



**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

November 2024

Consistory Highlights

Discussion of Consent Agenda items:

Office Manager

1. The office received a letter from Superior National Bank regarding a check for \$7,000.00 to PLUC that had not been processed and requesting what PLUC wanted to process this check. Office Manager Smock returned the form to the bank asking that another check be issued as we are not sure what that check was for. (NOTE: This check was evidently to us, not from us.)
2. Barb Brookhouse has found a church home after moving downstate and has asked to have her membership transferred. Office Manager Smock has submitted the needed paperwork.
3. Office Manager Smock has checked with Tadych's Market regarding Holiday Bucks. It appears they will not be offering these this year.

Presbytery

1. Elder S. Middlemis-Brown informed Consistory that she would be willing to serve as the Presbytery Commissioner again next year. This offer was accepted with gratitude.

Pastor

1. Pastor Peter prepared for worship coverage while he was on vacation. Thanks to Standing Elder J. Northey and Sitting Elder D. Sprague for leading service on the Sunday's Pastor Peter was away.
2. Pastor Peter is meeting with Pastor Sarah Semmler Smith of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to plan for Advent services. They are planning on having services "Around the Fire", using the fireplace in the church.
3. Pastor Peter thanked sitting Elder D. Sprague and standing Elder G. Campbell for leading communion on October 6, 2024 while he was on vacation. Elder A. Campbell will assist with communion on November 3, 2024

Clerk

1. The Clerk's report from his meeting with the Presbytery was received and discussed.

Old Business:

Personnel: Yearly personnel reviews were discussed. Elder A. Campbell will look for

the form that was used for last year's review of Pastor Peter.

Carpet Cleaning: Arrangements have been made of Red Carpet Cleaners to clean the Fellowship Hall carpet on November 5, 2024. Office Manager Smock has contacted all necessary groups to let them know that the carpet will need about 24 hours to dry, so no one should be in the Fellowship Hall until at least noon on November 6, 2024.

Budget: Elder R. Middlemis-Brown (also a member of the Finance Committee) reported that the 2025 budget is stable based on the 2024 budget. Consistory discussed cost of living increases (not included in proposed budget) and mission giving. Elder A. Campbell moved (second by Elder T. Monsoon) to adopt the draft budget to be presented to the congregation at the November 3, 2024 Congregational/ Corporation meeting.

Building and Grounds:

1. Work continues to be done to upgrade the audio/visual opportunities in the sanctuary. One of the two TVs is here with the other coming soon.
2. AllUP Snow Blowing has given PLUC a price of \$2800.00 for snow removal during the 2024/25 season. Elder D. Sprague moved (second Elder S. Middlemis-Brown) to accept PLUC snow removal done by AllUP Snow Blowing. Approved.

New Business:

Presbytery Review: The Presbytery Review was shared with Consistory with the following items being discussed.

1. The 2023 PLUC Audit was discussed. Elder D. Sprague (second by Elder T. Monsoon) moved to approve the 2023 Audit. Approved.

2. The Nominating Committee will try to make sure that gender composition of the Consistory closely matches the gender composition of the congregation (2 males, 4 females).
3. Approval of General Assembly minutes tabled.

Congregation/Corporation meeting:

1. Agenda will include presentation of the 2025 budget (Elder R. Middlemis Brown), Report from the Nominating Committee, and information about the position of Clerk.
2. Consistory is also looking for a way to allow for better communication between the congregation and members of Consistory. Elder A. Campbell will provide for a vehicle that the congregation can use to share their suggestions and concerns.

2024 Membership List was provided to consistory for their review. The final list will be approved in January. (One misspelling was seen and will be corrected.)

Hearing issues: Elder A. Campbell shared preliminary information about a system to allow people to adjust their ability to hear in the sanctuary. Consistory gave approval to pursue more information about this system.

Financial Report

Received in October

Pledge	\$1975.00
Unpledged	\$1346.92
Loose Plate	\$4.00

In Other News



November 3, 2024

ANNOUNCING

Congregation/Corporation Meeting

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



Stewardship Drive Kick-Off

Submitted by Beth Smock, Financial Secretary

It's that time of year again when PLUC needs to start planning for next year.

The preliminary budget will be presented at the meeting of the Congregation/Corporation on November 3, 2024. Stewardship Drive letters will go out the week following this meeting (week of November 3rd). Please prayerfully consider your pledge and return your pledge card as soon as possible.

If you do not receive a pledge card in the mail, ask Beth for one and she will gladly provide one to you. If you have given to PLUC in the past, but not done so as an

official pledged giver, please consider making a pledge as this makes it easier for the Finance Committee to develop a final budget. Also, if you are not an "official" member, you can still make a pledge toward our 2025 budget.

The goal is to get the pledge cards back by November 25th so that the final giving summary can be given to the Finance Committee for the finalization of the 2025 budget.

Fellowship Guild Welcomes Fall

Submitted by Liz Evensen

It was a lovely Saturday morning on October 5 when nine of our members (Louisa, Sangja, Mary, Bobbie, Biruta, Lou, SzeWinn, Judy & Lois) gathered for breakfast at Victoria's Kitchen.

Being together with friends is such a pleasant way to start the day!

A week earlier, the Executive Board met for a short meeting following Worship.

Business included:

Electing a Contact Facilitator. Lou Ellyn Helman volunteered and she is the first person to call with inquiries regarding Fellowship Guild. The church office will activate the Board as needed.

Elect a Record Facilitator. Lois Jambekar volunteered and she will record all meetings and actions that take place. Liz agreed to assist her when she's in the area.

Announcements:

1. Holiday Rummage Sale. Bobbie Dalquist will be coordinating this event and she is looking for volunteers. This is an awesome event, both financially and with camaraderie!

2. A 'Telling Your Story' Questionnaire will be sent to PLUC's members and friends the end of October. It is hoped that the mailing will be well received and pondered.

3. A Holiday Potluck Luncheon will be held at the home of Lou Ellyn Helman on Saturday, December 7. Mark your calendars; Time TBA

Thank You to everyone for participating in Fellowship Guild! This all-inclusive group reflects PLUC and gives us a chance to get to know each other while working together. Wishing you Happy Holidays and Blessings in the New Year!

Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Wow! What a busy time of year. We have written applications for several grants and were accepted into the Copper Shores #GivingTuesday event. Monetary donations for Angel Mission that are given through Copper Shores CHF between November 12 and December 3 will be amplified by a proportional match from Copper Shores. This is an important fundraiser for us, so if you intend to donate to Angel Mission this year, #GivingTuesday is the way to do it to have the greatest impact.

This month is also busy because of Coat the Copper Country, winter wear distribution. It began with a major two-day distribution in partnership with The Salvation Army at their Bread of Life Service Center in Hancock. This location is not only much larger than we can provide but is easier for a larger population to access than is Calumet. Winter wear will remain available in Hancock until Thanksgiving and at Angel Mission into January. We have struck a partnership with The Salvation Army for Angel Tree as well.

Working with our partners we have entered the digital age for child and sponsor registration. We are looking for sponsors to sign up on our website, ccangelmission.org.

The first part of our two-part siding job is complete in time for winter. Come see the new siding at 433 Fifth Street in Calumet. We should also have a wonderful sign over the door by the end of the year. The new sign is paid in part by a grant from the Village of Calumet.

Coat The Copper Country Project

Submitted by Lois Jambekar

Many people, students and families, went home happy after attending the Coat the Copper Country winter wear give away Friday and Saturday, October 25-26.. This year the Copper Country Angel Mission and the Salvation Army worked together on this project. The event was held in the Salvation Army's large room in Hancock. On Friday there was an amazing amount of people, mostly students, who came 45 minutes early because they were so anxious to get winter items. As people arrived they were given numbers and registration sheets. Only ten students and/or families were allowed in at one time to make it more manageable. Most of the people who came were able to get the items they needed. We kept a list of people who didn't get everything they needed and are attempting to fill those needs as donations come into the CC Angel Mission. We need men's jackets and boots and some boots for a baby. Right now there is request for three pairs of size 11 men's boots. The count of the items taken in the event are: 230 coats or jackets, 98 pair of boots, and 1,045 hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves. The people who were served at the event: 65 parents, 148 children, and 139 single people and Tech students.

In November the Angel Tree Project will begin. The CC Angel Mission and the Salvation Army will be working together on this project too. I plan to take 5 children for our church to support in purchasing Christmas gifts for them. Each child gets to

request two needs and two wants for their Christmas gifts. Our church has always been so generous in supporting this project.

Carpet Cleaning

The carpet in the Fellowship Hall will be cleaned the morning of November 5th. It will take about 24 hours to dry so we are asking folks to stay out of the Fellowship Hall until noon on Wednesday, November 6th. If you need to use the kitchen, you can enter through the door in the entryway. Thanks for your cooperation. It will be nice to not see all of those stains on the carpet.



Children's Corner

Thanksgiving Blessing Box

Materials Needed:

- Recycled Tissue Boxes (1 per child)
- Fall Wrapping Paper
- Decorations Or Stickers
- Pre-cut sticky felt or fun foam pieces. Use colors that will coordinate with the choices of wrapping paper)

- Misc. Craft Items: Scissors, Glue Sticks, Tape, Sticky Dots, Or Heavy Craft Glue

Instructions:

1. Place the pre-cut felt or fun foam top on the top of the tissue box.
2. Help the children cut their choice of wrapping paper to wrap around the sides of the tissue box. Attach with the glue stick.
3. Decorate the top of the Blessing Box with decorations. Stick on gems, buttons, stickers, or glitter. Let their creativity shine!
4. You could make a small sign to glue to the side of the box that says, "I am Thankful" or "Count Your Blessings".
5. Provide the children with slips of colored paper to write blessings on and start their collection in their boxes. Have a time of prayer and thank God for His goodness.

Portage Lake United Church

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Presbyterian Church (USA)

1400 E. Houghton Ave.,
Houghton, MI 49931

Phone: (906) 482-5224

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-noon Thursday or by
appointment

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Return Service Requested

November Volunteer Schedule				
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
11/03	Mary & Al	Christina	Lois	Lois & Mary
11/10	Jon & Brian	Elizabeth	Pastor Peter	Sze Wenn & Bobbie
11/17	Ann	Dianne	Jim	TBD
11/24	Lois		Carl	TBD