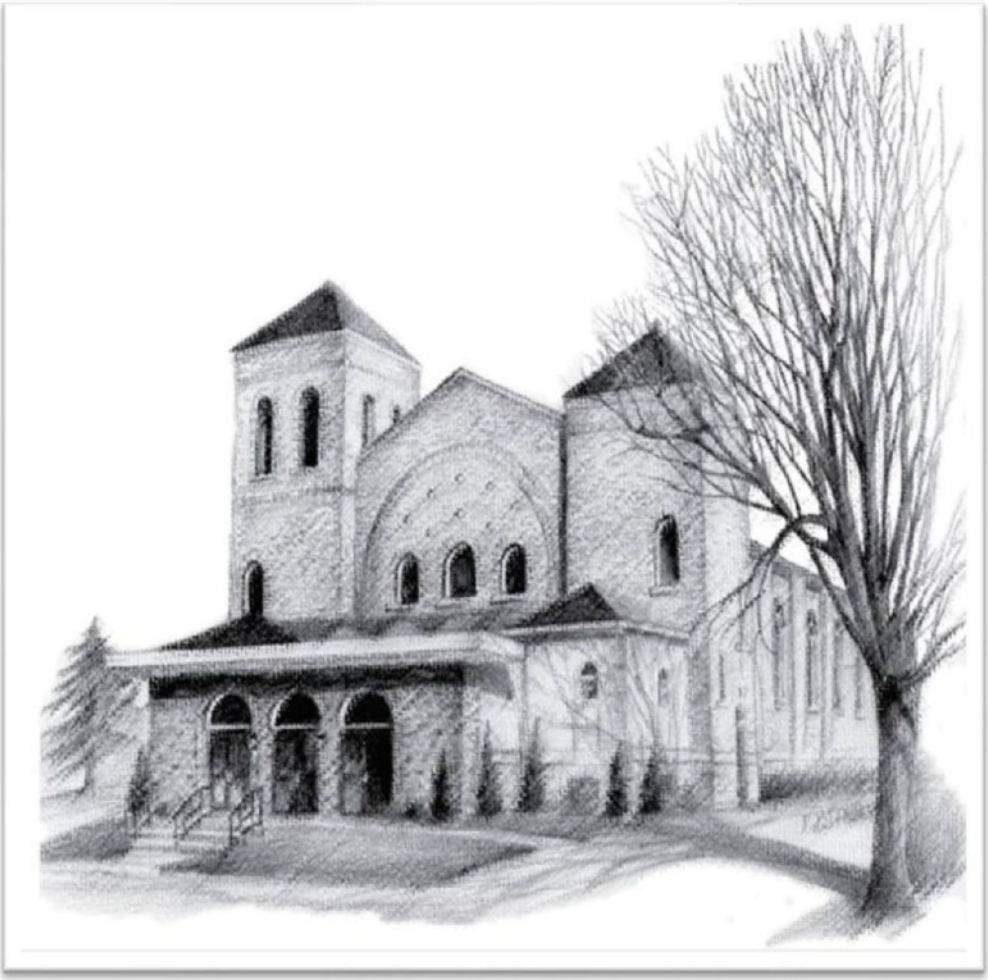
Houghton
Wesleyan Church

Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others



Welcome to Houghton Wesleyan Church! Today we continue in week 2 of our 6-week series *Empowered*, exploring the movement of the Holy Spirit among the followers of Jesus in the Book of Acts. We invite you to take a few moments as you settle into worship to pray this ancient prayer: *"Come, Holy Spirit, Creator, come from your bright heavenly throne! Come, take possession of our souls, and make them all your own."*

PRAYER CARDS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY PRAYER CARD (PEW) OR QR CODE (BACK)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11:00AM SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Prelude: *Priere* (Prayer) Leon Boellman

*Call to Worship (from Hebrews 10)

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

*Hymn 3: ***Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

Life of the Church: HWC Care Team

Children's Sermon: *Attention Grab*

*Songs of Adoration: ***Thrive; Let Us Consider; Living Hope***

Offering will be received during the first song.

Prayer of Confession & Time of Prayer

We use a lot of words, Gracious God, but do not always have the courage to turn them into deeds.

Instead of being of one heart and soul, we choose sides and form groups of folks just like us.

Blessed with great grace, we have trouble sharing it with those who need it the most.

Forgive us, God of love, and help us to let down our barriers to your Spirit.

Guide us to live with joy, abandon, and faithfulness; and create in us new hearts to be new people who are filled with the fire of your presence. Amen.

*Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47 NIV
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 479: ***Blest Be the Tie That Binds***

Greeting One Another
Children are released for Children's Church.

Doxology

Sermon: **EMPOWERED:** ***Link Up***
Pastor Kristen Allen

Song: ***Oh How Good it Is***

*Benediction

*Postlude: *Praeludium in G major* Nicholas Bruhns

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*Please stand if you are able

Music Ministry Team:
Josey Ikker, Kristen Sanasith, vocals; Christopher Moeller, guitar;
Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals;
David Clem, viola; Steve Olsen, bass; Dan Zambrano, cajón
Scripture Reader: Jessica Mullen-Romance
Worship Leader: Pastor Emily Spateholts

KIDS MIN THIS WEEK

- This week in **Kids Connect**, kids see how God protected the Israelites during the ten plagues and the Passover. THE BIG IDEA: God helps when we're in trouble. THE BIBLE: Exodus 7:14-10:29, 12:21-30; Philippians 1:25-28
- **September Memory Verse**: Psalm 121:2 - My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and Earth.
- **Preteen Hangout**: Kids in 5th and 6th grade, come during youth group time on today from 6-8pm, for your own time of fun with friends and God!

NEXT SATURDAY-MEN'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST, 8 a.m. (Community Room).

URGENT OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

We have several ministry areas in the life of our church that are urgently in need of new volunteers. Would you pray over these opportunities? Contact anyone on the pastoral staff if you are interested in serving or would simply like more information.

Coffee Ministry - set up coffee in the foyer on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

11 AM Children's Church - lead this small group of children for about 25 minutes one time each month

Communion - Set up the bread & juice for worship on the 1st Sunday of each month

Treasurer - Work with the bookkeeping for the church

PRAYER SHEETS with current updates are available in the foyer.

Today we pray for Crosstown Alliance Church in Wellsville & Arcade.

PRAYER & PRAISE

STAFF

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Church Office M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM