



**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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July 2024

Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

Consistory met in June for their annual planning meeting so there are no minutes at this time. Stay tuned as they begin to implement some of their ideas.

Financial Report

Received in June (thru 06/24)

Pledge	\$2407.50
Unpledged	\$1766.92
Loose Plate	\$20.00
Roof	\$510.00

In Other News

A Life Well Lived

On June 3, 2024 Jorma Kalliokoski passed away after a wonderful life spanning 100 years. Jo, with his wife Saara, moved to Houghton in 1968 as a Professor and Head of the Department of Geology and Geological Engineering. He was a beloved

member of Portage Lake United Church. He was also very active in the Houghton Community through various clubs and professional societies. He especially enjoyed dancing at the Eagles Club in South Range.

A Memorial Service will be held for Jo on Saturday, June 29th with internment at Forest Hill Cemetery.

A more complete tribute to the life of Jo Kalliokoski will be shared in the August PLUC newsletter. If you have something to share, a favorite story or memory about Jo, please get it to Beth by July 19th.

Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Our numbers for May indicate a *slight* downturn in the requests for food pantry assistance, but the numbers are still high. We have spent the \$2500 food pantry grant from Copper Shores CHF and are more than halfway through the budgeted amount for this year! Donations of food and \$\$\$ are appreciated to meet the needs of our community. We have also had an uptick in the need for shut-off prevention and medical

transportation assistance.

We are in the final stages of setting up the siding project for our building. As you may have noticed, our building isn't entirely weather-tight with rotted siding on the north side and back. The front is a bit wonky looking too. We hope to improve curb-appeal in the Historic District as well as weather tightness. We couldn't accomplish this without the generous donations from the Copper Shores CHF sponsored #GivingTuesday event in November 2023. Keep us in mind for #GivingTuesday 2024!

We completed the installation of a commercial utility sink in the food pantry with volunteer assistance and our licensed electrician added electricity to a room without lights. We don't cut back on our services to meet these structural needs, but rather, use donations and grants given for this purpose. We still have a lot of work to do, but we are slowly moving forward as funds permit.

Come visit, do some shopping, recycle gently used items, and give a donation to represent the value of what you take. Your shopping helps to keep us moving forward in our mission to assist those in need with kindness and dignity.

Children's Corner

Here is a fun craft project to help children learn the beatitudes.

Materials needed:

- Various colors of construction paper
- Scissors
- Large paper plates
- Stick glue
- Markers

The 8 Beatitudes of Jesus's Sermon on the

Mount

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit
2. Blessed are they who mourn
3. Blessed are the meek
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness
5. Blessed are the merciful
6. Blessed are the pure of heart
7. Blessed are the peacemakers
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness

Craft Preparation

Cut the various colored pieces of construction paper in half.

Have eight halves for each child.

Craft Instructions

Have the children follow these steps:

1. Trace their hand on all eight half-sheets and cut them out.
2. On the plate, write "BLESSED ARE" in the center
3. On the hands write out the eight Beatitudes.
4. Glue the hands facing outward to the paper plate, starting at the ridges or rim, so

that the fingers dangle outward over the rim. To get them evenly spaced, first glue one at noon, one at 3:00, one at 6:00, one at 9:00. Fill in the other four evenly in between.

Encourage them to hang the wreath in their rooms where it can help them memorize the Beatitudes!

July Funny

Okay, I got a lot of extra space this month so here are some really bad Independence Day jokes. NOTE: If you send me more articles you won't have to read stuff like this?

What did one flag say to the other? Nothing, it just waved!

Was the Declaration of Independence written in Philadelphia? No, it was written in ink!

Where did George Washington keep his armies? In his sleeves.

What do ducks love about the Fourth of July? Firequackers.

How do Americans spend their Fourth of July weekend? Getting stuck in traffic.

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(USA)

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General Office Hours:

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Mon.- Fri

Pastor Office Hours:

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

July Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
07/07	Jon & Brian	Lois	Carl	Biruta & Sangja
07/14	Judy	Nancy	Jim	Bobbie
07/21	Lois	Ann	Lois	Judy & Louisa
07/28	Liz & Harold	Beth	Pastor Peter	TBD

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07/02	Lou Ellyn	Christina	Greg	Christina & Amos
07/09	Liz & Harold	Nancy	Lois	Jon & Brian
07/16	Judy	Ann	Jim	Potluck
07/23	Lois	Harold	Carl	Bobby & Biruta
07/30	Barb & Jon	Dianne	Barb	Lois & Mary