

Put Your Affairs in Order

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, November 15, 2026

Welcome to Worship

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

About Our Service

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts, transform our lives, and give us lasting peace. Therefore, Lutheran Worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out on the following pages. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red or blue hymnals located on the chair in front of you.

Children and Worship

What a blessing to have babies, toddlers, and preschoolers with us in worship! We welcome all ages! During the service we have a special message for young children. Parents are welcome to accompany their child up front for this message, if their child is bashful. We have reserved the back rows for families with small children. If your child becomes restless and you feel the need to leave the worship area, the service can be viewed in our parent's room. The parent's room is located down the hall and to your right just past the restrooms.

Service Participants:

Livestream/Music: Nate Crowder
Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch

Current Worship Series: The Beginning of the End

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day.

Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end. Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake.

Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us. "The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

October 4: God is Patient
October 11: Guest Preacher: Nathan Strutz
October 18: Give to God what is God's
October 25: Reformation
November 1: Focus on the Future (All Saints' Day)
November 8: Watch for the Final Events
November 15: Put Your Affairs in Order
November 22: Hope for the Best

Today's Focus: Put Your Affairs in Order

When you know that your death is approaching, you try to put your affairs in order for the sake of others. When you know that the second coming of Christ is approaching, what is the appropriate response?

We are not to be sedentary. Jesus has not yet returned because there is still work to be done. And Jesus carries out his good work through us. So until he comes again and says, "Stop!" we will be busy with faithful service. It's the beginning of the end, and we use our gifts and talents in an orderly way for God's glory.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

Christ the Vine



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Please stand

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 32:1-2

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

You are at peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

The use of the keys of absolution is that special right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to proclaim the forgiveness of sins through Jesus. See John 20:21-23.

Glory to God in the Highest

Jesus said that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents. In response to the repentance expressed through confession and absolution, the church sings as the angels sang on Christmas night: "glory be to God on high."




peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.
Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo - ry to God, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. For you a - lone are the



Prayer of the Day

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and to the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 1:10-18

Though Israel had blood on their hands in spite of their begrudging sacrifices and rote worship, the Lord graciously offers to wash them clean.

10 Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
11 "The multitude of your sacrifices—
what are they to me?" says the LORD.
"I have more than enough of burnt offerings,
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
12 When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you,
this trampling of my courts?
13 Stop bringing meaningless offerings!
Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.
14 Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals
I hate with all my being.
They have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
15 When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers,
I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

16 Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight;
stop doing wrong.
17 Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.
18 "Come now, let us settle the matter,"
says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

The entirety of the Christian's life is a sacrifice offered in view of God's mercy.

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is
your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to
test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of
yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with
sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each
of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these
members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many,
form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have
different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is
prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving,
then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give
encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it
diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 2:10

After an introduction, the congregation will join to sing the verse.



Alleluia. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Alleluia.



For centuries in preparation for hearing the Gospel, Christians have sung or spoken "Alleluia!" and a Scripture verse reinforcing the theme of the day.

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants
and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to
another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability.
Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold
went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So
also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who
had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and
settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold
brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of
gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You
have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many
things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you
entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You
have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many
things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Faithful servants of Jesus receive with joy what he entrusts to them and put it to use until he returns.

[24]“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’
he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not
sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. [25]So I was afraid
and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to
you.’

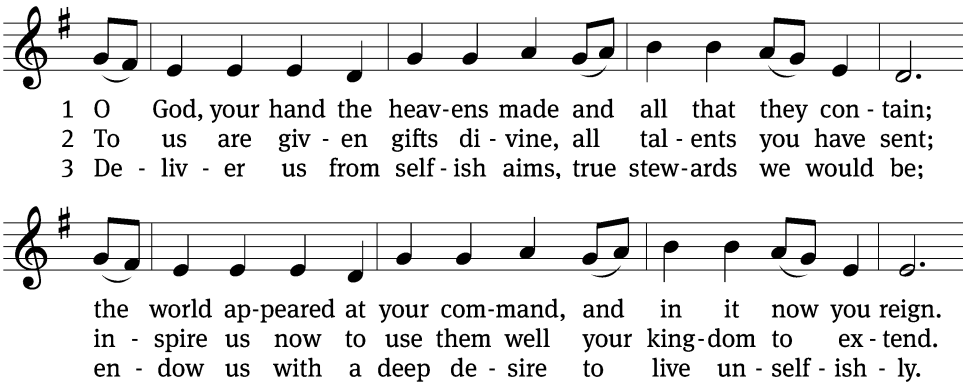
[26]“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I
harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?
[27]Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so
that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

[28]“ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has
ten bags. [29]For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an
abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken
from them. [30]And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

O God, Your Hands the Heavens Made





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Sermon

Matthew 25:14-30

Please stand

Nicene Creed

Credo

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

Offering

The members of Peace have joined together in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) to do the Lord's work of sharing the message of Jesus. Visitors need not feel obligated. You are our guests!
Members and visitors, kindly fill out one of our Connection Cards. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Prayer of the Church

Please stand. The pastor will speak the prayer of the church, and the congregation will join to say the Lord's Prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Sacrament



We believe what God's Word says. God's Word clearly teaches that along with the bread and wine we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:26,28; Mk. 14:22,24; Lk. 22:19-22). God's Word also tells us that those who take Communion together are to:

1. Recognize that Christ's true body and blood are miraculously present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29),
2. Examine their hearts (1 Cor. 11:28), and
3. Be united in faith with the congregation with which they commune (1 Cor. 10:17).

Therefore we ask that those who have not had the opportunity to understand our Scriptural confession would speak with the pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper this morning. If you would like to come forward to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms as the pastor approaches. It is our sincere desire to share in the blessings of the Lord's Supper with you according to the pattern Jesus himself has given in his Word.

Introduction to the Lord's Supper

1 Cor. 11:28

Everyone ought to examine their hearts before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

I confessed my transgressions to the Lord and he forgave the guilt of my sin. *Psalm 32:5*

Everyone ought to recognize the true body and blood of the Lord in this Supper.

The bread that we break and the cup that we bless are a participation in the body and blood of Christ. *1 Cor. 11:29*

Those partaking of the Lord's Supper are to be united in fellowship as one body. *1 Cor. 10:16*

Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. *1 Cor. 10:17*

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Sanctus means "holy." This canticle echoes the song that the seraphim (six-winged angels) sang before Isaiah. The angels sang the triple "holy," giving glory to our Triune God. The *Sanctus* has been used in celebration of the Lord's Supper since the second century.



Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



John the Baptist declared Jesus to be God's Lamb, who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

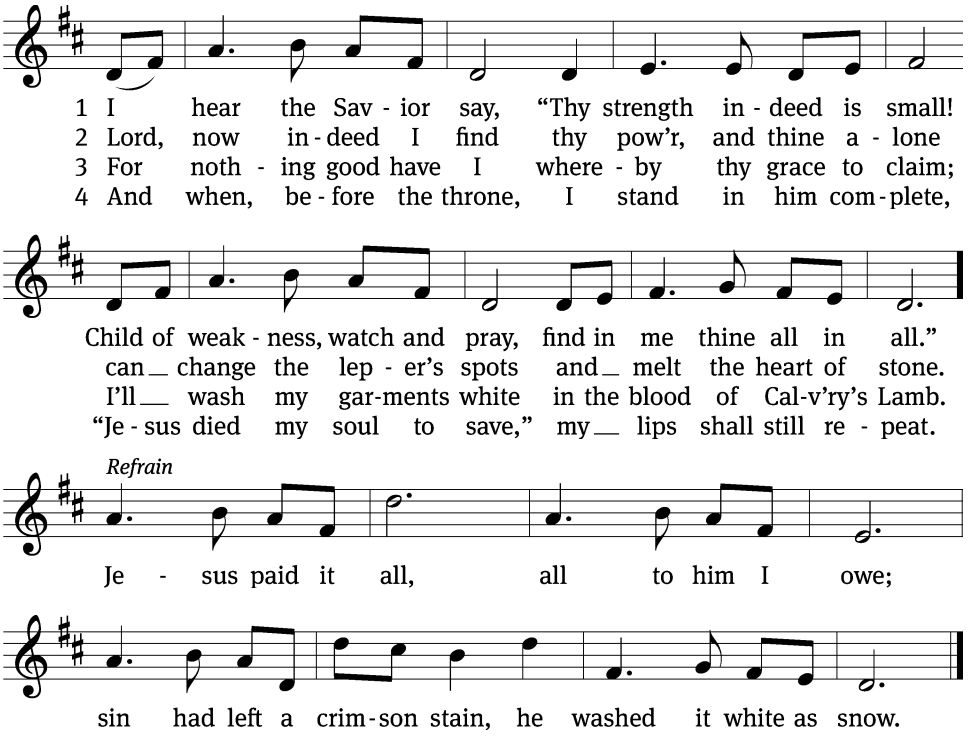
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Distribution

Please be seated after the song. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction after the song.

Distribution Hymn

Jesus Paid It All



Distribution Hymn

O God My Faithful God



Text and tune: Public domain

Closing Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

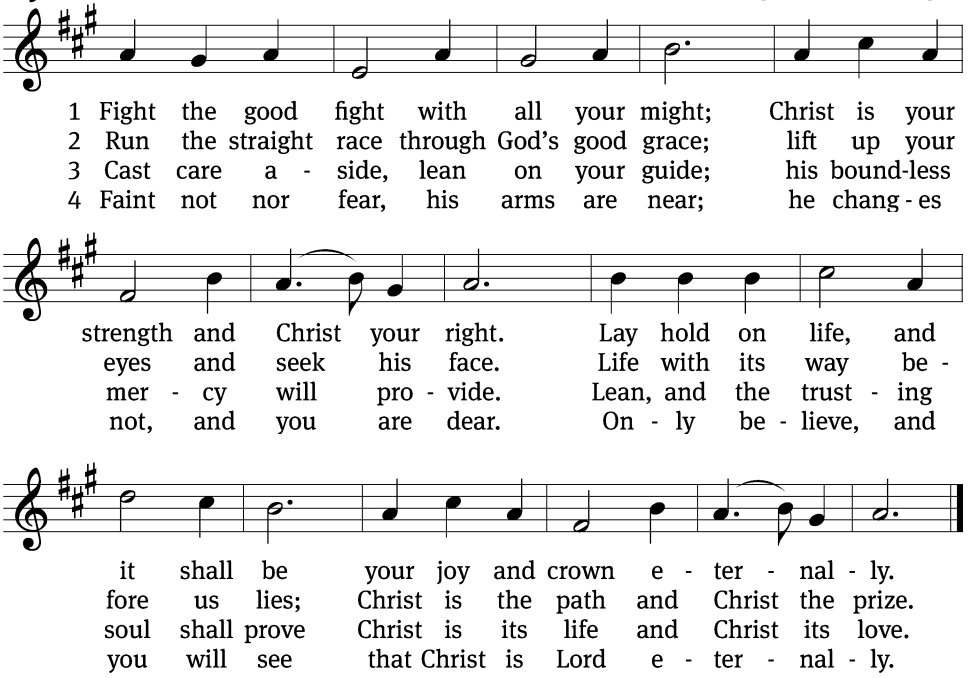
Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. *Numbers 6:22-27*
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

The music will play through the whole verse once before the congregation begins the first stanza.

Hymn

Fight the Good Fight



Text and tune: Public domain

You're Invited

We're so glad you were able to worship with us today! You are invited to join us for snacks and refreshments in the fellowship hall. We'd love to get to know you better.

Council Meeting

The Church Council will have their monthly meeting this Tuesday, November 17th at 7:30 PM.

Sunday School/Bible Study

Sunday school will not be held on November 22nd or 29th. Adult Bible Study will not meet next Sunday, November 22nd, but we will have class on November 29th at 9:00 AM. Join us!

Foundations of Faith Class

Foundations is for everyone: people interested in becoming members, those looking to build their faith, or the curious observer who wants to study the Bible without feeling obligated to join a church. This study is Bible-based and discussion-centered. Classes can be arranged to fit personal schedules.

To get plugged in or to request more information, contact Pastor Welch (pastor@peacehoughton.org) or scan the QR code. Childcare is available upon request.

Online Offering Option

If you would like to give an online offering today, please scan the QR code. All online donations are safe and go directly to Peace.

Wednesday Meals

We have a few slots still open in December for our Wednesday dinners. Please consider providing a meal. You can prepare it in advance and leave it for the students to serve on their own, or you can stay and serve the meal if you would like. Either is just fine. You can sign up on the table in the entryway. Contact Judy Limpert, (507-273-5535) if you have any questions.

Thanksgiving Worship Service - November 18th

On Wednesday, November 18th at 6:00 PM, we will have a special Thanksgiving worship service. We will gather together to give thanks to our Lord for all His many blessings – past, present and future. Please join us for this special service. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Thanksgiving Dinner

Following the Thanksgiving worship service, we will enjoy a Thanksgiving, potluck-style meal for students and members alike. There is a sign-up sheet on the blue table in the entryway to bring food for this meal. Everyone is welcome to join us for good food and even better conversation.

Upcoming Events

The Peace Campus Ministry semester events are found below. All these events are in addition to the weekly Wednesday dinner and Bible study. You can find more information about events on the Peace Lutheran Houghton app or the website. The QR code will bring you to the event page on the website.

Wednesday, Nov 18:	Thanksgiving Worship and Dinner
Saturday, Dec 5:	Christmas Canvassing and Dinner
Friday, Dec 11:	Christmas Caroling



Christmas Canvassing

On December 5th, we will advertise our Christmas Eve Candlelight service by hanging invitations on front doors around Houghton. Then we will warm up in the fellowship hall with a nice meal. If you can only make it to the canvassing or the meal, that is just fine. Come and go as you please.

Canvassing: 2:00-4:15

Meal: 4:30-5:30

This Week at Peace

Tuesday, November 17th
Church council Meeting 7:30 pm

Wednesday, November 18th
Thanksgiving Worship 6:00 pm
Thanksgiving Dinner following worship

Sunday, November 22nd
No Bible study or Sunday school
Worship 10:15 am

Serving Our Lord and Us Today

Usher Team 3 Cody Stopel, Ed Beiring, Ben Fischer, Scott Miers
Counter – Steve Krug
Livestream/Music – Nate Crowder
Snacks – Amy Hughes
Children's Ministry – **Help Needed**



Serving Our Lord and Us on Wednesday, November 18th

Thanksgiving Dinner – Potluck

Serving Our Lord and Us on Sunday, November 22nd

Usher Team 1 Craig Hughes, Andy Hastreiter
Counter – Cody Stopel
Livestream/Music – Judy Limpert
Snacks – Kristie Vlahos
Children's Ministry – No Sunday school

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Welch's Email: pastor@peacehoughton.org

Peacehoughton.org

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ, to gather college students and the local community into a family of believers, and to share the message of hope and the promise of salvation through grace.