



**PORTAGE  
LAKE  
UNITED  
CHURCH**

# ***PLUC***

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

**1400 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931-1208**

**906.482.5224 • [office@pluc.org](mailto:office@pluc.org) • [www.pluc.org](http://www.pluc.org)**

---

September 2023

---

<b>Consistory Highlights</b>
------------------------------

*submitted by Beth Smock, Office Manager*

### **Discussion of Reports:**

#### **Angel Mission:**

1. A suggestion was made to not get the Angel Mission report on a monthly basis as they have their own board. At this time, it was decided to continue receiving monthly reports.

#### **Building and Grounds:**

1. A discussion was held regarding putting the “doodle board” in front of the church on Sunday mornings to advertise our worship time and any other activities of the church.

#### **Pastor’s Report:**

1. Nancy Byers Sprague assisted Pastor Peter for the August communion. Elder B. Brookhouse will assist on September 10th.
2. Pastor Peter will be presenting Season of Creation messages 09/10-10/1
3. Pastor Peter is working on developing a Prayer Chain which will be online.
4. Pastor Peter requested a “Study Week”, 08/30-09/03. Elder G. Campbell moved (second Elder A.

Campbell) to grant this request. Approved.

5. A discussion was held regarding improving communication between Consistory and church groups.

#### **Old Business**

##### **1. Office Manager Leave**

**Policy:** Elder G. Campbell moved (second by Elder B. Brookhouse) to accept the Office Manager Leave Policy. Since Elders S. and R. Middlemis-Brown had been working on this policy and were not in attendance at the meeting Elder A. Campbell (second Elder D. Sprague) to table this until next meeting.

#### **New Business**

1. **Finance Committee:** No Consistory member was appointed to the Finance Committee.
2. **Presbytery Meeting:** The fall meeting of the Presbytery is scheduled for 09/16/2023. Pastor Peter plans to attend.
3. **Committees:** The Nominating and Personnel committees were activities.

## Financial Report

### Received in August

Pledge	\$3,664.00
Unpledged	\$841.90
Loose Plate	\$00.00



## *In Other News*

### Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Our big news has been the Backpack Program. We expect more than 100 students will request backpacks and supplies from Angel Mission by the time we close registration at the end of the August.

Walmart has been a close ally of Angel Mission. They granted us \$500 towards the Backpack Program. We purchased some of our school supplies from Walmart, but many items were out of stock, and so we had to turn to other sources. We received financial assistance from Calumet Electronics, and from several individuals donating generously. We have also received 55 Land's End backpacks, designated for a nonprofit organization, and another 28 backpacks from a separate individual. We appreciate the support of church members who have given us supplies or financial support as well as the monumental efforts of Lois Jambekar, who is leading the Backpack Program.

We continue to fulfil needs in the store and food pantry, even while focusing on a huge program. We were able to help a gentleman with wedding attire. We helped young mothers with diapers and wipes, and forestalled a water shut-off. We continue to fill 50-100 food pantry orders each month, usually serving nearly 200 adults and children. We average around 350 volunteer hours per month, but we expect that the Backpack Program will result in many more volunteer hours for August.

## Building and Grounds

*submitted by Greg Campbell*

### Plans for the Fall:

1. The B&G meeting will no longer be a standing meeting on the calendar. We may reinstate a monthly meeting if members plan to attend.
2. Exterior painting will be scheduled and completed before the end of September. Several volunteers have offered to help get this done.
3. We are exploring carpet cleaning services. We currently have one estimate at \$0.55/ square foot = \$3055.00 for the whole church. We have two other vendors for estimates but they are not completed yet.

### Other:

1. Aire Care has ordered a new freeze proof hydrant — it has not been installed yet.
2. We recommend that we continue with the snow removal service we used last year.
3. The Sandwich Board will be put out in front of the church to advertise Worship times and other things happening at the church

FALL CLEANUP is scheduled for Saturday, October 21 @ 10:00 am. All are welcome!

## **A Housewarming with Showers**

*submitted by Liz Evensen*

It turned out that Fellowship Guild's Housewarming Shower came with 'real' rain! Actually, it poured that afternoon but it didn't 'dampen' our time together as 14 women gathered at Mary Eckhart's home. We brought essentials that all houses need while Christine delightfully described her new home. It was a fun time together and we thank Mary for the delicious strawberry/cream filled cake and hosting this gathering.

Next on Fellowship Guild's calendar was 'An Afternoon on the Town'; a MTU event that introduces the college students to the area. This church sponsored program found Fellowship Guild members distributing the homemade cookies to students who stopped by on Saturday morning, August 26. Ann Campbell, Coordinator of this event reported that over 700 bags of cookies were given out and almost 400 raffle forms filled in! Fellowship Guild donated 6-\$20 vouchers to Jim's Foodmart to be raffled off to the students who signed up. It was a successful event with lots of participation, by both Volunteers and Students!

On Monday, September 11, Fellowship Guild members are invited to share breakfast together at the Suomi Restaurant/Houghton at 9:30 AM. Our purpose will be to gather ideas for the upcoming year's program but most importantly, it will be to catch up with each other! Mark your calendars and hopefully you can join us!

On Sunday, September 17 Fellowship Guild will be hosting an All-Church Potluck at the church. Following the potluck, Bobbie Dalquist will be presenting 'Tracing Roots in Norway & Sweden'; showing pictures and telling us about her venture taken this past spring. Everyone is welcome at this sure to be fascinating program and potluck!

September is looking to be a busy month – Fellowship Guild is offering two

opportunities for fellowship and we are looking forward to seeing You! Make a note on your calendar and hopefully you can join us!

### 'Tracing Roots in Norway & Sweden'

Potluck & Program  
September 17, 2023; following Worship  
Hosted by Fellowship Guild  
Presentation by Bobbie Dalquist



Everyone is welcome! Bring a dish to share;  
Students bring only your appetites!



What the heck is this? You will have to come to Bobbie's presentation to find out.

## Thank You

*Submitted by Christine Etter*

I just wanted to say thank you to the Fellowship Guild and everyone that came to the party/contributed to it. I feel so blessed to have so many wonderful friends within the congregation. I felt so loved and honored. Thank you again to everyone that helped create that special day for me!

### Fellowship Guild Breakfast



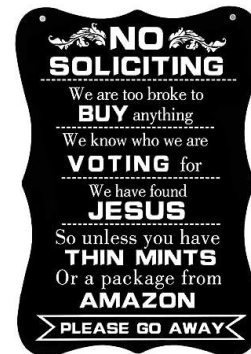
Monday, Sept. 11, 9:30 am  
Suomi Restaurant

## September Holidays

Everyone knows that the first Monday in September is Labor Day as we celebrate workers in America and say good bye to summer. On September 11<sup>th</sup> we remember and honor those lives lost in the attack on our country on Patriot's Day. However, there are many more holidays you may not know about, some of which can be fun to celebrate. Here is a partial list:

- 09/01 Cherry Popover Day
- 09/09 Teddy Bear Day
- 09/13 International Chocolate Day (**my favorite**)
- 09/16 National Sit With a Stranger Day
- 09/24 Bluebird of Happiness Day
- 09/27 National No Excuses Day,
- 09/30 National Love People Day

There are many more that can be found online. Some fun, some serious. Check it out and see if you can find anything you want to celebrate.



### September 2023

Volume 26, No 8; Published 11 times/year

#### **Portage Lake United Church**

United Church of Christ & Presbyterian  
Church (USA)

1400 E. Houghton Ave., Houghton, MI  
49931

Phone: (906) 482-5224

E-mail: [office@pluc.org](mailto:office@pluc.org)

Website: [www.pluc.org](http://www.pluc.org)

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**  
**1400 E. Houghton Ave.**  
**Houghton, MI 49931**

<b>September Volunteer Schedule</b>
-------------------------------------

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
09/03	Liz & Harold	Beth	Carl	Mary & Lois
09/10	Jon & Brian	Nancy	Lois	Lou Ellyn
09/17	Lois	Harold	Greg	Potluck
09/24	Judy	Ann	Terry	Libia, Judy



The Colors Will Be Here Before We Know It