



**PORTAGE
LAKE
UNITED
CHURCH**

PLUC

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

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July 2023

Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

Prior to the business meeting, time was taken to express appreciation to Elders Jarvie Eggart and Northey for their three years of service on Consistory.

Angel Mission:

1. Elder G. Campbell asked about 100% of the staff being volunteers. Elder S. Middlemis-Brown, who sits on the Angel Mission board, explained that previous manager, Terry, has stepped down as the official manager, but still does a lot of the work (but not financial). There were also questions about the food pantry with the change in what organization is now providing food assistance in Houghton/Keweenaw Counties. Elder S. Middlemis-Brown informed Consistory that Angel Mission is still meeting the needs of those families that need help with food security as they work on the transition to the new food providers.

Pastor's Report:

1. Worship:

It is nice to see several new attendees, especially those associated with MTU who have brought children to the church this summer. We've had so many new folks lately that it has been hard for some to remember people's names, so we are going to use name tags in the coming weeks. It is wonderful to simply have the energy of children in the building with us.

2. Ecumenical Engagement:

- a. University outreach: The Cooperative Campus Ministry is sending out "religious preference" cards to incoming students, and we will participate again this year. Afternoon on the Town is coming at the end of August and followed by the new "Faith Fair." We need some ideas to reach out to students.
- b. The Lutherans gathered to discuss demographic

trends. The conversation was good, and broad, there was mention of joining together to support Feeding America and thinking about the possible formation of a Houghton-Hancock Ecumenical Food Shelf.

Old Business

1. Elder B. Brookhouse has been compiling the results of the Pastor Evaluations and will email the results to members of Consistory next week. These will be discussed at the July Consistory meeting.
2. (Office Manager Smock left the meeting as the Employee Leave Time policy was discussed as this affects her employment. She did return once this discussion was concluded.) A leave policy which will only affect the Office Manager position is being finalized and should become official soon.

New Business

1. Consistory will continue to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. However, for summer meetings they will tentatively schedule a meeting at Pastor Peter's home on Thursday, July 20th, with a potluck dinner beginning at 6:00 pm. Depending on the need to discuss business they may not meet in August.
2. Summer activities were discussed. Ideas include an outdoor service to be held in September. and potlucks on the 3rd Sunday of July and August.
3. MTU Afternoon on the Town: Elder A. Campbell will take the lead in putting together something to

introduce PLUC to new MTU students.

Financial Report

Received in July

Pledge	\$5.413.00
Unpledged	\$726.92
Loose Plate	\$0.00
Per Capita	\$352.00
Roof	\$169.00

In Other News

Summer Potlucks

submitted by Ann Campbell

We've all been enjoying the fellowship of the coffee hour so much that we've scheduled a Potluck extension of that time on the third Sundays of July (the 16th) and August (the 20th).

Please bring a dish to share on those Sundays and we'll enjoy food and fellowship together! If you aren't able to bring a dish, please join us anyway. There will be food for all to share.

Rummage Sale a Success

submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

We had a great crowd of shoppers for our June 10 rummage sale. When we opened the doors at 10, the lounge was packed with people and we had a line to the checkout for 45 minutes. For the next couple of hours we had a steady trickle of customers. We consolidated items onto fewer tables, so by the beginning of the last hour, 3 tables had already been emptied and taken down. Then we rearranged items by where they were going - Habitat Re-store, Angel Mission, the Gay Rummage Sale, the AST (teacher's sorority) rummage sale, Goodwill, the MTU

Friends of the Library book sale, and a few items that will be sold on ebay this fall. That made the packing process really easy when the sale was over.

Sometimes, Angel Mission receives generous donations of items that are not necessities for people's wellbeing. The donors expect that we can turn these generous gifts into cash by reselling them. A silver tea service does not make a better cup of tea than a functional tea pot and kettle, but someone of means may wish to purchase it! We had several tables of items donated to Angel Mission at the PLUC rummage sale.

Our proceeds from the sale totaled \$1,226.50. Of that, \$500 went to Angel Mission. Thank you to all of our volunteers for helping with the sale.

Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

At present, everyone working for Angel Mission is a volunteer and we have no stipend or contract positions. Our volunteers gave 317 hours in the store and an additional 42 hours of background support. We would like to find a dependable individual to act as manager, but no one has come forward.

It is our policy to put onto the store floor all the essentials for household and personal care that we receive. Occasionally, we receive luxury goods, which we have collected over the years. We had 65 large totes of stored luxury items until Bobbie Dalquist put out the contents of 10 totes to sell at the PLUC rummage sale. The sale netted Angel Mission around \$500 after the Fellowship Guild took a small cut for their efforts. Thank you for converting our treasures into useable currency for programs.

In May, Pat's Foods in Hancock donated \$3,330.66 worth of food to the food pantry. We served clients with 60 food pantry

orders to feed 127 adults and 61 children for a week with 11 new signups and an emergency pack outside of regular hours. The next time you are at Pat's, please thank them for their support!

We helped a young, very frightened woman with a water shut off notice. She had never been in this situation before and didn't know what she would have done without our help. Additionally, a young mother and her two-week-old baby came in, needing an entire household setup. We were able to set her up with many household items to get her on her feet and comfortable in her apartment.

We find it hard to keep up with the clothing donations coming in, but the items are going out at a fast rate too. We have received higher monetary donation amounts for this time of year also. We are thankful for the constant support from the Presbytery, the church, and the community.

Helping Hands

submitted by Beth Smock

It seems as if I am giving out more reports about Helping Hands this year, but that is because there has been a lot of need. June was a slow month, with only one gas voucher given out. I don't know if this means people are in better financial positions at this time, or if we are going to get very busy soon. For the year, we have given out 16 gas vouchers (31 for all of 2022) and 11 food vouchers (17 in 2022). We have only had three people receive help twice in 2023 (therefore, they are not eligible for help again until next year) so there are quite a few people who could come back later this year for help again.

As always, the members and friends of PLUC have been very generous in providing funding for this very important mission. Thank you to everyone who has given in the past and who continue to give.

Coffee Time Volunteers

submitted by Beth Smock

We need help with Sunday morning coffee time. In the past I have sent out an email to a group of people who have helped with coffee time asking them to sign up for the upcoming month. Of course, these folks are more than willing to help, but sometimes I get five people who sign up for the same Sunday and then have other Sundays when no one signs up. I combined an idea from Mary Eckhart with my own idea so develop a three month sign up sheet which is now available on the table in the lounge.

If you would like to help, but have not done it before, or simply want a partner, indicate that on the sign-up sheet—or let Pastor Peter or Beth know. Our goal in this ministry is hospitality, welcoming one another, by making space and taking time to enjoy one another's company.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Building and Grounds Updates

Submitted by Greg Campbell

We completed another successful Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 20, with many helping hands including some new friends from MTU. Thanks to all the work and care provided at the previous Fall Cleanup, the crew made fast work of weeding the flower beds and washing windows. We are grateful to all who donated their time and talent to this effort. Our church looks more welcoming every day!

On June 21st and 22nd, Al Eckhart, Wee Chun, Greg Campbell, and Pastor Peter spent several hours cleaning the parking lot and then painting new lines to indicate

correct parking locations. We thank them for their efforts.

Finally, the soffits on the two outside entrances need to be primed and painted. If someone wants to take on this task, please let Pastor Peter or Greg Campbell know and we will get it done.

Strawberry Festival Help

Submitted by Lois Berg

Help is needed on Thursday, July 6. 5:00 pm at the Chassell Centennial Park Pavilion. Join the Chassell Lions for fellowship and fun by cleaning and cutting local strawberries for the 75th Copper Country Strawberry Festival shortcakes.

No experience necessary. We will train. Bring your favorite paring knife, a bowl and some newspapers.

Questions? Call Lois Berg 906-370-0540

July Funny

How do pastors like their orange juice? With *pulpit*.

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General Office Hours:

8:30 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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July Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
07/02	Lou Ellyn	Christina	Greg	Christina & Amos
07/09	Liz & Harold	Nancy	Lois	Jon & Brian
07/16	Judy	Ann	Jim	Potluck
07/23	Lois	Harold	Carl	Bobby & Biruta
07/30	Barb & Jon	Dianne	Barb	Lois & Mary