



**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 • www.pluc.org

May 2024

Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

Discussion of Reports:

Building Use: Handwashing signs have been placed in the restrooms and kitchen. Office Manager Smock has been working on obtaining updated Building Use forms from the groups currently using the building. Pastor Peter has posted the updated Building Use policy.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Peter stated that he appreciated working with Pastor Sarah from Good Shepherd on the Lenten services. He informed Consistory that only he and pianist Susie Byykkonen attended the Maundy Thursday service and no one came to the open church time on Good Friday. Consistory had a short discussion on how best to engage the congregation in these types of services. Pastor Peter informed Consistory that he has been increasing his time spent reaching out to member's unable to attend services, especially at the Bluff's. He also continues to meet with local pastors for a study group on Tuesday mornings.

Old Business

Clerk of Session: As no one has stepped forward to volunteer to serve as the PLUC Clerk of Session, Consistory developed a list of people to approach to see if they might be interested in the position.

Employee Leave Policy: As Elders S. Middlemis-Brown and R. Middlemis-Brown were unable to attend this meeting, the finalization of the Employee Leave Policy was tabled.

New Business:

Cooperative Campus Ministries: Elder D. Sprague reported that St. Al's Catholic Church has been funding the majority of the Cooperative Campus Ministries Activities. Consistory discussed what benefits PLUC students received from Campus Ministries and whether the PLUC donation to Campus Ministries should be increased. Consistory approved a motion to increase the PLUC donation to Campus Ministries from \$200.00 per year to \$400.00 per year.

Children’s Church Curriculum: A group including Pastor Peter, Barb Brookhouse, and others will be established to review and choose a new curriculum for Children’s Church. This curriculum will be presented to parents of children attending Children’s Church before finalization.

Helping Hands: Office Manager Smock presented a review of our Helping Hands program. At this point it is possible that Helping Hands is not sustainable in its current formation. Office Manager Smock asked Consistory for guidance in the continuation of the program. After discussing this concern, Consistory decided to “stay the course” of the current program but instructed Office Manager Smock to provide better communication with the congregation about what the program does, how it is funded, and the need for increased funding.

Per Capita Letter: Pastor Peter shared with Consistory concerns he has about asking the members of the congregation to contribute to the cost of our Per Capita given to each of our denominations. After a healthy discussion, Consistory decided to table the sending out of the per capita letters at this time.

Financial Report

Received in April

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Pledge | \$4,515.00 |
| Unpledged | \$1,111.92 |
| Loose Plate | \$20.00 |

Kitchen Items

A short reminder that kitchen items should be left in the kitchen. If you borrowed something or took it home to be washed, please return it ASAP. Thanks

In Other News

New Fellowship Guild By-laws

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

New Fellowship Guild By-laws have been submitted by the by-laws revision committee: Liz Evensen, Lou Ellyn Helman, Biruta Lowther, Lois Jambekar, Bobbie Dalquist, Judy Albee

The Fellowship Guild by-laws were written decades ago. We've updated the by-laws to reflect what the organization looks like now. Please take a look at what is being proposed. We will entertain additional changes and vote on them in a meeting in June (date to be determined). The by-laws are on a separate page of this newsletter.

June 8 Rummage Sale

submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

What has become an annual event, an early summer church rummage sale, is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please bring your rummage donations to the church by Tuesday morning June 4. We will be moving the donations into the back of the sanctuary after the church service on Sunday, June 2, so that's a great day to bring your items to the church. We'll sort, organize and price items in the back of the sanctuary on Tuesday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to noon. On Friday, June 7, we'll move items into the Fellowship Hall and finish our organizing and pricing. A volunteer sign up sheet is in the lounge.

Please let your friends and neighbors know that we are happy to accept their donations of gently used household items. No clothes please. Pass the word about the rummage sale. Part of the proceeds will support Angel Mission.

This is a Fellowship Guild event. Elsewhere in this newsletter, note the revised Fellowship Guild by-laws. There is no mention of gender. Originally, Fellowship Guild was a women's group. We have tried to plan events, including churchwide potlucks, that include everyone. That means we welcome everyone to help with the rummage sale.



Saturday, May 18th 10:00 am-12:30 pm

Copper Country Angel Mission

Submitted by Lois Jambekar

The Copper Country Angel Mission continues to be an Angel to many people in the area. This month they have given a \$100 gift card to a lady to travel downstate for cancer treatment and a \$25 gas card to someone to travel to Marquette for a doctor's appointment. They also helped a young mother who is expecting her first child by providing her with a pack-n-play and many other new baby supplies. In February the Dollar Bay School asked if we could provide snow pants for an elementary student and the Mission was happy to do that because they are interested in making connections to schools in the area. The food pantry helped 172 people in the month of March, 123 adults and 49 children. Six new people signed up to get food in March.

The CC Angel Mission board has been very busy planning for building improvements projects they hope to get done this spring and summer. They are contracting people: to put a sink in the

kitchen, to install electricity in the side room, getting heat into the workroom, and getting bids to have new siding put on the outside of their building.

The volunteer work force at the Mission is transitioning from winter items to spring and summer clothes and have put out prom dresses and dress shoes for the young people. Over the winter they have taken advantage of sales on winter items and purchased many new items that will be useful for their fall Coat Give Away.

Helping Hands

Submitted by Beth Smock

I have been asked to provide a little information about the PLUC Helping Hands mission. I ask for donations every month, but have learned not everyone knows about the program so here is a short history.

Helping Hands started way back under Pastor Phil. This was a small program so we were able to provide assistance for things like food, gas, medical bills, turning utilities back on, etc. However, as the program grew, we had to cut back on what we could do. The last few years we have given out \$50.00 food vouchers to Jim's Foodmart and \$50.00 vouchers to Dave's BP. The food vouchers cannot be used for things like pop, chips, alcohol, cigarettes, and lottery tickets. Gas vouchers can only be used for gas. Both vouchers are only good for one use. A person can receive either a food or gas voucher twice a year, with three months in-between requests.

The program continues to grow. Last year we gave out 52 vouchers.

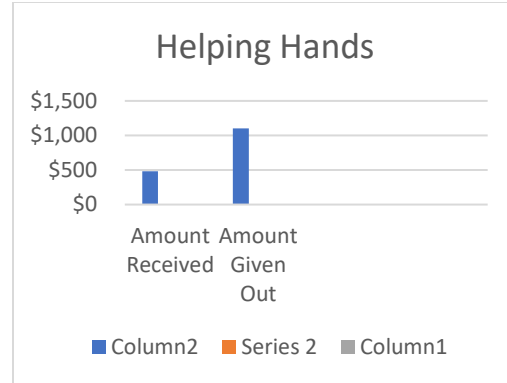
Below is some information about what we have done the first quarter of 2024. Through March we gave out 22 \$50.00 vouchers (worth \$1100.00).

Not everyone uses all \$50.00 but we did spend \$1,095.92 in the first three months of the year. A small amount of this was from vouchers which were given out in December but used in January. From this you can see how needed this program is.

Now for the not so good news. For the first three months of 2024 we have received \$450.00 in Helping Hands donations. You can see the difference between what is coming in and what is going out. We began 2024 with a balance of \$912.19. At the end of March our balance was \$336.27.

As you can see, at this rate we may run out of funds for this program in a few months. The gifts you have given in the past are greatly needed and appreciated. Please keep this program in your prayers and give what you can. Thank you.

For those of you who are more visible in your thinking, like me, here is a small chart to show the difference between what we have taken in and what we have given out.



UCC Vote for Climate Hope Art Contest

The UCC is conducting a Vote for Climate Hope Art Contest. UCC children and youth are invited to draw, paint, or color about the world and the environment in which they want to live. What are their hopes for the world? What is it that they value and want to have protected? What is it that adults should remember and take to heart when they vote this year? We'll accept art submissions from March 1 to April 16. An online award ceremony for finalists will be held on May 4, and the winning art will be featured on "Climate Hope Voter Pledge Cards" that church members throughout the UCC will collect during the summer and fall before Election Day. (The above taken from the UCC email regarding this contest.)

PLUC is excited that three of our students submitted art work for this contest. Below are the submissions from Easter and Ethan. If any art work from PLUC is chosen as finalist, we will keep you updated.



Mother's Day One Liners

1. Motherhood: Powered by love, fueled by coffee.
2. "Behind every great kid, is a mom thinking she's messing it all up!"
3. "Silence is golden...unless you're a mom, then it's suspicious."
4. "Being a mom means always having an audience when you go to the bathroom."
5. **"To the world, you're a mother. But to us, you're the world!"**

Children's Corner

Bible Pathway
Adventures

1 CORINTHIANS 13

WHAT IS LOVE?

Fill in the Blanks. Color the picture.

“ Love is _____ and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is _____ arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not _____ or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but _____ with the _____. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, _____ all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will _____ away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for _____, it will pass away. ”

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

©Bible Pathway Adventures 2018. For more free Bible resources including coloring pages, worksheets, quizzes and more visit our website at: www.biblepathwayadventures.com

May 2024

Volume 27, No 4; 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
Website: 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

| |
|-------------------------------|
| May Volunteer Schedule |
|-------------------------------|

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>Reader</u> | <u>Prayer Writer</u> | <u>Coffee Fellowship</u> | <u>Children's Church</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 05/05 | Jon & Brian | Lou Ellyn | Terry | Nancy & Dianne | Lois |
| 05/12 | Beth | Greg | Barb | TBD | Barb |
| 05/19 | Jan | Nancy | Lois | TBD | Olivia |
| 05/26 | Nancy & Dianne | Ann | Greg | TBD | Oliva |

Revision Draft/February 2024

BY – LAWS of
THE FELLOWSHIP GUILD
of PORTAGE LAKE UNITED CHURCH
(Presbyterian Church USA/United Church of Christ)

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this group shall be The Fellowship Guild of Portage Lake United Church of Houghton, Michigan.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The purpose of this group shall be to unite everyone in Portage Lake United Church in a Christian Fellowship while cultivating the spirit of Christ through service, study and mutual support.

ARTICLE III FUNCTION

The work of Fellowship Guild is overseen by the Portage Lake United Church Consistory, though it functions independently. It has its own Facilitators, Treasurer and Budget. Fellowship Guild is available throughout the year to assist with whatever needs arise within the church.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Fellowship Guild consists of those who accept the purpose of this organization and who contribute through service, gifts or prayer.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE BOARD

An Executive Board manages the operations of Fellowship Guild. The Board consists of at least five (volunteer) Facilitators and an appointed Treasurer. Each year, in June, the Nominating Committee will recommend a minimum of 5 (no more than 10) Facilitators and a Treasurer to the Members of Fellowship Guild for their approval. The Facilitators and Appointees will serve one-year terms and can be re-elected each year for as long as they desire.

Duties:

- Each year, the Executive Board appoints a Facilitator to be the Contact Person. The Contact Person will initiate any business that needs to be conducted and answer inquiries regarding the functions of Fellowship Guild.
- The Executive Board appoints a Facilitator to keep a record of meetings and activities.
- The Executive Board facilitates the work of Fellowship Guild.
- The Executive Board prepares an Annual Budget to be approved by the membership. See Article X.

- The Executive Board meets twice a year to prepare a Calendar of Events/Programs for the upcoming year.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS/GATHERINGS

Gatherings are generally held monthly: September through June. The gatherings focus on Service, Fellowship and Fiscal matters.

ARTICLE VII QUORUM

The quorum for business shall be 15% of its membership.

ARTICLE VIII NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is made up of the standing Executive Board members.

ARTICLE IX AFFILIATION

Denominational: This organization is unlikely to have relationships with the United Presbyterian Women and the Women's Fellowship of the United Church of Christ because they no longer exist. However, if they are restored, Fellowship Guild will support both groups in membership and financially.

ARTICLE X FINANCE

- Each year, a budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer and the standing Executive Board and presented to the membership in December for adoption.
- Monies of the organization are to be disbursed in the manner designated by the approved budget, or as amended by the membership.
- If there is distribution of monies to the respective denominations, it shall be distributed in equal amounts.
- There shall be an annual audit of the Treasurer's books.

ARTICLE XI DEPOSITION

- The Treasurer shall keep copies of the current By-Laws and Amendments of this organization along with its official records.
- A current copy of the same shall also be on file in the church office.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Fellowship Guild by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, providing there is a quorum. Notice of such an amendment shall be given at the previous regular meeting.

ARTICLE XIII PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

It is suggested that Robert's Rules of Order govern all business meetings of this organization.