



**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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May 2023

Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

- Office Manager Smock presented an update on the status of Helping Hands use for the first 3 ½ months on 2023. As of 04/20/23, 22 vouchers have been given out. This compares to 48 vouchers given during the entire 2022 year. Smock shared with Consistory a policy that Angel Mission is using for people who request help with gas. At this time Consistory is not looking to make any changes in the Helping Hands program but Smock will keep them informed about the usage of the program.
- Consistory approved the use of the building by a new string quarter for a concert on May 27th. Since this is a new group, they do not have much in funding so the leader (1st violin) has offered to play during services later this year. Music Director Bykkonen will work with him to set up dates for him to provide music during our services.
- Consistory approved Office Manager Smock's vacation request for May 31 thru June 6. Since this is the week of

the Memorial Day holiday, Smock will work on Memorial Day before leaving on Wednesday to make sure the offering is deposited and work is done to prepare for the Sunday worship.

Financial Report

Received in April 2023 (thru 04/23)

Pledge	\$3234.00
Unpledged	\$528.92
Loose Plate	\$75.00

In Other News

Easter 2023 at PLUC

Submitted by Lois Jambekar

Easter 2023, April 9th, at Portage Lake United Church was a festive occasion. The morning started out with a delicious breakfast potluck at 9:30 A.M. About 30 people came and enjoyed the meal of egg, sausage, and oatmeal casseroles; plus hot cross buns, coffee cake; a fruit salad; and beverages of juice, coffee, and tea. Each of the tables were decorated with Easter

baskets with plastic colored eggs filled with jelly beans and chocolate candy eggs, and each had a cute stuffed bunny sitting on top the baskets. At 10:30 we had a very meaningful church service telling the events of the Resurrection Day as read from the scriptures. After the church service during the coffee time people were able to eat leftover food from the breakfast and eat pieces of cake from a delicious bunny cake that was provided.

Raising the Roof

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

First we repaired the roof, because it had to be done. Then we set out to raise funds to pay for the roof because that had to be done. The finance committee is happy to report that we are within \$4,500 of the roof being completely funded. The last of the pledges will be due in 2026. Thank you to all who have supported this project and, if anyone else would like to help out, we'd love to see that last \$4,500 covered too.

Update on Funding the Roof	Pledged	Paid	Balance Due on Pledges
	\$	\$	\$
Pledges	34,799.00	14,319.00	20,480.00
Paid in addition to pledges		5,260.00	
Total Paid		19,579.00	
Cost of roof:		\$ 44,536.68	
Received	\$ 19,579.00		
Balance due on Pledges	20,480.00		
		40,059.00	
Unfunded		\$ 4,477.68	

Rummage Sale and Pledge Drive

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to Fellowship Guild. Pledge dollars received in 2023 thus far total \$1,745. Those of you who have been around long enough know that once upon a time we had a big Christmas bazaar as our main fundraiser. We spent many hours making aprons and other crafts, and baking goodies to sell at the bazaar. Bazaars are a thing of the past and we now rely on your monetary pledge to cover part of Fellowship Guild's budget. The main budget line item is a \$3,000 pledge to the church.

To help cover the rest of the budget we have two rummage sales planned - one in June and the Holiday Decorations Rummage Sale in November.

Your rummage (no clothes) and your time are needed for the June rummage sale: After church on Sunday, June 4, setting up tables at the back of the sanctuary and hauling donations that have come in from the nursery crying room to the sanctuary. That Sunday is a great day to bring in your donations.

Tuesday, June 6 - 9:30 to noon and 12:30 to 2:00 - workbee to sort and price donations.

Friday, June 9 - 2:00 - 4:30 - workbee to set up tables and donations in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, a morning shift and an afternoon shift to help with the sale, which is 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. followed by packing up leftovers and taking down tables.



Saturday, May 20th 10:00 am-12:30 pm

Spring Church Clean Up and Projects

Submitted by Greg Campbell

The annual PLUC Spring Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. All are welcome!

Building and Grounds projects — Donors are needed for the following projects. If you can help with all or part of these off-budget costs, please let Pastor Peter know.

Exterior painting:

We need to repaint our parking spaces

Entry door soffits

Exterior cross

Estimated cost: \$1500

Replace locks

Estimated cost: \$500-\$3000.

We appreciate the amazing generosity of PLUC members and friends. Please consider a donation toward these needed maintenance projects.

Copper Country Angel Mission

Submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

We are very pleased to announce that we added a new member to the Board of Directors in April. Bobbie Dalquist joined the board and was voted into the position of Treasurer. We are all truly excited to add Bobbie's skillset to the board. She will work closely with our contract bookkeeper to ensure that we use best practices. Jill Hodges will serve as Secretary and continue to send thank you notes to donors.

These last two months have been full of support from area businesses. Walmart donated pallets of new summer clothing to us for the free-store. Our shoppers-extraordinaire, Sharon and Renee, purchased 110 pairs of boots for the 2023 Winter Wear

Giveaway at \$1/pair, over a \$4000 value! Shortly after, Walmart offered us boxes of summer shoes and athletic shoes at \$1/pair. We will save two large totes of kids' athletic shoes for the School Backpack Program to add to the school supplies, toothbrushes and toothpaste, undies, socks, and T-shirts that we already supply.

Our food pantry filled the new Michigan Dairy Industry refrigerator with fresh foods using a small grant from Portage Health Foundation. Cases of strawberries and bananas were donated to the food pantry by a local produce distributor. The fruit was past optimum quality, but food pantry clients and free-store shoppers thoroughly appreciated the fresh fruit.

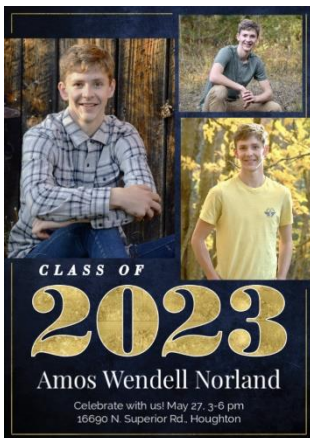
We love to share our just-in-time stories and we have another about God's intervention at Angel Mission. We will begin repair work this spring on a hidden sill-rot problem in one of our walls. Our inspector didn't find the problem before we bought the building, but ice damming on the roof this winter revealed the need for repairs. Last month, a couple, whom none of us know, gave us a gift from their IRA disbursement that will surely cover repairs. We are blessed with so many just-in-time events, either a donation of something that someone else needs, just-in-time, or an intervention on our behalf. We are sure that these events represent God's knowing our needs and acting upon them.



Congratulations Graduate Amos Norland

Submitted by Christina Norland

Amos Norland is a senior at Dollar Bay High School. He will graduate at 10 a.m. on May 27. Amos has enjoyed taking on many leadership roles throughout his high school career. He has been a leader in his school's student council, National Honor Society, and band, playing alto and tenor saxophone, and filling in on drums when needed. Amos has competed extensively in athletics. In his senior year cross-country season, Amos achieved first place in every race, and broke



the school record! Amos was team captain of the Blue Bolts boys' basketball team this past winter and was named to the Copper Country Division First Team, the Copper Mountain Conference Elite Team, and the All-

UP Division 4 Second Team. He is now in the midst of his final track season. Amos was proud to receive the MHSAA Scholar Athlete award at the boys' basketball finals in East Lansing in March.

Amos will attend Michigan Tech University this fall, majoring in kinesiology and integrative physiology, to set him on track to eventually (hopefully) become a physical therapist. He is also looking forward to running on the MTU cross country and track teams with his brother.

Amos always likes helping out at church, and deeply appreciates the love and support of his church family. He knows that he couldn't have been so successful, and so blessed, without the community that surrounds him.

All are invited to celebrate Amos's graduation at the Norlands' homestead, 16690 N. Superior Road, Houghton, on Saturday, May 27. Drop in any time between 3 and 6 p.m.

A Couple of Church Funnies (We Can Relate to the First One)

The church was holding baptisms during the service, so they brought in a large tub. As the sermon continued, a boy near the front stared at the tub. He nudged his father. The father turned and the boy whispered, "Where did they get such a big bucket for the leaking roof?"

The Sunday School teacher asks the children to draw Christmas pictures. She goes over to one student and sees he's drawn a picture of four people on an airplane.

"What is this?" she asked.

"Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus on a flight to Egypt," he says.

"Well... who's the fourth person?"

"That's Pontius, the pilot."

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Pastor: Rev. Peter Norland

Office Manager: Beth Smock

General Office Hours:

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Mon.-Fri

Pastor Office Hours:

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

**Portage Lake United Church
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May Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>
05/07	Jan	Christina	Terry	Lois & Mary	Barb
05/14	Lou	Beth	Barb	Barb & Jon	TBD
05/21	Barb & Jon	Nancy	Greg	TBD	Michelle
05/28	Judy	Ann	Lois	TBD	TBD

Children's Church Pictures



Kids in Sunday School draw critters that start off as caterpillars and become butterflies.



Robert, Michael, Easter, and Ethan move along the floor like caterpillars.