



**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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January 2023

Consistory Highlights

The PLUC Consistory was very good in 2022, so Santa Claus gave them December off. Check out the March 2023 newsletter (there is no newsletter in February as the Editor is busy completing the Annual Report) for what Consistory will be working on during 2023.

Financial Report

Received in December

Pledge	\$5,766.00
Unpledged	\$2041.92
Loose Plate	\$20.00
Roof	\$1,482.00

In Other News

ANNOUNCING

Congregation/Corporation Meeting

Sunday, February 12, 2023
Immediately following worship
(this meeting will be held on both In-person
and over ZOOM)



Holiday Decorations Rummage Sale Wrap Up

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

The final total on the Holiday Decorations Rummage Sale was \$1,325, all of which went to the Raise the Roof Capital Campaign to help to pay for the roof repairs.

Thinking ahead to next year, when you are packing up your Christmas decorations, anything you didn't use and probably will never use, plus things you did use, but you are tired of, please put in a box marked "CHRISTMAS to DONATE." Next October I'll be asking you for that box of decorations.

Angel Mission

Submitted by Sheri Middlemis-Brown

Thank you to all the church members that supported us during Portage Health Foundation's Giving Tuesday! Those undesignated funds help us to balance our budget and our needs. We also recognize that our church family has gone above and beyond this past year by supporting our purchase and renovation of our new home. Thank you for all of your support!

Christmas 2022, we provided gifts for 210 children during our Angel Tree Program. Most all of those were sponsored, including several sponsored by church members, but we also sponsored a few directly with CCAM funds. We added socks, gloves, and underwear to many of the gift bags, as well.

We are using small grants from Portage Health Foundation, Keweenaw Area Community Foundation, and Portage Health Auxiliary for food pantry and assistance this winter. We have expanded our assistance somewhat beyond the usual rent, utilities, and gas for medical trips to other necessities. Aspirus Foundation gave us a small grant to improve heat to the food pantry room and they offered to give our managers and volunteers CPR/AED training to complement our new defibrillator.

In past years, the managers handled all programs with minor assistance from volunteers. Our current managers are meting out leadership roles in seasonal programs very effectively. Consequently, we average about 200 in-store volunteer hours monthly with program leadership roles beyond that. Angel Tree alone requires 300 hours of work. The board contributes a total of 100 hours monthly. Two of our longest serving volunteers are Lois Jambekar and Barb Brookhouse. Additionally, two board members

come from our church family. It takes not just money, but volunteers to make Angel Mission successful.

If you are interested in volunteering or serving on a committee or on the board of directors, please let Lois, Barb, Sherry Middlemis-Brown, or Jim Northey know.

Very important addition: Although at the time I wrote the original report, our Angel Tree number was 210 and registration was closed, that was not the whole story. Our Angel Tree number is something over 240 now. Our late registrants were all excruciatingly painful stories. One was a family of six children, whose father passed away just a few days ago. They must not only cope with a lack of resources, but they are grieving such a horrific loss at Christmas time. We'll try to give their Christmas a small touch of joy by letting them know that others care. What a blessing to be able to do this for others.



I have used this before but it seems to be appropriate again.

Portage Lake United Church
United Church of Christ & Presbyterian
Church (USA)
1400 E. Houghton Ave., Houghton, MI
49931

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E-mail: office@pluc.org

Website: www.pluc.org

Pastor: Rev. Peter Norland

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

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Houghton, MI 49931**

Return Service Requested

January Volunteer Schedule				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
01/01	Beth	Christian	Terry	TBD
01/08	Judy	Lou Ellyn	Lois	TBD
01/15	Greg & Ann	Beth	Barb	TBD
01/22	Lois	Ann	Terry	TBD
01/29	Nancy & Dianne	Lois	Greg	TBD