



**PORTAGE
LAKE
UNITED
CHURCH**

PLUC

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

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June 2024

Consistory Highlights

Discussion of Reports:

Conversation with Presbytery: Elder S. Middlemis-Brown reported on a conversation she had with Caron Christopher of the Presbytery of Mackinac. It appears that PLUC has not informed the Presbytery that Elder S. Middlemis-Brown is the Commissioner. This has been corrected. The Presbytery meeting scheduled for September 21, 2024 has been moved from Presbytery Point to Petosky, MI. Elder S. Middlemis-Brown is not sure she will be able to attend. It is hoped that a video about Angel Mission can be presented to the Presbytery at this meeting. Elder S. Middlemis-Brown will explore finding someone to help develop this video. Consistory has asked the question: What is the Presbytery expectation of PLUC and what is the expectation of PLUC of Presbytery?

Discussion of Reports:

Office Manager/Financial

Secretary: Office Manager Smock found an envelop on the entryway bench. Inside was \$480.00 in \$20.00 bills for Helping Hands. This gift is anonymous. Office Manager Smock also reported that all Building Use Forms from those groups regularly using our building have been received.

Building Use: The annual spring clean up of the church took place on Saturday, May 18th.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Peter shared that he is looking to summer to possibly try some new things during Worship. If people have ideas to make Church "fun," he asked that those ideas be shared with him.

Communion: Elder A. Campbell assisted with communion in May. Elder A Campbell will again assist in serving communion in June.

Old Business

Employee Leave Policy: Elder R. Middlemis-Brown moved (second by Elder B. Brookhouse) to approve the Employee Leave Policy. Approved.

Consistory Re-organization: Discussions are still being held with a couple of people about serving as the Clerk of Session but no final decision has been made. Elder S. Middlemis-Brown will present information about the Clerk position to the Congregation on Sunday, May 26, 2024. Departing Elder G. Campbell is willing to continue to serve as the Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee until snow removal begins in the fall. Departing Elder B. Brookhouse is moving away from the area and has served as Chair for the Personnel and Nominating Committees. Replacement of those committee chairs was tabled until after Consistory considers a possible new Committee structure.

New Business:

Consistory Meeting Time: With the transition of Consistory members, the meeting time was discussed. It was decided that the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm continues to be a good meeting time. The summer schedule will be:

June: Planning meeting at the home of Pastor Peter

July: Tentatively no meeting planned

August: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Following the end of the meeting Consistory shared cake to say good-bye to departing Elders G. Campbell and B. Brookhouse and

hello to incoming Elders T. Monson and A. Eckhart.

Financial Report

Received in May 2024

Pledge	\$5,715.00
Unpledged	\$1,221.92
Loose Plate	\$0.00
Roof	\$210.00

PLUC Clerk of The Session (The Consistory)

Portage Lake United Church continues to look for someone to serve as the Clerk of Session. “The Session” is the usual name in the Presbyterian tradition for what our congregation traditionally calls the “the Consistory.” The Clerk is an important, essential and constitutionally required member of the church leadership. The Clerk works with the Pastor to ensure the efficient operation of the church, and with the Office Manager with respect to maintaining records. The Clerk must be an elder of the congregation, but does not have to be actively seated on the Consistory. Some of the duties of the Clerk are listed below.

Duties that are in cooperation with the PLUC Office Manager include:

- recording the minutes of the consistory, congregation and corporation meetings
- keeping rolls of membership and attendance of the consistory
- preserving the records of the session, congregation and corporation
- providing extracts to other governing bodies when required

Other duties include:

- Once each year, the minutes are to be submitted to the Presbytery for their

review. This requires a trip, usually to Marquette, to meet with other Clerks to conduct this review.

- Each year the Presbytery requires us to send in a statistical report. While all of the duties listed above are for the Presbytery only, the UCC also has an annual statistical report. These reports are found online and can be done at the same time.

Terry Monson has served as Clerk for the last several years and has stated that he will be glad to work with the new Clerk as they learn their responsibilities. The Office Manager also works closely with the Clerk and is available for assistance.

If you are interested in serving as the PLUC please speak with the Pastor or member of Consistory.

Godspeed and Farewell Potluck for Barb and Jon Brookhouse

Submitted by Lois Jambekar

A special Godspeed and Farewell Potluck meal was held at the church on Sunday, May 26 right after the church service in honor and thanks for Barb and Jon Brookhouse who are moving downstate the end of May to be near family. In the church service Pastor Norland had a short blessing ceremony for them which included all the members putting their hands on the couple to give them strength and support in their move. Since it was a special potluck in Jon and Barb's honor the fellowship hall was set up with white lace tablecloths on the tables and vases of spring flowers on each table. Thirty five people participated in the potluck and enjoyed the delicious food. A special cake was served for the dessert. During the potluck Barb was recognized for her long service of volunteer work at the Copper Country Angel Mission since 2005, and she received a certificate of thanks and a small

gift from the Copper Country Angel Mission Board.

Barb and Jon have been long time active members of the church for 30+ years. Barb has served many terms on the church consistory and has had many leadership roles in the church. Jon has willingly helped on many projects and jobs that needed to be done at church, and he made the ceramic baptismal bowl and pitcher for the church. They will be greatly missed by all the people who know them.

The new home for Barb and Jon will be in Shelby Township which is located in the Detroit area. They will be sharing a three bedroom place with their son Todd and living only ten minutes away from where their six year old granddaughter Eloise lives. Their new address is:
51713 West End Dr. Apt. 2, Shelby Township, MI 48315.

Thank You !

Jon and I wish to thank everyone for the wonderful potluck send off we enjoyed on Sunday. Thank you also for the kind words and hugs we received both in person and on cards. We have been blessed to be part of such an outstanding and loving church family. We will miss you.

Rummage Sale

Unfortunately, the Fellowship Guild All Family Rummage Sale usually held in June has been cancelled.

Please watch for information on the Holiday Sale which will be held at the end of October/beginning of November.

Angel Mission

Submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

All of us at Copper Country Angel Mission will sorely miss our long-time sister in mission, Barb Brookhouse. Barb has been a volunteer at New Beginnings Angel Mission since 2005 and stayed with us as we converted to Copper Country Angel Mission. She remained a constant at the store, volunteering two days each week, despite several changes of managers.

Everyone at the store, volunteers and customers, will miss Barb's kind helpfulness. She worked hard but always had a moment to assist a customer or client with a question or fill a special need. The Board of Directors appreciated her willingness to act as a liaison during our meetings, informing us of special needs in the store and taking our decisions back to the volunteers.

Barb shared examples of why working at Angel Mission was important to her, times when a customer was thrilled that they could take a much-needed item without paying for it, times when a child found a book or a toy and was thrilled to take it home. She once told me that the look of surprise and gratitude in people's faces made the hard work worth it.

We hope that Barb finds a similar outlet for her energy and willingness to help those in need in her new community. We know that any organization she chooses to join will be blessed by her presence.

Employee Leave Policy

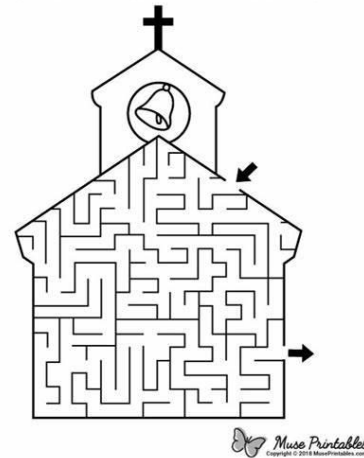
Submitted by Beth Smock

At the last Consistory meeting, a new Employee Leave policy was approved. This policy actually only effects the Office Manager and mostly clarifies vacation and sick time. However, it also makes some changes in office holiday hours. The office will now be closed on State holidays. The

next state holiday will be June 19, 2024 which is Juneteenth. Other days the office is closed for holidays will be announced at church and through the weekly email.

Children's Corner

Church Maze



June's Funny

This month's funny is provided by Ethan Chong.

Why didn't the bicycle cross the road?
It was two tired.

June 2024

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United Church of Christ Presbyterian Church (USA)
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49931

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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 Thur. or by appointment

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June Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
06/02	Judy	Christina	Carl	Biruta & Sangja
06/09	Ann	Beth	Terry	Bobbie
06/16	Beth	Dianne	Jim	TBD
06/23	Liz & Harold	Lou Ellyn	Lois	Mary, Lois
06/30	Nancy & Dianne	Harold	Terry	TBD

