

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

10:00 MORNING WORSHIP

DECEMBER 27, 2009

Prelude: *What Child is This?*Manz
Infant Holy, Infant LowlyManz

*Call to Worship Pastor Cindy Oden

Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;

Now God has spoken to us by a Son.

God made the world through the Son, who has been appointed heir of all things and the perfect reflection of God's glory.

The Son is the exact representation of God's being, sustaining all things by His powerful Word.

Praise God for the gift of the Son.

We welcome the Light of the World!

*Hymn 115 ***Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!***

Life of the Church

*Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (page 1012) Pastor Todd Leach

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

We Sing in Adoration: ***Meekness and Majesty
What Child is This?***

*Doxology *Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Not That Far from Bethlehem*Borders & Alexander

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer** (debts/debtors)

*Please feel free to stand or kneel at the altar rail as an indication
of a need for which you are praying in your own life or in someone else's.*

*Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20 (page 1014) Pastor Laurie Smalley

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Hymn 140 ***Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne***

Sermon: ***God's Christmas Surprise***

Pastor Wesley Oden

*Hymn 136 ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Joy to the World!*DeBruyn

*Please stand if able Acolyte: Micah Christensen

Organist: Eileen DeBoer

Music Ministry Team:

Hilary Gunning, vocals; Alison Young, guitar & vocals;

Amanda Cox, piano

Children's Worship bulletins are available in the church foyer for ages 3-12.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH - during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the offertory for Children's Church, which meets in rooms 116 & 117 on the first floor of the Christian Education Building.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. As a new year dawns we give thanks for God's gracious presence in our lives and in our world. We also ponder the year ahead and commit ourselves anew to Him. In this hour of worship, may God help us see Him, know Him and trust Him.

IF YOU ARE A GUEST HERE TODAY, we welcome you. We are glad that you are here. Please fill out a guest card located in the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the offering plate when it is passed.

NO ACTIVITIES TONIGHT.

NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES THE NEXT TWO WEEKS (DECEMBER 30 AND JANUARY 6)

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for one worship service at 10:00. Pastor Todd will preach. Next Sunday there is **no Sunday School** and **no Sunday Evening Service**

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED for the holidays on Monday, December 28, Thursday, December 31, Friday, January 1.

THE ODENS will be on vacation this week.

Girls' AWANA Club Ministry Opportunities for 2nd semester. We have openings for five volunteers on Wednesday evening with our Girls' AWANA ministry which is for girls grades Kindergarten through 6th grade. If you are interested in learning more about these ministry opportunities please contact Kerri Lord, Heather Hannan, or Cindy Oden.

LIFETOUCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES HAVE ARRIVED. If you were photographed for the directory, you may pick up your free copy at the church office during office hours.

PRAYER ROOM: the prayer room is available every day, 7:00am - 9:00pm (holidays excluded). You may reserve the prayer room online (www.hwchurch.org) or by contacting the church office. Walk-ins are welcome with consideration given to a previous reservation. Pastor Wes is posting new blogs on Mondays and Thursdays on the prayer website (www.hwcprayerroom.wordpress.com) and sending out daily tweets on twitter (www.twitter.com/pastorwesoden).

NEWS FOR INVESTORS	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>
Offerings Received	\$ 14,551	\$ 380,487
<u>Budget Needed</u>	<u>\$ 13,612</u>	<u>\$ 394,748</u>
Difference +/-	+ \$ 939	— \$ 14,261

Reminder: Year-end donations must be either postmarked or delivered to the church office on or before December 31 in order to be counted as a 2009 contribution.

YOUTH NEWS

UPCOMING EVENT: Winter Retreat January 29 - 31; Early bird Deadline Jan. 6th!
PLEASE PRAY: HWC is sending 21 students and staff to *Love Mercy*, the Wesleyan Youth Convention in Baltimore from December 28-31. Thanks for your prayers.

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Sunday, January 3.....10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
 No Evening Activities

Sunday, January 10.....8:20 & 11:00 a.m.- Worship Service
 6:00 p.m. - John Wesley Covenant Service

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the family of LaNora Keith, for Mildred VanderVeen and her family at the death of her sister Maria this week, and other families who have experienced a recent death; for people with health concerns: Steve Castor, Bob Smalley, Crystal Blake, Don Scholla (Sheri Reynolds’s Father), Brianna Austin, Ella Woolsey, Bonnie MacBeth, Meredith Kellogg, Al Smith, Pierce Samuels, Emily Crikelair, John McCormick (Vicki King’s Father), Sharrel McNeill (Rob McNeill’s mother), John Johnson (Sharon Johnson’s father), and Louis Case (Jon Case’s father); for people facing the effects of natural disasters, famine and war, for people away from family at this holiday time: soldiers, missionaries, missionary kids, and others, for the ongoing ministry of Operation Christmas Child; that God would continue to challenge us to be people of prayer, for our youth and 700 other youth who are gathering in Baltimore this week for a Wesleyan Youth Convention.