

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
11:00 MORNING WORSHIP NOVEMBER 19, 2017

As the prelude begins, let us observe silence as we prayerfully anticipate this hour of corporate worship of Almighty God.

Prelude: *Chorale Prelude on "Nun Danket alle Gott"* ... Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

*Call to Worship

God makes the sun to rise and set;
He causes the summer and winter to come and go.
He is faithful from generation to generation.
God helps plants grow and flowers bloom;
He gives us food to eat, places to live, people to love us.

He is faithful from generation to generation.
God is always with us, always guiding us, keeping His promises to us.

He is faithful from generation to generation.
Let us praise and give thanks to our faithful God!
Alleluia, Amen!

*Invocation

*Hymn 9 **Now Thank We All Our God**

*Words of Greeting and Peace

Ministry Spotlight: Food Pantry

Anthem: *For the Beauty of the Earth* John Rutter

Old Testament Reading: Zechariah (selected verses)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

*Doxology

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Prelude on "We Gather Together"* Craig Phillips

Prayer of Confession

O God, giver of all that makes life good: we gather to give you our thanks, even as we confess that we have often failed to live our thankfulness. We have a tendency to take for granted what we have; we have a tendency to grumble about what we lack. We have squandered your bounty, with little thought of those who will come after us. We are more troubled by the few who have more than by the many who have less. Forgive us, O God. In this hour of worship, accept our thanksgiving; teach us to make gratitude and sharing our way of life; and open our ears that we may hear your words of assurance and pardon that "though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

—from UMC Book of Worship

Pastoral Prayer / **The Lord's Prayer**

Please feel free to use the altar as your place of prayer as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.

If kneeling is difficult for you, please use the red chairs or stand by the altar rail.

Our Response to Prayer: **He's Always Been Faithful**

*New Testament Reading: Revelation 21: 1-4, 22-26

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Ministry in Music: *In That Great Gettin' Up Morning*

Mike Cox, Wes Oden, Ralph Kerr, Daryl Stevenson

Sermon: **The God Who Comes to Make Us His Agents**
Pastor Wes Oden

*Hymn 49 **Children of the Heavenly Father**

*Benediction

*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)

*Postlude: *Now Thank We All Our God* arr. James Pethel

*Please stand if able
Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: James Mullen
Acolyte: Maya Cooley

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

Nursery: We provide a fully staffed nursery for infants up to two years of age. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the Christian Education Building.

Children's Church: Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon for Children's Church in room 116 in the Christian Education Building.

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. The spirit of thanksgiving is not limited to one day a year; it is an imperative for every day. Because of all that God has done for us, we have every reason to give thanks. Even when life brings difficulty and pain, we know that God is good, and we give thanks. So today, let us continue to give thanks.

DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY ALL WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED FOR THIS WEEK. THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

TONIGHT AT 5:00 in the sanctuary, you are invited to the closing celebration of our three-week, 24-hour prayer vigil. We will have sing, share and pray together. If you've been in the prayer room during the vigil, please come tonight to join your voice and spirit in thanksgiving to God.

We collected 183 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year.

TONIGHT: KOINONIA student-led worship, 7pm, Wesley Chapel. All are welcome! College students join a time of games and fellowship following KOINONIA from 8:00 – 9:30 p.m. in Wesley Chapel basement.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING we gather for worship at 8:20, 9:40 and 11:00. Pastor Wes concludes this sermon series on the Minor Prophets with the prophecy of Malachi who speaks to us about *The God Who Is Worthy of Worship*.

HELP TO DECK THE HALLS AND SANCTUARY FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - If you are interested in helping to decorate the church for the holidays, please join us on Saturday, December 2, at 10 A.M. Coffee and Christmas cookies provided! Just show up or contact Elsa Kettinger (315-515-9818) with questions. Thank you!

MISSION MOMENT – Ben and Christine Hegeman, in Benin, West Africa, are a month away from returning to Houghton after modeling and training believers to share Christ in the predominantly Muslim region. We pray for fruitful service in the remaining intense weeks.

PERSECUTED CHURCH - Imagine if you only knew one other believer. Of Chechnya's 2 million people only 100 are known Christians. Pray for Allina and the other isolated few to have courage and strength to share their faith.

FUNERAL AND VISITATION: The funeral service for former Houghton resident Marjorie Kellogg is tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. in the church. Visitation is today, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Kopler-Williams Funeral Home in Fillmore and tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

PRAYER CONCERNS: for the family of Marjorie Kellogg and for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Tim Nichols, Bob Brown, Jayne Swanson, Leonard Watson, Louise Prinsell, Laura Habecker, Hudson Hess, Nancy Cole, Brian Orbaker (Charlie and Connie Smith's son-in-law), Peter Lingenfelter, Ellis Brotzman, Chuck Barrett (Wendy Ott's brother), Sheryl O'Brien, Ben King, Doris Essepian, Eila Shea, Sheldon Emerson (Darby Luckey's brother), Bill Getty, Warren and Ella Woolsey, Mike Raybuck, Bev Rhett, Micah Christensen, Linda Roth, Dick Gould, Emily Crikelair; for the injured and grieving from recent shootings and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for healing and unity in our nation; and for Fellowship Wesleyan Church, West Seneca (Pastor Neil Koppen).



Houghton
WESLEYAN CHURCH

*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly serving others*



WESLEY ODEN, *Senior Pastor*

JON COLE, *Youth Pastor*

CINDY ODEN, *Assistant Pastor*

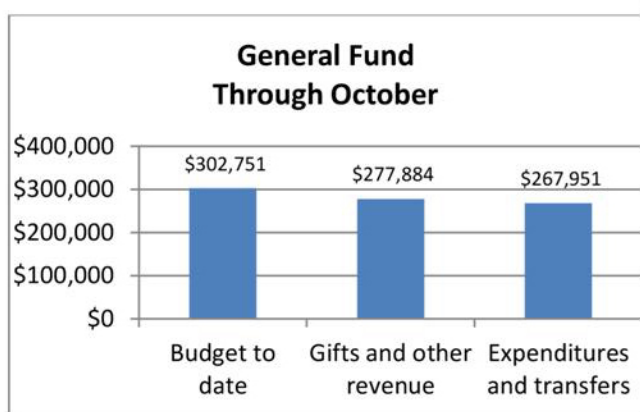
PAUL SHEA, *Assistant Pastor*

AMANDA COX, *Music and Worship Director*

LAURIE SMALLEY, *Children's Ministry Director*

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time for counting our blessings and thanking God for grace, gifts, and goodness. Everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God – all undeserved and because of God's grace. When we recognize and accept God's grace we overflow with joy and gratitude which leads to generosity. God tells us in his word, he loves a cheerful giver; one that doesn't give out of fear or obligation, but rather from a grateful heart (2 Cor 9:7). We are free to give because our Heavenly Father freely gives. "And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others" (2 Cor 9:8). We can never out-give God! Thank you for your generosity that enables us to share the love and grace of Jesus with each other, with our children and youth and with others.





COLLEGE STUDENT SURVEY

Help Us Find Our Sheep!

We love college students and want to do a better job of connecting with you. Would you take a moment to complete this brief survey?

Drop form into the large box in the lower entrance foyer. THANKS!

1. I attend Houghton Wesleyan on average: most Sundays; 2-3 Sundays per mo.; occasionally
2. I participate in: Prayer Vigil; KOIN; Small Groups; Other _____
3. I'd appreciate connecting via: Email list; Monthly *HWC Highlights*; Facebook and media
4. I already/or would like to serve in (check all that apply): children/youth programs; nursery; music;
 nursing home; community needs; break mission outreach; tech team

Any other comments: _____

NAME: _____ Email Address: _____

THANKS!