



**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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September 2024

Consistory Highlights

Fellowship Guild Updates: Liz Evensen presented the following updates from the Fellowship Guild:

1. A Thank you for the good response to the indoor clean up.
2. A Thank you for the new handrail to make it easier to get up the steps to the podiums
3. An update of the Fellowship Guild by-laws:
 - a. Update to be enacted as of 09/03/2024
 - b. All are welcome as members - not just women
 - c. Consistory oversees Fellowship Guild
 - d. By-laws have been streamlined to represent current practices.

Consistory approved the updated Fellowship Guild By-laws.

Elder A. Eckhart proposed that the Fellowship Guild By-laws be addressed in the church By-laws. Elder A. Eckhart and Pastor Norland will work on an addendum.

Discussion of Reports:

Angel Mission: Elder S. Middlemis-Brown reported that Angel Mission is helping many homes to deal with utilities shut-offs (up to \$200.00). They are also guiding people to get state help. The Food Pantry is very active. The Angel Mission building is being re-sided.

Building Use: Building improvements include new facia and a new handrail to help people get up the steps to the speaker podiums. The cleaning of the carpets was discussed, especially the Fellowship Hall. Hiring students to do this was discussed. Elder A. Campbell will check with the National Honor Society about possible “volunteers.” Other possible volunteer opportunities could come from the MTU Student Leadership and Involvement office. Elder A. Eckhart will look into the cost for Rug Doctor equipment.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Peter’s parents have requested a transfer of their membership to Portage Lake United Church. The letters that have been exchanged between the two churches amount to a transfer. Consistory approved the acceptance of John and Linda Norland as members of Portage Lake United Church. Pastor Peter will be on vacation September 29, 2024 through October 6, 2024. Help

with coverage for those two Sundays will be needed.

Plans for new AV equipment was shared. Consistory approved pursuit of funding for the new AV plan, checking into Memorial Funds for possible ways to fund the project.

Consistory discussed pursuing ideas for new PLUC signage. Members will look online for ideas.

New Business:

Annual Presbytery Record Review: Elder T. Monson will check for the date of the September Presbytery review of the PLUC records. He believes he might be able to deliver the clerk books. He stated that Office Manager Smock does a good job of putting things together for the clerk.

The All Church Picnic will be held at the home of Bobbie and Dan Dalquist after worship on September 15, 2024. (**Moved to September 22nd due to conflict with A Taste of Faith.**)

Financial Report

Received in August

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| Pledge | \$3,482.50 |
| Unpledged | \$1,192.92 |
| Loose Plate | \$60.00 |

In Other News

Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Lois had 166 students registered to receive a school backpack filled with supplies as of Aug 20. She is one busy lady. We all appreciate the support that church members have given to Lois and this program.

With the high costs of everything right now, we are seeing a need for help with utilities and eviction prevention. We are now paying four assistance requests a month, limit of \$200 each and only one assistance in six months. We used to average one request a month. This is stretching us a little thin. Of course, the food pantry has also seen an increase in need over the last few months too. We hope that the guidance on what is needed by the food pantry has been helpful to church members.

We have begun phase one of a two phase project to complete making our building weather tight. We are replacing siding on the front and north side that are most visible from the street. We are complying with the Village of Calumet's Historical District Commission, which dictates the type of external covering we can use. This compliance has increased our costs, but it will be longer lasting than the most inexpensive siding. We won't be able to afford to install siding on the rear and south side of the building until 2025.

In July, the store workers contributed 324½ hours of time and the board contributed about 50 additional hours. The volunteer hours will go up for August and September with the many hours that Lois puts into the School Backpack Program.

Breaking News: We were faced with dipping deep into our building fund to pay for new siding on two sides of our building. The final payment was going to drop our balance below that which earns interest. That was sad, but necessary. Then along comes a very generous person with an IRA distribution check that plumped up our account and will keep our balance above the minimum to earn interest. Plus, that is a great gift to help cover siding the rest of the building next year. This is one of those "Just-in-time" events that are so common at Angel Mission.

Copper Country Angel Mission School Backpack Program

Submitted by Lois Jambekar

The Copper Country Angel Mission School Backpack Program grew by leaps and bounds this year. There was added publicity about the program in the community, and the community responded with overwhelming support. Dollar Bay School System helped us spread the word about the program by putting an email registration form on their school website, and 60 students signed up for backpacks that way. At this point 81 families have signed up for 189 students to receive backpacks. We were fortunate to have the help of 15 teenagers from a Lutheran camp group from Wisconsin come to help put together 90 of the backpacks. This past Saturday, August 24, families of the children were invited to come to the Angel Mission to pick the backpacks for their children and then be able to select new socks, underwear, and shoes for their children.

I especially want to thank the members of our church who made monetary donations and also school supply donations for the program. Our church has been very supportive of the School Backpack Program since it began ten + years ago.

Church Picnic

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

You're invited to a picnic, rain or shine, at the home of Bobbie and Dan Dalquist after church on Sunday, September 22.



Address: 44564 US-41,
Chassell, MI 49916

5 miles south of Houghton. When you get to the red Sew Crazy sign, start to slow down. It's a dark grey house on the left.

Bring a dish to share.

Back to Work.....Fellowship Guild

Submitted by Liz Evensen

Another UP summer is quickly disappearing and I'm noticing color changes in the trees and crispness in the air...though never ready for Fall, I enjoy it immensely! In a college community, we also notice an influx of students, reminding us it's time to activate!

We got off to a good start on Tuesday, August 20 when a group of FG members gathered to 'Clean the Kitchen and Nursery'! Eight Adults and two Children participated and a 'Tip of the Hat to each of you: Judy, Bobbie, Mary, Liz, Lois, Sangha, Biruta, Sze-Wenn, Easter & Ethan. Fall cleaning is invigorating and these rooms look refreshed!

Next on Fellowship Guild's calendar is a gathering being planned for Tuesday, September 3 at 1:30 PM at the Bluffs. Judy Albee has reserved a patio for us to enjoy lots of 'social' along with light refreshments! This gathering will also kick-off the 2024-2025 program year and we'll be including a business meeting. We'll make it as brief as possible, but do bring your 'thinking caps' and help us plan for the upcoming year!

Another note of thanks goes out to Ann Campbell and all her 'Assistants' for hosting the Afternoon on the Town event! A great way to introduce PLUC to the college students!

Fellowship Guild is looking forward to another notable year! Be sure to join us at the Bluffs on Tuesday, September 3 at 1:30 PM – it's time to catch up with each other!

Need a hand?.....Railing installed in Sanctuary!

Submitted by Liz Evensen

Recognizing a ‘safety’ feature was missing from the Sanctuary, Consistory approved and Building Grounds implemented the installation of a Hand Railing! It was installed on the left side wall leading up to the altar platform! Many options were considered but the simplest (a hand rail) seems the most efficient. It blends in with the surroundings, is sturdy and easy to use.

Having the railing available will hopefully enable more members/friends to participate in Sunday Worship, etc. Please talk with Pastor Peter if you are interested in becoming more involved!

‘Tip of the Hat and much appreciation goes to Pastor Peter and Greg Campbell for installing the railing – it looks great!

The Annual Holiday Decorations Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, from 10 a.m to 2 pm. Look for details in the October newsletter.

Afternoon on the Town

Submitted by Ann Campbell

We had a lovely day for the Afternoon on the Town event! Thanks to all who donated treats, time, and effort!



We spoke with at least 400 students -- most of whom took our information card (many thanks to Pastor Peter for updating and improving the card). 347

students entered our raffle for the gift cards to Jim’s Foodmart donated by Fellowship Guild. Of those entries, 39 students indicated that they would be interested in some sort of Progressive Christian Fellowship.

MTU Faith Fair

PLUC will set up a table and reach out to MTU students on campus on Thursday, September 12, 12-2 p.m. Think of it like the Afternoon on the Town 2.0 We will have a chance to greet and welcome students and the MTU Community, share information about the church, and give away the leftover candy and stickers from MTU Afternoon on the Town. Please contact Pastor Peter if you would be interested in helping out at the event and spreading the word about PLUC on campus.

A Taste of Faith

**Taste of Faith
Hosted by Cooperative
Campus Ministries
Location: St. Albert the
Great
When: September 15th, at
4:30-6:00**

This year we are updating the Cooperative Campus Ministry Progressive Dinner. The idea is likened to the Taste of Chicago or the Parade of Nations Food Fair. Each faith group and church will host a booth and serve “small plates” or “tastes” to students. We have not determined which “small plate” or recipe PLUC will provide, but we will be looking for help, both preparing food and in serving and hosting the students on the day. Be on the lookout for more information that will follow.

Hidden Pictures: Jesus and the Children

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: book, canoe, carrot, fish, magnet, needle & thread, orange slice, snail, pencil, plate, and spoon.



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Church (USA)

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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**

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| September Volunteer Schedule |
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| <u>Date</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>Reader</u> | <u>Prayer Writer</u> | <u>Coffee Fellowship</u> |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 09/01 | Judy | Lois | Carl | Mary & Lois |
| 09/08 | Mary & Al | Nancy | Jim | Sangja & Biruta |
| 09/15 | Jon & Brian | Ann | Lois | Ann |
| 09/22 | Lois | Lou Ellyn | Peter | Church Picnic |
| 09/29 | Liz & Harold | Beth | Carl | TBD |