



**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

October 2024

Consistory Highlights

Finance Committee Report: Bobbie Dalquist, co-chair of the Finance Committee gave a summary of the results of the Finance Committees latest meeting including a review of the 2024 budget and the initial projected 2025 budget.

1. Funding to pay Olivia Byykkonen to supervise Children's Church has been from a gift for Youth Activities. That funding will run out in January 2025. A possible potluck in January with the children helping to serve (possibly the desert) has been recommended.
2. Treasurer Ed will be asked to transfer approximately \$11,700.00 from the roof fund back to Vanguard.
3. The vonBatchelder fund is healthy and is available to help with funding if needed
4. The initial projected 2025 budget was projected on the 2024 spending levels.
5. The Finance Committee will meet
6. again in October prior to the meeting of the Congregation/Corporation in order to give the most up to date information for the meeting.

Consistory thanked Bobbie and the other members of the Finance Committee for their work.

Committee Reports:

1. Building and Grounds is investigating the cost of TVs to be placed on the sanctuary walls. One will be on the wall behind the audio/visual equipment to project who is joining the service on ZOOM. The other will be on the wall where the service information has been projected to serve the same function. The large TV and projector will no longer be needed.
2. Office Manager Smock thanked Elder A. Campbell for taking minutes at the last Consistory meeting as Smock was unable to attend due to Covid.
3. Pastor Peter reported that he has received feedback that people have missed the Celebration of the Season this year which was not held as Pastor Peter was on vacation for half of the time this would have been held. It will probably return next year.
4. Pastor Peter, along with two members of the congregation,

attended the Community Luncheon hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church. This allowed for an opportunity to share with other members of the local faith community.

5. The Cooperative Campus Ministries Faith Fair and Taste of Faith event happened the week of September 9th. Thanks to Nancy Byers Sprague who coordinated volunteers to make salads for the Taste of Faith Event. Mary Eckart and Judy Albee attended the event and helped serve. Pastor Peter was able to mingle and meet with students. During the MTU Faith Fair Pastor Peter was able to meet many students, engage in a few good conversations, and give out a bunch of candy and stickers left over from the MTU Afternoon on the Town. Ann Campbell will be contacting the winners of the Jim's Food Mart voucher drawing.
6. **Upcoming Vacation:** Pastor Peter and Christina are taking a vacation Tuesday, September 24 through Tuesday, October 8. Jim Northey has agreed to lead worship on Sunday 9/29/24 and Dianne Sprague will lead us on 10/6/24. Thank you!
7. Elder A. Eckhart helped serve communion for the first time in September. In October, Elder D. Sprague will lead communion (while Pastor Peter is on vacation), assisted by Standing Elder G. Campbell.
8. Angel Mission is still trying to find someone who could help make a video presentation of work done by Angel Mission.

Old Business:

Carpet Cleaning: Elder A. Campbell contacted the Houghton High School Honor Society Advisor regarding cleaning the carpet as their community service project. The students will consider this at their next meeting. Elder A. Eckhart has been obtaining estimates from local professional carpet cleaning companies. Groups that use the church have donated \$200.00 toward the cleaning of the carpet. Consistory approved Elder A. Eckhart to investigate and negotiate the cost of cleaning the carpet up to \$1,000.00.

Signage: Pastor Peter shared some stickers he had made and passed out at the Faith Fair. He said these stickers created some conversations with students. He also shared a large banner he had made (basically our letterhead) for approximately \$25.00. He also shared that he had been investigating other types of permanent signage and has found it to be quite expensive.

New Business:

Children's Church: As mentioned during the Finance Committee report, funding to pay Olivia Byykkonen for supervising Children's Church will run out in January. Ways to continue the funding will be explored.

Fellowship Guild will be hosting a luncheon in which they would like to invite Roger Helman to discuss estate planning (with an eye toward including the church in a person's plan). Pastor Peter will contact Roger to see if he would be willing to do this.

Upcoming events

1. Fall congregational meeting - November 3, 2024
2. Greening of the Church - December 1, 2024
3. Advent services will be held with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church again this year.

Financial Report

Received in September

Pledged	\$2685.00
Unpledged	\$1294.01
Loose Plate	\$0.00
Building Use	\$350.00

ANNOUNCING

Congregation/Corporation Meeting

Sunday, November 3, 2024
Immediately following worship
(this meeting will be held in person and on
ZOOM)



Report from September Presbytery of Mackinac Meeting

Submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Being the fall meeting, there was much discussion of and decisions about financial issues. Our Presbytery understands the problem of diminishing congregations and limited financial resources. Two types of income support the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly, Per Capita and Basic Mission. Currently, neither income from our 39 churches is adequate to support the Presbytery, in part because only 87% of Per Capita is paid by churches and some churches do not give to Basic Mission. Presbytery uses reserves to cover the difference, just as we are doing.

Despite shortfalls in Mission Funds, Angel Mission received an increase in support for 2025. Additionally, Presbyterian Women at the Presbytery level has disbanded and will

give part of their remaining funds to CCAM. We are truly blessed to have such the strong, continuing support from Presbytery for our local mission. Besides CCAM, the Presbytery only supports Presbytery Point. I have submitted some of the documents from the meeting to the office, including lists of individuals filling positions within the Presbytery. The next meeting is via Zoom on February 22, 2025.

Church Picnic

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

As has been the trend in restaurants since the pandemic, our church picnic on September 22, had both indoor seating and outdoor seating on a lovely fall day with temps in the mid 60's. 28 church members and friends attended a potluck picnic at Bobbie and Dan Dalquist's home. A lively game of croquet was played by the children in attendance and the grown ups enjoyed lots of good food and conversation.

Holiday Decorations Rummage Sale

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

It feels way too early to be pulling out Christmas decorations, but if you didn't put aside a box of decorations for the church Holiday Decorations Rummage Sale last January, please consider pulling them out now and downsizing your collection. Bring your donations to the church Sunday, October 27 or early that week.

The sale is November 2 from 10 am to 2 pm. We need your help:

- Setting up tables after the church service on October 27
- Workbee during that week (day and time to be announced)

- Workbee on Friday, November 1 from 2:00 to 5:00
- Sale day, Saturday, November 2.

Add your name to the signup sheet in the lounge for the times you can help. And now that you've downsized your Christmas decorations, stop by the sale to find a few new ones.

An Afternoon on the Patio

Submitted by Liz Evensen

It was a lovely afternoon, warm & sunny, and our gathering on a Bluffs patio enabled us to enjoy life in the Copper Country! Ten women came together and ‘took-care-of-business’! We started by electing an Executive Board. The Board will manage the operations of Fellowship Guild, and its members/facilitators will serve one-year terms. Nominated and unanimously approved for 2024-2025: Judy Albee, Liz Evensen, Lou Ellyn Helman, Lois Jambekar and Biruta Lowther. Next, a Treasurer needed to be nominated: duties include preparing an annual budget and distributing the funds as designated by the membership. Bobbie Dalquist was unanimously nominated, and elected with appreciation.

Other Business:

- Dalquist announced that the Presbytery of Mackinac Women’s Group has decided to disband and will distribute their remaining monies between Presbytery Point, Angel Mission and the attendees of an upcoming Synod Presbytery meeting.
- Dalquist distributed a Financial Report, indicating that Income is down by about

\$1,200. This reflects not having a June Rummage Sale and a slight decline in Pledge Payments. This shortfall will hopefully be rectified after the November Holiday Rummage Sale and the final realization of Pledges.

Jambekar updated us on her successful Backpack Project this fall! Angel Mission distributed 203 Backpacks that were given to 91 Families; their largest effort ever! Area students from Calumet, Dollar Bay, Houghton and other outlying areas all benefitted. ‘Tip of the Hat’ to everyone involved!

Programs suggested for 2024-2025: Mark your calendars!

October 5, 2024 – Breakfast @ Victoria’s Kitchen @ 9:00 AM

November 2, 2024 – Holiday Rummage Sale

December, 2024 – Greening of the Church. Date TBA

December 7, 2024 – Holiday Potluck Luncheon @ Helman’s home.

January 12, 2025 – All Church Potluck following Worship/Program TBA

February 8, 2025 – Winter Carnival Rummage Sale

February, 2025 – Breakfast. Date/Place/Time TBA

April 20, 2025 – Easter Breakfast @ PLUC

Fellowship Guild is excited about the upcoming year and hopes that All church members/friends will be able to participate!

"Mark Your Calendars!"

Submitted by Greg Campbell

The Annual PLUC Fall Cleanup will be held Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, rain or shine. We will clean up our building and grounds and make ready for winter. All are welcome -- many hands make light work!"

Angel Mission

Submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Our own amazing Lois Jambekar distributed 203 backpacks to students in need! We also distributed 713 pairs of socks, 1000 undies, 94 athletic shoes, 157 bralettes, 8 sweatshirts, 30 pants (some went directly to schools), and 35 T-shirts to youngsters. A big THANK YOU to our church members who contributed to the effort. We couldn't do this without you. When a child has the school supplies they need, they are better prepared for success and feel self-confidence! For next year, we will need teen backpacks. If you see a sale, please keep us in mind.

When you go to Calumet, check out our siding job. We will further enhance the Calumet Historical District with Copper King colors for our siding and trim. We can only afford to do the visible half of the building this year. The 2024 sections are nearing completion, and we hope to have funding to complete the second half of the siding in 2025. If you want to help, stop by Superior National Bank and donate directly to Copper Country Angel Mission Building Fund or consider a donation during the Copper Shores #GivingTuesday event in November.

We are preparing for Coat the Copper Country! We began collecting winterwear and setting distribution dates of our dedicated coat, snow pants, boots, hats, and gloves giveaway. Contributions of gently

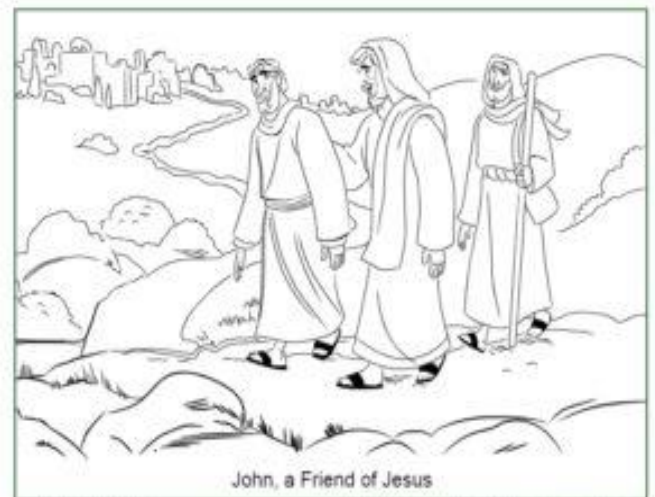
worn or new winter wear are appreciated. Also, we want to ensure that MTU students have a chance to obtain what they need, so we hope that our church members organize shuttle service again this year.

Sherry Middlemis-Brown gave a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation about Angel Mission to the Presbytery of Mackinac at the fall meeting, September 21. We would like to create a five-minute video about CCAM for distribution to churches. If anyone has videography skills and time to donate, we would love to talk about this idea. Contact Sherry for more information.

This is our busy time of year – grants open for application and our seasonal programs take place. Please keep Copper Country Angel Mission in your prayers! Thanks.

Children's Corner

This **Coloring Page** helps children remember that Christianity isn't about following a list of rules but is about loving Jesus as a dear friend.



John, a Friend of Jesus

Copyright © 2014 by the author. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. This is a sample of the work of the author. All rights reserved.

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

Return Service Requested

October Volunteer Schedule				
-----------------------------------	--	--	--	--

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
10/06	Beth	Lois	Jim	Judy, Sangja
10/13	Nancy & Dianne	Harold	Lois	Mary, Lois
10/20	TBD	Nancy	Peter	TBD
10/27	Judy	Beth	Carl	TBD

