



**PORTAGE
LAKE
UNITED
CHURCH**

PLUC

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

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October 2023

Consistory Highlights

Budget Committee Report: Bobbie Dalquist updated Consistory on the 2023 budget and presented the tentative 2024 budget.

The 2023 budget is close to breaking even (only a small deficit) at the end of August. With the donations received toward the cost of the roof, the Budget Committee was able to move \$10,000.00 back into the Vanguard account.

In looking at the tentative 2024 budget, the committee made very few changes to expenses. The amount of income will not be known until after the Stewardship Drive. The Budget Committee is anticipating a \$6,500.00 deficit for 2024.

Discussion of Reports:

Office Manager Report:

1. The Office Manager shared some baptismal records from the 1920s that she had received from the granddaughter of the Houghton Presbyterian Church pastor at the time.

Angel Mission:

1. Elder S. Middlemis-Brown reported that the winter clothing drive is currently taking place with the Coat Give Away to be held sometime in October.
2. Things are currently going smoothly at Angel Mission.
3. Barb Brookhouse and Lois Jambekar are now serving as liaisons to the Angel Mission board.

Building and Grounds:

1. Building and Grounds has received two bids for the cleaning of the church carpets. Consistory is going to seek congregational input into how to proceed with carpet cleaning.
2. There has been some concern with the number of non church users of the parking lot. Consistory approved the use of church funds, not to exceed \$150.00, to purchase more signage about parking in the church lot. Approved.
3. Pastor Peter and Elder G. Campbell will review what groups are using the church, how many people are served, and what donation have been received. This will be a yearly review of church use to provide a better picture of how this ministry is being met.

4. The Fall Church Clean Up will be held on October 21st.

Pastor's Report:

1. Elder A. Campell assisted Pastor Peter for the September communion. Elder B. Brookhouse will assist in October
2. Pastor Peter will be presenting two more Season of Creation messages.
3. Pastor Peter continues to work on a Prayer Chain which will be online. There are some glitches he is still trying to work out. There is also a need for more communication with the congregation about how the Prayer Chain will work.
4. Up to 10 students have been attending Sunday Service following a successful Afternoon on the Town. Nancy Byers Sprague is now the PLUC liaison to Campus Cooperative Ministries. PLUC will be participating in the MTU Faith Fair on October 4th from 12:00 Noon - 2:00 pm. Pastor Peter will be exploring interest among students for a Progressive Christian Group. We will also provide the main dish, spaghetti, for the Student Progressive Dinner to be held on October 8th.
5. Pastor Peter will be taking communion to our home bound members and friends on Communion Sunday (first Sunday of the month). If people are interested in helping with this ministry they should contact Pastor Peter.
6. Pastor Peter fixed the accordion doors between the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.
7. Pastor Peter attended the Fall Presbytery Meeting. After speaking with members of other congregations, he is feeling very positive about the vitality of our congregation.

Old Business

1. **Office Manager Leave Policy:** The discussion of the Office Manager Leave Policy was tabled.

New Business

1. **Congregational Meetings:** By unanimous consent the Fall meeting of the Congregation was set for October 29th with the Spring meeting to be held on February 11th.
2. PLUC will again partner with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for Advent services.
3. The Greening of the Church will take place on December 3rd.

Financial Report

<u>Received in September</u>	
Pledged	\$29141.00
Unpledged	\$790.94
Loose Plate	\$100.00

ANNOUNCING
Congregation/Corporation Meeting
Sunday, October 29
Immediately following worship
(this meeting will be held in person and on ZOOM)


Stewardship Drive Kick-Off

Submitted by Beth Smock, Financial Secretary

It's that time of year again when PLUC needs to start planning for next year.

The preliminary budget will be presented at the October meeting of the Congregation/ Corporation. Stewardship Drive letters will go out the week following this meeting (week of October 29th). Please prayerfully consider your pledge and return your pledge card as soon as possible.

If you do not receive a pledge card in the mail, ask Beth for one and she will gladly provide one to you. If you have given to PLUC in the past, but not done so as an official pledged giver, please consider making a pledge as this makes it easier for the Finance Committee to develop a final budget. Also, if you are not an "official" member, you can still make a pledge toward our 2024 budget.

Hopefully we can get the pledge cards back in two weeks so that the information can get to the Finance Committee for the finalization of the 2024 budget.

In Other News

Student Progressive Dinner

Submitted by Nancy Byers Sprague

The annual progressive dinner that is hosted by several area churches is back in full force this year.

DATE: Sunday October 8

TIME: 3:30 – 6:30pm - see progression schedule below

LOCATION: Partner Churches

INVITEES: Students and Members and Friends from PLUC and partner churches.

Please attend – no RSVP necessary and we

welcome all – students, members and friends!

Appetizers at St. Al's Catholic Church at 3:30
Salad at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 4:15
Main Dish at PLUC at 5:00
Dessert at Canterbury House at 5:45

What is needed from PLUC (Sign up sheet available Sunday Oct 1)

Volunteers to set up the room after service on Sunday October 8. We will be using regular plates and flatware.

2 Volunteers to bring 4 packages each of frozen garlic bread for a total of 8 packages. Please bring them to service on the 8th so they are available for the kitchen staff to bake before dinner.

1-2 Volunteers to be in the kitchen just before and during the event to heat the bread and help serve

2- 3 Volunteers to stay or return to PLUC after the event to wash dishes and restore the Fellowship Hall to its 'original' setting. The folks from Glad Tidings church will help with the clean-up. They will also provide milk and cider for the event.

A HUGE thank-you to Jon and Brian who will be making the pasta sauce (meat and marinara) AND the pasta (regular and gluten free)! So kind of them! btw Jon is FAMOUS for this meal which he and Brian have done for years to support the Copper Dog event! Thanks Jon and Brian for blessing us with your culinary talents!

Holiday Decorations Rummage Sale

Saturday, October 28, 2023
from 10 am to 2 pm
at Portage Lake United Church

How can you help?

Distribute posters to businesses that you frequent

Donate the week before the sale (by Oct.24):

Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and
Easter decorations

Gently used toys

Jewelry

Help the week of the sale -

Workbees:

Wednesday, October 25, 1:30 - 4:00

Friday, October 27, 1:30 - 4:00

Sale Day -October 28, see shifts on sign
up sheet

Tell your friends and let them know they can
donate to the sale

Questions: Contact Bobbie Dalquist,
rbdalqui@gmail.com

Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

The big story for September was the successful School Backpack Program lead by Lois Jambekar. She managed the program and filled 136 backpacks for students from pre-school to college at a cost of about \$1000. We thank Lois for her on-going dedication and fulfilling this daunting task!

The interior of the food pantry is getting a facelift. We had the roof replaced and the exterior wall fixed after a leakage problem last winter. Now the wallboard and baseboard are receiving attention, and the

large commercial kitchen hood will be removed. We intend to add a commercial sink and, eventually, to install flooring over the concrete.

The food pantry continues to be busy. Our old source of USDA food has been closed and our new source has not offered the foods that we need, causing us to purchase food from area grocery stores. We ask for assistance with both perishable and non-perishable donations from the community. Please talk to Lois, Barb, or Sherry if you wish to donate perishable food. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources donated fish taken during research, Incredible Bank donated fresh corn, and Calumet Electronics gave us a sizable cash donation. Thank you to all as we continue to feed about 200 people each month.

Our Winter Wear Giveaway is in mid-October and we are currently in our Winter Wear Drive. If you have gently used coats, snow pants, boots, waterproof gloves, or hats, please consider donating them as soon as possible. Donations can be placed in or on the collection bin at church. We will announce the dates for the giveaway as soon as we have them. We expect that church members will transport Tech students in need of winter wear to Calumet as well. Thank you from the Copper Country Angel Mission.

More About the Backpacks

Submitted by Lois Jambekar

The Copper Country Angel Mission really appreciates all the support you have given to their Backpack Program over the years. Members from the church have been very supportive of the Program by donating backpacks, school supplies and money since the program began about ten years ago. Over the past four years the program has gotten more elaborate and now the program gets lists from the schools of what school items

are recommended for each grade level. We tried to fill the backpacks as close to the guidelines as possible. This year we filled 136 backpacks for children ranging from preschool to college. The middle school and high school student's backpacks were quite full.

Also part of the program donation boxes were put in various businesses for donations of underwear and socks besides school supplies. When parents came to pick up their children's backpacks they got to pick up new underwear, socks, and some other new clothing for each child. Parents and children were happy and thankful for all that they received.

The next Angel Mission project is the Copper Country Coat Give Away which will be held sometime in October. They need coats, particularly men's coats; but they also need boots all sizes, gloves/mittens, and snow pants. If you have winter items that are in good condition that you don't wear anymore, you can bring them to church and put them in the two bins located in the church.

**'Tip of the Hat to Lots of Folks
Fellowship Guild**

submitted by Liz Evensen

Before reporting on Fellowship Guild's upcoming year, we need to thank a few people who exemplified what Fellowship Guild is about - Service!

On Sunday, September 17, Fellowship Guild hosted an All-Church potluck. It was an 'International' cuisine and something you didn't want to miss! Thanks to Everyone who contributed and to All who came! Following the luncheon, Bobbie Dalquist gave a presentation on a genealogy trip that she and Dan took last spring to Norway and Sweden. It introduced us to those countries and also to their families, many of whom Bobbie met for the first time!

Beautiful pictures and recollections of a once in a lifetime venture! Then, came the surprise – Clean-up became an all-church effort! In the kitchen, Jon Koskiniemi and Brian Hirvela did it all, from washing dishes to clearing the serving tables. In the dining room – everyone pitched in- Members, Friends and Students cleaned tables, put away tables and chairs and rearranged the room as it was found! The affair was done in less than 2 hours. Fellowship Guild thanks everyone for making this a delightful and all-inclusive event!

On September 11, ten Fellowship Guild members gathered at the Suomi Restaurant and, while sharing breakfast, planned the upcoming year programs. It was a lively meeting and very productive!

Announcements of Interest:

- Fall Clean Up on October 21 @ 10 AM. It was suggested that FG members come and 'freshen' up the kitchen that morning.
- Coffee Time and Kitchen Supplies. We were reminded that whoever provides refreshments at Coffee Time is also responsible for the juice. Coffee and tea are provided by the church. Barb Brookhouse checks the supplies and restocks the coffee, tea and cleaning supplies as needed. If anyone notices a shortage of those items, please let Barb or the office know.
- Fellowship Hall table arrangement. A new arrangement has been introduced and was discussed. Since the meeting, notices have been posted to remind groups using the room to return the table and chairs as they found them.
- Nancy Byers Sprague accepted the position of Campus Christian Ministries Liaison for PLUC. Lois Jambekar resigned from this post recently, after serving 10 years. Thanks to Lois for serving so faithfully and to Nancy for accepting this mission! Nancy announced the upcoming

student Progressive Dinner on October 8 and announced that Jon Koskiniemi has agreed to provide spaghetti sauce. Nancy questioned reimbursement and we suggested she ask Consistory/PLUC for financial support.

Fellowship Guild Programs for 2023-2024:

- October 28, 2023 – Holiday Rummage Sale. Please note this will happen a week earlier than usual. Bobbie Dalquist is the coordinator of this event!
- November – No meeting planned.
- December 11, 2023 – Christmas Gathering at Lou Ellyn Helman’s home. This potluck luncheon begins at 12:30 PM. Judy Albee has agreed to coordinate a Cookie Collection/Distribution.
- January 21, 2024 – All Church potluck.
- February 12, 2024 – Valentine’s Luncheon at the Bluffs. Judy Albee, Coordinator.
- March 31, 2024 – Easter Breakfast. Lois Jambekar, Coordinator
- April 15, 2024 – Service project. Coordinator TBD.
- May 13, 2024 – Breakfast at Griffin’s Café/Hancock. Lois Jambekar, Coordinator.
- June – Rummage Sale. Bobbie Dalquist, Coordinator.

Fellowship Guild gatherings are open to All Members & Friends of PLUC. If you have any questions, please refer to Judy Albee, Bobbie Dalquist, Lois Jambekar or the Church Office. We want and need everyone’s support!



Church Fall Clean Up
 Saturday, October 21
 10 am-12:30 pm
 All are welcome!

Holiday Bucks Are Back

Beth checked with Tadych’s Marketplace (formerly Econo Foods) and was told that Holiday Bucks will be back around the middle of October to be redeemable for ham or turkeys. PLUC will be collecting Holiday Bucks to be used to purchase these hams or turkeys for those served by Angle Mission.

If you are not going to be using these Holiday Bucks yourself, please bring them to church and place them in the collection box that will be on one of the coffee tables in the lounge. We will be collecting the Holiday Bucks until the middle of December.

October 2023
<p style="text-align: center;">Volume 26, No 9; Published 11 times/year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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 Website: www.pluc.org Pastor: Rev. Peter Norland Office Manager: Beth Smock</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Mon.- Tues, Thurs-Fri 1:30 pm Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Office Hours: 1:00 – 4:00 pm Thursday or by appointment</p>

**Portage Lake United Church
1400 E. Houghton Ave.
Houghton, MI 49931**

Return Service Requested

October Volunteer Schedule				
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
10/01	Beth	Christina	Jim	Biruta
10/08	Ann & Greg	Lou Ellyn	Barb	Barb & Jon
10/15	Nancy & Dianne	Dianne	Carl	TBD
10/22	Liz & Harold	Ann	Lois	TBD
10/29	Jan	Nancy	Terry	TBD