



**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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June 2023

Consistory Highlights

Discussion of Reports:

Office Manager:

1. Office Manager Smock presented an update on the current status of Helping Hands use for the first 4 ½ months of 2023. As of May 18, 2023 PLUC has given out 25 food and gas vouchers, which is over half of what was given out in 2022.
2. Financial Secretary Smock gave an update on funds received through May 2023 for the roof repair. This amount is \$21,839.00.

Pastor's Report:

1. Pastor Peter reported on the number of new people who have been attending Sunday services.
2. Elder G. Campbell thanked Elder M. Jarvie-Eggart for her work in starting our Children's Church.
3. Pastor Peter is still trying to repair the office printer. Bobbie Dalquist gave the office another printer which

can be used until the other printer is repaired.

4. Pastor Peter, working with Office Manager Smock, is now providing a weekly e-mail to the congregation to help keep everyone up to date on what is happening both at PLUC and with PC(USA) and UCC.
5. After the closing of Finlandia University the Lutheran clergy began an effort to look at the future of the church. Pastor Peter has been working with this group but has not heard from them for awhile so does not know the current status of these conversations.

Angel Mission

1. Angel Mission continues to be very busy even with a reduction in use of the food pantry. They did receive a small grant to help fill the food pantry shelves and to purchase of refrigerator.

Policy Update:

1. A discussion was held regarding the Employee Leave policy. It has been discovered that the only employee who would be covered by a Leave policy would be the Office Manager. A question was asked if this could be covered by a contract.

Discussion on Pastoral Evaluation:

1. Elders A. Campbell and B. Brookhouse will facilitate the Pastor evaluation process. It is hoped that this will be completed by the June Consistory meeting.

Other:

1. Consistory discussed what to do to encourage people who attend PLUC as non-members to join as members.
2. Concern was expressed about the trash left on church property. Building and Grounds will explore asking Houghton for trash bins to place on the corners of the property.

Financial Report

Received in May 2023

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Pledge | \$5,559.00 |
| Unpledged | \$861.92 |
| Loose Plate | \$9.00 |
| Roof | \$1160.00 |

Pastor Evaluation

Soon you will receive in the mail a Pastor Evaluation form to fill out. Directions as to what to do with the form when completed will be included.

Multi-Family Rummage Sale

**Saturday, June 10
10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**



household
kitchen
furniture
books
treasures

In Other News

Church Rummage Sale Worker Update

| | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| June 06 | Workbee 9:30-12:00 12:30-2:00 |
| June 08 | Workbee 2:00-4:30 |
| June 10 | Sale Day 9:00-3:00 |

Angel Mission

Submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

I have a very short report this month because I've been out of town. Barb or Lois could fill you in on details, but suffice it to say, this has been another busy month. My reports in the newsletter are usually a month behind because of the timing for submitting the articles to the newsletter, so I will catch you up on April happenings and a few changes for May.

We were closed for four days in April because of a snowstorm and Easter. We had extra volunteers for the month – a good thing because we are averaging well over 100 shoppers each day. The extra volunteers and shoppers allowed us to get spring clothing from Walmart out into the community. We had a total of 275 volunteer hours in the store with many more hours from behind-the-scenes volunteers.

We often receive luxury items in donations from estates. We tend to place necessities out on the floor for free, but we hesitate to place nonessentials out for general distribution. These items have been tucked away over many years and fill dozens of large totes. We intend to sell many of these items to further support our programs, but the problem is finding an outlet for their sale. Bobbie Dalquist has worked on pricing stored items for inclusion in the church rummage sale, June 10. The proceeds will directly benefit Copper Country Angel Mission programs. We need additional outlets for luxury items so that we can fulfil their intended use – to assist Angel Mission in helping those in need.

In mid-May, Bobbie also decided that, as treasurer, she could handle all of our financial accounting work, eliminating the need for a contract bookkeeper. We are blessed to have our finances in such competent hands.

The food pantry requests dropped once again in April, which we hope means that people are able to stretch their finances to meet their needs. We filled 47 orders that fed 95 adults and 41 kids with 3 new signups. The statistics tell us that folks try to make it on their own, if possible, instead of returning for assistance monthly. Our food pantry is a stop-gap service. Our policy is to provide seven to ten days of food for each client once during the month.

All of us at Copper Country Angel Mission appreciate the ongoing support from the Presbytery of Mackinac and our church. We currently have six of our church elders in important positions within CCAM. Our church continues to be instrumental in the success of this charity.

Fantastic News From the Lytle Family

Dear PLUC family,

We have some exciting news to share with you!

We have been busy settling in the West. Gavia has been exploring the wilds. She's a bug-holding, bike riding, toe-dirty toddler. (Shout-out to Michelle for handing down the stellar balance bike.) Will has been successful in his job as director of research. And Lydia has been thriving on daily hikes and kidlet filled days. Last week on May 17th (happy Syttende Mai to the Norwegians), we welcomed a bouncing baby boy into the world named Lachlan Corvidae. He's absolutely perfect and adored by his sister.



With love and affection,
The Lytle Family

April 2023

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Portage Lake United Church

United Church of Christ Presbyterian Church (USA)
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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

**Portage Lake United Church
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June Volunteer Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>Reader</u> | <u>Prayer Writer</u> | <u>Coffee Fellowship</u> |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 06/04 | Lois | Dianne | Barb | Barb & Jon |
| 06/11 | Beth | Greg | Jim | TBD |
| 06/18 | Nancy & Dianne | Lou | Carl | TBD |
| 06/25 | Greg & Ann | Beth | Terry | Liz & Harold |

MEMORIAL DAY

