



**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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April 2024

Consistory Highlights

Due to illness the PLUC Consistory did not meet in March.

Financial Report

Received in March (thru 03/24)

Pledge	\$8,106.40
Unpledged	\$1,535.05
Loose Plate	\$0.00
Roof	\$1,300.00
Building Use	\$345.00

In Other News

Spring Cleaning?

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

Please set aside any gently used household items you no longer need for the church rummage sale, which will be held the first or second weekend in June.

Angel Mission

Submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Terry outfitted a mother of 6 children with bedding, kitchen essentials, personal hygiene products, and other supplies to settle in locally. Terry was every bit as happy to help this woman as the woman was to receive such a great help. Helping people like this is why we do the work.

The Presbytery of Mackinac will continue to support their mission through Angel Mission for another year. We are very appreciative of that financial support. We received \$1000.00 from an IRA donation. This is a great way for you to give and avoid taxes to both the church and to Angel Mission.

A small grant helped the food pantry to buy locally the items that they cannot purchase through the USDA Surplus Food program. A separate grant was for personal hygiene products. People often don't think of the need for personal hygiene products when donating to a food pantry, but those items are greatly needed and unavailable at discounted prices through the USDA. The food pantry served a few less people in February (61 orders, 160 people,

111 adults, 49 kids, 6 new, and 1 emergency pack), but February was a short month, and some clients may have been able to stretch funds to the end of the month.

Our next major renovation to our building is to replace siding and add an overhang for the ADA entrance. This is possible through generous contributions from our community. We hope not only to make the building weather tight, but also to enhance the appearance of the Historical District with our renovations.

Volunteers gave 353 ½ in the store in February, but our board members have not entered their hours, which should add about 100 hours to our total.

An Easter Story

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, “Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.”

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the Holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man’s mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, “You have seen Hell.

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy

man’s mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking. The holy Man said, “I don’t understand.” “It is simple,” said the Lord. “It requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves.”

“Remember this, when Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you.”

HAPPY EASTER, EVERYONE!

Time for a Deep Breath

This is a pretty short newsletter, but after a very long one last month, plus a busy first quarter of the year, we could use a break. Enjoy April and we will pick up our busy schedule again in May.

Volume 26, No 3; Published 11 times/year

Portage Lake United Church
United Church of Christ Presbyterian
Church (USA)

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Pastor Office Hours:

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

**Portage Lake United Church
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Houghton, MI 49931**

April Volunteer Schedule				
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
04/07	Nancy & Dianne	Ann	Lois	Lois
04/014	Lois	Christina	Jim	TBD
04/21	Greg & Ann	Lois	Barb	Barb & Jon
04/28	Judy	Beth	Greg	TBD