



**PORTAGE
LAKE
UNITED
CHURCH**

PLUC

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

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August 2022

Editor's Note: This will be a shortened newsletter this month as I am late getting it done. However, there are important things happening at PLUC and I wanted to let you all know.

But before I begin with the news, I would like to take an opportunity to thank all of you who have been praying for me after my accident and helping me get things done. For those who do not know what I am talking about, I took a fall on August 19th that resulted in a brain bleed, fractured skull, and fractured L-1 (lumber spine). I was in the hospital until Labor Day but am now home and well on my way to getting back to normal. It will still take awhile and I probably won't be in the office for another week or two. But I am working from home so if you need something you can email me or call me at my cell phone number.

Enough about me. Let's get on with the news.

August Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

Guest Presentation: Jenifer Rachels, a certified teacher from Our Whole Lives, gave a presentation regarding the Our Whole Lives program. This program provides Comprehensive Sexuality Education, including not just what people see as Sex Education but also information about social, value, family, etc areas surrounding this issue. This program was created by two church associations, UCC and UU. She is exploring interest at PLUC for being part of this program. In order to be a partner there must be at least one leader, who would need to be trained and vetted, from the church. Parental participation is also required. This is a fact based program. Consistory thanked Ms. Rachels for her spending time providing Consistory

with more information about this program. Consistory will be exploring this program and seeing if there is interest in the congregation before making any decisions about participation.

Finance Committee/Roof Repair: The first payment for the roof repair has been made. This resulted in a decrease in the Vanguard account balance due to withdrawals made to cover this payment. The Capital Improvements Finance Team will be meeting on Monday, August 22nd to begin discussions on financing for the roof repair and other capital improvements that may be required.

Building and Grounds Committee: In addition to their work on the church roof repair, the Building and Grounds Committee Met with Chad Therrian from Global

Surface Solutions to finalize an estimate for concrete work, which includes removing and replacing broken curbs and removing the unused light post base. Final cost is expected to be +/- \$4,000 (previously approved by the Consistory in July). Work should begin in two weeks, The committee also reviewed additional exterior lighting upgrades with Jim Northey with a plan to add solar lighting on several building corners to light dark parts of our campus, replace the lights on the legacy lighting poles with solar/led fixtures, and explore lighting for the sign and cross, discussed weathering of the exterior brick which will need to be addressed in the next few years, and. began to explore snow removal options for the coming season.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Peter thanked all those who help with Worship each Sunday, including pianist Susie Byykkonen, Jim Northey who works with our audio/visual presentation, and all who help as greeters, readings, etc. Pastor Peter has been looking at options for taking continuing education classes that are required by our denominations. He is hoping that he can do these online, but some may require time away from the area. Pastor Peter had been trying to upgrade our Webpage (it is currently down) and is finding this process very frustrating. He hopes to have the upgraded Webpage up and running in the next week.

Communion: Elder A. Campbell assisted with the August communion. Pastor Peter is hoping that other Elders who are not currently serving on Consistory might assist in the future. This call for assistance was made during announcement time at the previous Sunday and will be made again at the next Sunday service.

Vacation Times: Pastor Peter will be taking some vacation time on Sunday, September 18th. Office Manager Smock will be taking vacation time September 21-27.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Use Policy: The Building and Grounds Committee has finalized the Building Use Policy. Elder G. Campbell moved (second by Elder A. Campbell) to accept this policy. Approved.

Online Consistory Meeting Policy: Clerk T. Monson is working on a policy for Consistory meetings held online.

Communion Servers: Elder A Campbell assisted with the August communion and Standing Elder L. Jambekar will assist with the September communion.

NEW BUSINESS

The preliminary 2023 budget process will begin soon

The Presbytery meeting will be held on September 17, 2022

The Nominating and Personnel Committees were activated.

Financial Report	
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<u>Received in August</u>	
Pledge	\$2411.00
Unpledged	\$879.92
Loose Plate	\$0.00

You're invited!
All-Church Picnic
following worship.

Bobbie & Dan Dalquist, Hosts.
Hotdogs, condiments, water, coffee, tea,
dishes and utensils provided.

Bring salad or other side to share and
other beverages, if desired.

Students bring only your appetites.

Directions: 5 miles south of church on US
41. When you get to the red Sew Crazy sign,
start to slow down. Address 44564 US 41,
Chassell. Dark gray house on the left. Park
parallel to the highway in the front yard and
driveway



Student Progressive Dinner

Cooperative Campus Ministries is once
again putting on a progressive dinner for
MTU Students. On Sunday September
25th, students will gather at St. Al's for
appetizers, walk to Canterbury House for
salad, then walk to PLUC where we will
be hosting and providing the main course:
chili; finally, the students will walk to
Good Shepherd for dessert. We need
volunteers to make chili (some with meat
and some meatless), set-up and clean-up.
See Lois for more details.

In Other News

Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

What a busy month!

We began August with getting backpack
registration forms out to parents that needed
them. We then started accumulating the

supplies to fill the backpacks. Lois Jambekar
took charge of the program and it went
smoothly with about 100 backpacks being
filled. Not only did we have the generosity
of local individuals, but we had supplies sent
from downstate, Walmart collected
donations on our behalf, and local
businesses, such as Somero, made
contributions of costly scientific calculators
and water bottles. We are finishing up the
backpacks August 26-27 and have them
ready for pickup on the 29th-31st.

Through the generosity of Mike Moore,
who volunteers by building accessibility
ramps and Paul Tuoriniemi, who contributed
some materials and labor, we now have an
accessibility ramp to the side door. With our
handicap accessible bathroom, we can fully
serve those with limited mobility.

The program managers, Terry and Mike,
planned and carried out the Grand Opening
open house on the 20th.

They served cake and
beverage to well over 100
people and offered games
in the parking lot for those
young at heart. It was a lovely day and the
news media covered the event.



We have gotten on a list to have our roof
replaced. It is a big job with three layers of
shingles to remove. We are covering the cost
with a construction loan that is part of our
mortgage. Summer is slipping by quickly
and we are entering autumn mode, when
grants are opening for competition, PHF
Giving Tuesday gets underway, and our coat
drive/giveaway starts. Before we know it,
we will be thinking about Angel Tree. Never
a dull moment!

Lemonade at the Bluffs

Submitted by Liz Evensen

It was a cool, light breezy afternoon when 12-14 Members & Friends gathered on the Bluff veranda for Lemonade/Ice Tea/Water & Cookies; Saturday, August 20. A 'Tip of the Hat' to Judy Albee for spearheading this gathering. We had a chance to be together and chat with folks we don't see often enough - it was a fun & relaxing event!

September 11, Bobbie & Dan Dalquist will be hosting PLUC's annual church picnic! We are gathering at the Dalquist home on US 41 following Worship. If anyone needs a ride, please let the Church Office or Pastor Peter know – there are plenty of folks who have space in their car for you! Hot Dogs, Water & Condiments will be provided. Students bring only your appetites; everyone else can contribute salads, beverages or chips.

Wishing Beth, our Office Manager, a speedy recovery from her attempt to learn Pickleball! Take Care, Beth; we miss you!

Some Funnies to Get Us Through the Month (and to fill up some space)

At a picnic for a Catholic school, the Mother Superior stacked a pile of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please - God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a pile of cookies, on which a second grade student had placed a sign on saying, "Take all the cookies you want -- God is watching the apples."

What Would You Say?

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like

them to say?

Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man."

Merle said: , "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in peoples lives."

Don said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look! He's moving!'"



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Church (USA)

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Office Manager: Beth Smock

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

September Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
09/11	Nancy & Dianne	Lois	Carl	Church Picnic
09/18	Judy	Greg	Barb	Barb & Jon
09/25	Liz & Harold	Jim	Lois	Liz & Harold