



**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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August 2024

Financial Report

Received in July

Pledge	\$2,87500
Unpledged	\$1,181.92
Loose Plate	\$60.00

Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

July has been a busy month with a lot of unexpected work accomplished. There were many, many clothing and household donations that swamped the sorters in the free store. In addition, we had a group of high-school-age campers from Camp Luther in Three Lakes, Wisconsin, near Eagle River, come and do some very heavy lifting for us, figuratively and literally! The upstairs of our building had totes and boxes in rows and piles without any organization. We also had about 20 beds and 30 walkers and other medical assistance equipment filling two large rooms. Now, the beds are at the ReStore and the medical equipment is at St. Vincent's in Hancock. The totes are neatly stacked with each program in a separate room. The assembly area for the School Backpack Program is ready for school supplies. We could not have done it

without the campers doing the physical work. Thank you, Camp Luther. The campers will spend their final workday filling backpacks on August 6.

Speaking of school supplies, it is that time again! Please, donate school supplies and backpacks by dropping them at church, at Angel Mission, or at one of the stores with our collection boxes. We welcome monetary donations, as we usually need to purchase calculators and geometry kits for middle school students, and hygiene products for high schoolers. Lois Jambekar is leading the program and can give you suggestions about what she needs most. Please help her out with your donations! Thanks.

2024 Leap Year Mission Gift Challenge from the Presbytery of Mackinac

Submitted by Sherri Middlemis-Brown

Back in March, a letter went to the Clerks of Session (our Consistory) about the Leap Year Mission Gift Challenge. Our Presbytery has cut the Mission budget by \$17,000 because of the lack of giving to Mission. Our Per Capita payment does not cover Mission. The Presbytery hopes to receive 366 gifts to the Mission fund of up to \$366 each to fill the budget gap. As a

reminder, the Presbytery gives \$12,000 each year to Copper Country Angel Mission through our church.

With 39 churches in the Presbytery and most of them much smaller than ours, this is indeed a challenge. To date, the Presbytery has received 11 gifts or 3% of their goal. These gifts, currently totaling close to \$3,800, are from individuals and churches. Individuals can give directly, noting "Leap Year Mission Gift Challenge" in the check memo, and sending it to:

Mackinac Presbytery
P.O. Box 674
Petoskey, MI 49770

Your gift helps to support missions in the future, including Angel Mission.

**Copper Country Angel Mission
Backpack, School Supplies Drive**

submitted by Lois Jambekar

The Copper Country Angel Mission is sponsoring a Backpack program for students in the area. Last year they gave out approximately 136 backpacks filled with school supplies for children in the area ages pre-school into college. The Angel Mission is in need of the following school items to help with this project: Backpacks, one and three subject notebooks, packs of notebook paper, theme book notebooks, pocket folders, large and small Crayola brand markers, blue and red pens, pink erasers, school glue, glue sticks, scissors for older elementary students, rulers, and subject dividers, colored pencils, pencil pouches, scientific calculators, geometry sets, Kleenex boxes, tooth brush, and little tooth paste. Any donation of these items or cash donations to help purchase these items would be much appreciated.

Donated school items can be brought to the Copper Country Angel Mission located

at: 433 Fifth Street in Calumet, Michigan or in Houghton can be brought to Portage Lake United Church located at 1400 East Houghton Avenue and put in a container located under the coat rack in the lobby.

**Celebrating the Life of Jorma
Kalliokoski**

Submitted by Lou Ellyn Helman

On June 29th, about seventy-five family members and friends gathered at Portage Lake United Church to celebrate and witness the resurrection of Jorma "Joe" Kalliokoski. Joe truly was a great father, grandfather, uncle and a wonderful friend to many, many people. The service, consisting of Pastor Peter's sermon, hymns, and two remembrances by John Romano and Jerry Harrow, was a beautiful tribute to Joe. A dear friend of Joe's, Donna Ruohonen, sang two verses of "How Great Thou Art" in Finnish with the congregation joining in for a couple stanzas in English. The final song was "Finlandia - This is My Song." Joe would have been so pleased.

Following the service, members of Fellowship Guild had arranged for a beautiful reception. Lace table clothes and fresh flowers decorated each table but the highlight was the round table with a sign saying "Joe's Favorite Foods." Family members had contributed to Fellowship Guild members already plentiful assortment, bringing platters of wonderful Finnish cookies and goodies, candies, and fruit. It truly was a reception fit for a king - and for Joe!!!

We all miss his wonderful smile. How fitting that so many, many old friends and family were gathered to celebrate his 100-year long life.

Thank you, Joe, for bringing us all together!!!

PLUC Welcomes Students

Submitted by Ann Campbell

On Saturday, August 24 our Fellowship Guild will have a table for the MTU Afternoon on the Town event. We will staff a table on our church lawn, across from the administration building, from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm.

The Fellowship Guild is donating five \$20 gift cards from Jim's FoodMart to be raffled off to interested students. We will also have cards with worship information for pickup.

Those interested in helping with the event are asked to contribute wrapped individual candies. We'll have a big "Trick or Treat" style bowl for students to take a couple if they wish. We'll also have a bowl of paper stickers and one of vinyl water bottle stickers.

Donations may be left at the church office.

Building and Grounds

submitted by Greg Campbell

June and July have been busy months for the Building and Grounds Committee. We are grateful for the generous donations of time, talent and treasure that keep our building looking good and functioning properly.

Al Eckhart updated the exterior fascia on the two fire exits. They are now sheathed in durable aluminum, so they will look good and be maintenance - free for many years to come. Thanks, Al!

Harold Evensen returned from his winter away and got our exterior windows washed. Thanks, Harold.

Pastor Peter and Greg Campbell worked to reorganize the sanctuary furniture, returning the lectern to its "original" place on the altar as well as creating a safer path for the readers. This update will include a handrail on each end of the altar (donated by members), and a new microphone for the

lectern that is easier to use. The goal is to make it as safe and simple as possible for readers to participate in worship services. Readers are asked to use the steps and handrail on the LEFT side of the altar area (near the piano), as this is the shortest path to the lectern.

Jim, Peter, and Greg are working together to replace the loudspeakers in the Sanctuary so people can hear better. The equipment is ready to install — we have been waiting for contractors since Easter! We are hopeful that this phase of the project will be completed by the end of July. **(Editors's note: Mission Accomplished.)**

Jim Northey and Peter continue to work toward updating the video streaming system, with a goal of completing this project by September. The projector will be replaced with a large wall-mounted video display, and the current "small" display used for Zoom participants will also be mounted on the South wall. We want to improve the aesthetics of our worship space and remove distractions as much as possible.

Many thanks to the Building and Grounds Committee : Al, Jim, Harold, Peter, and Greg. Many hands make light work!

Fellowship Guild Summer Planning-Breakfast at Kangas Cafe

submitted by Liz Evensen

What started out as a social Fellowship Guild Breakfast Gathering turned into a very productive business meeting! Ten members came together and, as always, a lot was accomplished when all was done!

Highlights:

□ By Laws: Bobbie Dalquist distributed a draft of the revised By Laws. The current By Laws were adopted in 1978, with amendments in 1984 & 1987. It was time for an update! The By Laws now reflect what Fellowship Guild 'is and does' today! We are no longer a group of 75 'Women only'

but instead a group of around 50 PLUC Members. We made adjustments in how things are done but we continue meeting the same objectives. The restructured By Laws were unanimously adopted, with thanks to the By Law committee members.

☐ Pledges: A few pledges are yet to be paid; when they are received the total amount raised will be slightly under last years total.

☐ The Holiday Rummage Sale: will happen on November 2 and, for the first time, we will have a Winter Carnival Rummage Sale on February 8. Bobbie Dalquist has agreed (Yea!) to Chair both these events and she will be reaching out for support as the dates draw near.

☐ Kitchen/Nursery Clean-up: August 20 from 10 AM – Noon! Everyone is invited!

☐ Stocking the Kitchen: Liz Evensen (Jun-Oct) & Ann Campbell (Nov-May) will be checking the kitchen supplies and replenishing as needed. The church pays for the supplies that support Sunday Coffee Hour.

☐ Afternoon on the Town: Ann Campbell is coordinating this event. Following discussion, it was decided to make a few changes this year. Instead of giving raffle tickets for ‘Vouchers’ we hope to give Five \$20 ‘Gift Certificates’ to Jim’s Foodmart. Also, instead of giving homemade cookies we will give away ‘candy’. This is a fun event and while we are trying to please the students, we are also encouraging them to come and meet us!

☐ Thanks to Bobbie Dalquist for her recent donations to the church: Drip Pans for the stove and a Microwave to replace the current countertop microwave. The kitchen looks ‘brighter’!

☐ FYI: Visiting Shut-ins – Contact Judy Albee if interested. Angel Mission Backpack Project – Contact Lois Jambekar if you can help.

☐ Dates & Events to Remember:

August 20; 10 AM-Noon Kitchen/Nursery Clean Up.

August 24; 11 AM-2 PM Afternoon on the Town @ PLUC.

September 3; 10 AM Fellowship Guild Gathering. Site TBA

November 2 Holiday Rummage Sale.

February 8, 2025 Winter Carnival Rummage Sale.

Helping Hands Update

submitted by Beth Smock

I have been asked to give periodic updates on the PLUC Helping Hands program. At this time 2024 seems to be following the same pattern as 2023. We had many requests the first quarter of the year. Then in May and June things slowed down with only one request in May and two in June. In July, we received 4 requests in one week, plus a 5th request a week later and a 6th request from someone who had already used up their eligibility for 2024..

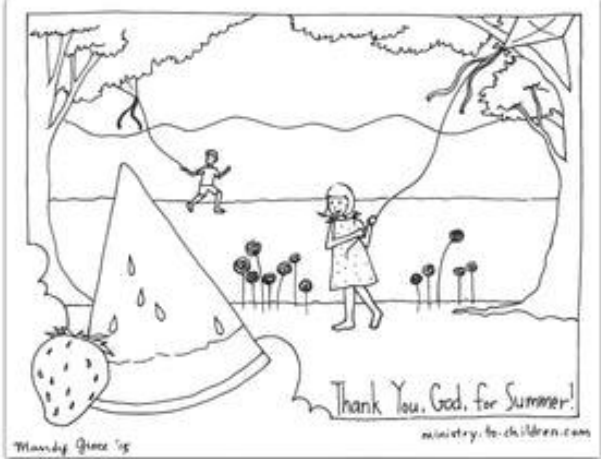
Through July we have given out 12 food vouchers (13 in 2023) and 21 gas vouchers (22 in 2023) for a possible total of \$1,650.00. We might not have spent quite that much as not everyone uses their entire available \$50.00. We have received \$1,639.00 in donations so are currently meeting our need.

Thank you to all who help with this important mission of Portage Lake United Church. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

Is It Too Hot to Laugh?

“I’ve been waiting all winter to start complaining about the summer heat.”

“It’s a sure sign of summer if the chair gets up when you do.” – Walter Winchell



Children’s Summer Coloring Activity



August 2024

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Pastor: Rev. Peter Norland
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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



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

August Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
08/04	Beth	Christina	Carl	Lois & Mary
08/11	Nancy & Dianne	Beth	TBD	Biruta & Sangja
08/28	Ann	Harold	Lois	TBD
08/25	Liz & Harold	Dianne	Peter	TBD

