

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

Prelude: *Prelude in G major, Op. 37 No. 2* .....Felix Mendelssohn

**\*Call to Worship (from Isaiah 42)**

This is what God the Lord says – the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

***“I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,***

“To open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

***“I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth.”***

Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them.

***Let all that has life and breath praise the Lord! Alleluia!***

**\*Invocation**

**\*Hymn 1           *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing***

**\*Words of Greeting and Peace**

Ministry Spotlight: Testimony

Anthem: *If With All Your Hearts* .....Felix Mendelssohn

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 146

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All:       ***Thanks be to God!***

**\*Doxology**

Worship through the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: *Let Us Draw Near to God* .....Mark Hijleh

**Prayer of Confession**

We confess to you, Lord, what we are: we are not the people we like others to think we are; we are afraid to admit even to ourselves what lies in the depths of our souls. We do not, however, want to hide our true selves from you. We believe that you know us as we are, and yet you still love us. Help us not to shrink from self-knowledge; teach us to love ourselves for your sake; give us the courage to put our trust in your guiding power. Raise us out of the paralysis of guilt and fear and take us into the freedom and energy of forgiven people. And for those who through long habit find forgiveness hard to accept, we ask that you would break our bondage and set us free. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

**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: *Open Our Eyes, Lord***

**\*New Testament Reading: Mark 8:22-26**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All:       ***Thanks be to God!***

**\*Hymn 426       *Open My Eyes, that I May See***

Sermon:       ***Can You See Anything Now?***  
Pastor Wes Oden

**\*Hymn 357       *Be Thou My Vision***

**\*Benediction**

**\*Congregational Amen (Hymn 656, Threefold)**

**\*Postlude: *Allegro maestoso* (Sonata Op. 65 No. 5) .....Felix Mendelssohn**

\*Please stand if able  
Organist: Judy Congdon

Worship Leader: Joshua Derck  
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 C E Building.

**Children’s Church:** Children ages 2-5 are dismissed during the song before the sermon for Children’s Church: 2 and 3 year olds meet in room 116; 4-5 year olds in room 115 in the Christian Education Building.

**WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.** Life is a maze of ups and downs, of joys and sorrows. Our decisions about our days reveal both who we are and who we want to be. As we make decisions and as we live in relationship with each other, we come to turn our attention fully and as one body to our Lord Jesus Christ. In our worship today, may God give us a clear vision of our lives together and of His grace to help us live together as He intended.

**SPIRITUAL CARDIOLOGY,** a new 6-week small group, begins this Wednesday through March 7, in HWC Room 10, 6:00-7:15, while kids are at Kid’s Club. Ideal for seeking believers—new, stuck, or growing in the Faith. Contact Pastor Paul Shea at [paulshea@hwchurch.org](mailto:paulshea@hwchurch.org).

**NEXT SUNDAY MORNING** we gather for worship at 8:20, 9:40, and 11:00. Pastor Wes preaches from Mark 9:14-29, thinking about Jesus’ question: *What do you mean, “If I can?”* Following next week’s sermon, pastors and elders will be available for prayer.

**SUNDAY SERMONS ON THE INTERNET:** Access the Sunday sermon on the church website ([www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org)) or on iTunes ([www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com)). The services are available on iTunes by late Sunday afternoon and on our website by late Monday.

**LIVE STREAMING:** All of our worship services are live streamed through the church website and through streaming devices (AppleTV, Roku, etc.). If you use Roku, you will need to find the services on our new Roku app. Search for Houghton Wesleyan Church. Our new app will enable easier access.

**HISTORICAL BOOKS:** At the celebration of Houghton Wesleyan's sesquicentennial in 2002, we published a history book of our church. Since much has changed and transpired over the past 15 years, we have updated and published a revised edition of the 2002 edition. This 24-page book provides a brief overview of our denomination and a longer history of the Houghton congregation. If you have been around for a while, you will connect with many of the articles and pictures. If you are relatively new to the church, this book will familiarize you with the colorful history of this town and this church. The books are available in the church office or in the sanctuary foyer. The books are free, but donations would help to defray the printing costs.

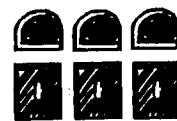
**PRAYER ROOM:** the prayer room is available every day, 7:00am – 9:00pm (holidays excluded). You may reserve the prayer room online ([www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org)) or by contacting the church office. Walk-ins are welcome with consideration given to a previous reservation.

**ALL WOMEN** Join us for our Winter Gathering: "Finding the Gifts in the Messiness of Your Life" on Saturday, February 3 from 9 am to 11 am in the Community Room. Spend the morning together with other women, enjoying breakfast, worship time, and inspiring moments, hearing how God brings us gifts, even in the challenging times of our lives. No need to sign up, just come and enjoy the morning with us. Child-care provided.

**MISSION MOMENT** – We're privileged to pray, give and volunteer for the 24<sup>th</sup> year of Royal Family Kids Camp at Camp Asbury this summer. Especially pray for staffing needs and contact Nancy Murphy if interested in open positions or information.

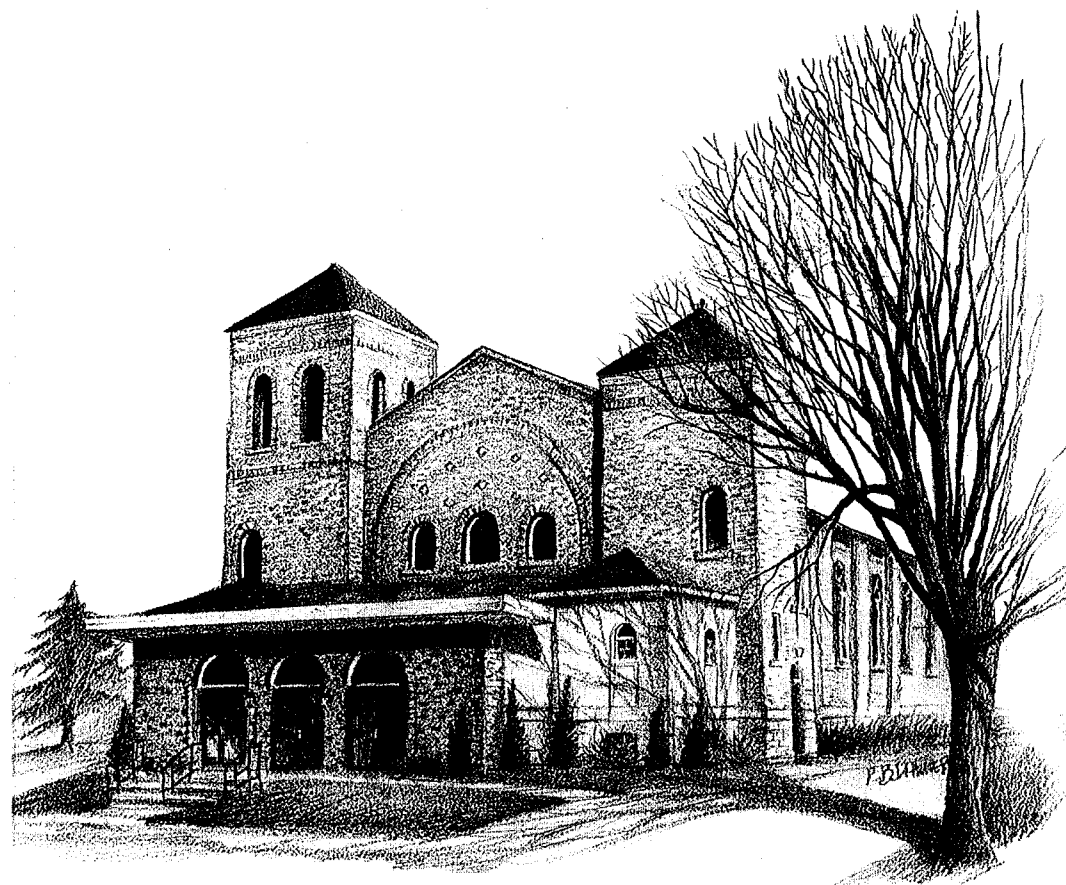
**PERSECUTED CHURCH** - Saudi Arabia remains among the most difficult countries to be a Christian – e.g. no churches allowed. We pray that the political and social changes emerging in recent months will in fact bring about more religious freedom and courage for Christians (4%) in that land.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Tim Nichols, Bob Brown, Jayne Swanson, Louise Prinsell, 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, Ella Woolsey, Mike Raybuck, Bev Rhett, Micah Christensen, Linda Roth, Emily Crikelair; for the injured and grieving from tragedies and disasters; for refugees; for peace amid threats of war; for the leaders of our nation; and for First Baptist Church, Hume (Pastor Joel Stroud).



**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*

P.O. Box 127, HOUGHTON, NY 14744-0127 • (585) 567-2264 • [WWW.HWCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.HWCHURCH.ORG)