



**PORTAGE
LAKE
UNITED
CHURCH**

PLUC

United Church of Christ & Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

1400 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931-1208

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August 2022

Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

In July, Consistory took a break from their regular meeting schedule. On July 31st they did have a mini retreat during which they shared a meal, discussed the proposal for the repair of the leaking roof, and began planning for the following year.

Information about their retreat, plus highlights of their August meeting will be included in the September newsletter.

Financial Report

Received in July through July 24th

Pledge	\$10,106.00
Unpledged	\$791.92
Loose Plate	\$0.00
Per Capita	\$76.00

In Other News

Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Copper Country Angel Mission is fully open to serve the public. Everyone that enters exclaims over the wonderful new store. The managers are pleased with, even

excited by, the open floor and large space. There is plenty of room on the racks to hold the backlog of donations. Although the store was not open to shoppers while we moved, we had been accepting donations of goods and providing services to those in need. We are trying to get on a schedule for a new roof, but contractors are quite busy and the cost has gone up since we had a rough quote a few months ago. In addition, we are working towards installation of our ADA ramp access and a safe basement entry for storage.

The managers are planning an open house for the weekend of PastyFest in Calumet, 20 August. We invite church members to attend between 11:00 and 4:00. We will probably have games and activities as well as touring the first floor. The second floor is a bit of a shambles, so it will be off limits.



On 17 July, CCAM participated in Portage Health Foundation's inaugural Family Barbeque in Chassell.

We offered cornhole games and a toddler pool with numbered floating ducks and game prizes. Manager Quello provided about 300 freezies for general distribution. Volunteers brought Tootsie Pops and stickers and we had 120 free ice cream coupons. We set up the table with posters

about our mission and the new location. The event was a success and we reached out to people unaware of our services. We also made a few helpful contacts and had several offers of volunteer assistance.

Sign up has begun for the backpack program. Anyone interested in sponsoring a child or donating school supplies can talk to Lois Jambekar, Barb Brookhouse, or Sherry Middlemis-Brown. The schools are very specific as to what kids need, such as they require 24-packs of crayons, not just the 8-pack or 16-pack. We have some supplies on hand but expect to need more for all grade levels. (Editor's note: Please see article below for specific needs.)

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 20, 11:00-4:00, for the Copper Country Angel Mission Open House at 433 Fifth Street in Calumet.



Copper Country Angel Mission Backpack, School Supplies, New Socks and Underwear Drive

submitted by Lois Jambekar

The Angel Mission is sponsoring a School Backpack Program and School Supplies Drive. They are also collecting new socks and underwear to help prepare for a new school year. Any backpacks, school supplies, socks, or underwear being donated to the Mission may be brought to the church and put in the box that is located in the lounge area of the church. Listed below are school supplies needed: Thanks for your help with this project.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES for BACKPACKS

Notebooks
Pocket Folders
Pencils
Colored Pencils

Magic Markers
Pencil End Erasers
Erasers
Erasable Pens
Ballpoint Pens
Scissors
Rulers
Pencil Holders
Scientific Calculators
School Paste
Glue Sticks

Building and Grounds

submitted by Greg Campbell

The Building and Grounds Committee continued to work on exterior lighting, signage, concrete repairs, and updating the Building Use Policy. In addition, we have worked hard to bring a proposal to the Congregation for fixing our leaky roof. We hope to have the roof fixed by late Fall, 2022.

The Building and Grounds Committee will hold their regular monthly in-person meeting on Wednesday, August 10 at 7:00 pm at the church.

Fellowship Guild 'Reboots'

submitted by Liz Evensen

Fellowship Guild has been flirting with returning to 'Life After COVID'! Last year we met twice in member homes (Christmas and Valentine's Day) and had two rummage sales! This summer we had lunch together at a local restaurant. The response was very positive – we had missed each other and the times we shared working together. I think we are now ready to move forward! Yes!

At the June luncheon, Liz circulated a questionnaire to help with planning what we wanted to do. Briefly, the group wants to 1) Work on fundraisers. 2) Meet to share a meal. and 3) Provide service as needed. This could be working at Memorial receptions,

keeping in touch with a phone call, baking cookies, etc. This all sounds good and the best part is 'being/doing together'!

A group of seven met this week to put our thoughts into action and we had a great meeting! Our Treasurer, Bobbie Dalquist, assured us that we are good, financially! We can meet this year's pledge to the church as well as think about making a Mission Donation to a group of our choice.

Then, we turned to the calendar. Lots of ideas surfaced – so make notes on your calendar. We want **Everyone** to participate! We made monthly plans through January; at that meeting, the calendar will be completed for the remaining program year.

Please note on your calendar the following dates:

- Mid-August/Date to be determined: '**Coffee on the Patio**' at the Bluffs. Judy Albee, Coordinator
- August 27: 11 AM-3PM: **An Afternoon on the Town** (We need cookies!). Ann Campbell & Barb Brookhouse, Coordinators.
- September 11: **All-Church Picnic**. Bobbie & Dan Dalquist, Hosts.
- October 1: **Fall Hike at Nara Board Walk followed by Lunch at Pilgrim River Steakhouse**. Lois Jambekar, Walk Coordinator; Liz Evensen, Lunch Coordinator.
- November 5: **Holiday Rummage Sale**; Bobbie Dalquist Coordinator.
- December 3: **Christmas Gathering** at Ann Campbell's home. Judy Albee Program Coordinator.
- January 21, 2023: **Breakfast** at Victoria's Restaurant/Houghton. Lois Jambekar, Coordinator.

Stay tuned for more detailed information as the event nears. We have many more ideas to explore but we need all the church Members/Friends to support us. It's so good

to be back and working/doing together – the pandemic taught us how much we need our Family and Friends! Thanks for all you do for the Church and Fellowship Guild, we are ready to move forward!

Afternoon on the Town

submitted by Ann Campbell

On Saturday, August 27, from 11 am to 3 pm, Houghton will be welcoming back our MTU students with an "Afternoon on the Town."

We would like to welcome the students and make a connection with them so that they might become a part of our PLUC family. We plan to bag up some homemade cookies--along with an information card about our congregation, service times, worship opportunities, etc. The Fellowship Guild has granted \$100.00 to provide us with 5 \$20.00 food vouchers to Jim's Foodmart. The vouchers will be given away in a drawing. Students may enter the drawing by filling out a form with their name and contact information.

Our Welcome banner has been located and will be hung up outside the church and we plan to have some games for students to play as they pass by. Lois has volunteered her Ladder Golf game and if anyone has a beanbag toss (corn hole) game they'd like to contribute, it would be most welcome.

So--we'll be seeking homemade cookies/bars for this event! If you are able to contribute a batch or two, please plan on having them at the church by noon on Friday, August 26. We'll need some volunteers to come and bag them up that afternoon and a few folks to staff the table on the 27th. Able to help in some way? Please contact Ann Campbell at: acampbell57@gmail.com or 906-281-0184.

Helping Hands Update

submitted by Beth Smock

I wrote the following sentence at around 9:00 on Thursday. "Helping Hands requests have slowed down a little in July, with only three requests". At about 9:30 today (Friday) I needed to re-write my Helping Hands article as we had three requests for help in about 24 hours. (Would you believe that at 10:55 we just got another call for help with gas. Unfortunately, I have to leave for an appointment and then won't be in the office on Monday due to having to go to Warsaw for a medical appointment, so this voucher won't get given out until August. It is rough out there.)

All requests for help this month have been for gas. This continues our pattern since the last week of June. We have had 14 requests in those five weeks (plus the one we just got), everyone one of which has been for gas.

I am wondering if people can find help with food at other places but we might be the only place where they can get help with gas other than Angel Mission.

Anyway, as you can see, the need for assistance continues to be great, so any help you can provide is greatly appreciated.

2022 Church Directory

submitted by Beth Smock

Thanks to everyone who has helped in updating the information for the 2022 Church Directory. I am not quite going to meet my goal of getting it out by the end of July, but it will be available in the next week (or maybe two). I need to make one final edit and then print it off.

Copies will be available at the church. If you would like a copy mailed to you, let me know and I can do that.

A lot of changes have taken place in the last two years. I hope I get everything right,

and apologize in advance, if I miss something.

August Funnies

I went back and looked at some old newsletter and found these funnies from the August 2009 newsletter. They are still funny.



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General Office Hours:

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Mon.- Tues, Thurs-
Fri

Pastor Office Hours:

9:30 AM - 12:00 Noon or by appointment

**Portage Lake United Church
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August Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
08/07	Beth	Greg	Barb	TBD
08/14	Lois & Biruta	Christina	Lois	Lois & Biruta
08/21	Liz & Harold	Beth	Greg	Judy & Sangja
08/28	Judy	Ann	Terry	Liz & Harold