



**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 • [www.pluc.org](http://www.pluc.org) • [office@pluc.org](mailto:office@pluc.org) •

January 2025

**Consistory Highlights**

*Submitted by Beth Smock, Office Manager*

After a very busy 2024, Consistory took December off. They will meet again on January 21, 2025

***In Other News***

**Winter Rummage Sale**  
**Saturday, February 8, 10 am - 2 pm.**

*Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist*

**ANNOUNCING**

Congregation/Corporation Meeting

Sunday, February 09, 2025  
 Immediately following worship  
 (this meeting will be held both In-person  
 and over ZOOM)



We're trying something new. A rummage sale on Winter Carnival weekend. We all get so busy in the summer that we decided to try a winter rummage sale. Our signs may bring in some Winter Carnival visitors and shoppers who love going to rummage sales to get their bargain shopping fix.

In the process of putting your house back together after putting away the Christmas decorations, gather what you no longer need to donate to the sale. Part of the proceeds will go to Angel Mission.

Watch for the sign up sheets for volunteering to work on sale set up and on sale day.

**Financial Report**

Received in December

Pledge	\$2915.00
Unpledged	3669.90
Loose Plate	56.00

## **Fellowship Guild Update**

*Submitted by Judy Albee*

Fellowship Guild anticipated December with its activities and opportunities. Some of us had been away visiting family and friends over Thanksgiving. Others were anxiously making lists for scheduled trips to celebrate the Christmas holiday with relatives they hadn't been with for several months. Still others chose to spend the holiday closer to family members for the winter.

Fellowship Guild set dates for some of their favorite and traditional events – gathering to assemble baskets of holiday treats, December 7<sup>th</sup>, as well as visiting with PLUC members and friends in person, December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Lou Ellyn Helman certainly put us in the holiday spirit as we met for a tasty potluck lunch at her beautifully decorated home. This was followed by getting to 'our business at hand'. The nine of us made use of the items we brought or those provided by others who had prior commitments and were not able to assist with the fourteen edible gifts.

As we left the winter wonderland south of Chassell with our baskets to be hand delivered, we looked forward to having lunch at The Bluffs with resident members. However, the -16 wind chill factor was not conducive to the public schools being in session nor us gathering to visit. However, we will set up another luncheon date when their private dining room is available in January or early February.

Fellowship Guild has set up January 12<sup>th</sup> for our first potluck event in 2025. It will happen immediately after the morning worship service. It will give us the opportunity to visit and hear a brief explanation of ways we can facilitate our thoughts and hopes for our end of

life. Perhaps you have already given this some thought or have written directives. Over our long winter, this will be your 'homework'. Perhaps you and your family have already addressed this situation. However, as a member of the former Bereavement Committee, it would be wonderful to have your wishes known in a file at church. An individual who is familiar with Five Wishes, can clarify questions you might have. Put it on your new calendar (January 12<sup>th</sup>). We plan to have the talk on ZOOM so you can learn about this important aid.

## **Angel Mission**

*Submitted by Sheri Middlemis-Brown*

December kept us all hopping at Angel Mission. We, with the generosity of sponsors, provided about 220 kids with two wanted gifts and two needed gifts for Christmas. The Salvation Army served similar numbers. We were also able to shift Keweenaw County registrants to the Sheriff's No Child Without a Christmas. In the last week of the program, Toys-for-Tots offered us their extra toys, and we took 1600 toys for next year! We appreciate the generosity of Moyle Retail Services that provided us with a storefront in the Mine Street Station strip mall for Angel Tree and Coat the Copper Country. This allowed us the space that we needed at a critical time. Thank you to all PLUC members who contributed to the family that you sponsored through Lois. A big thank you to Lois for keeping everything organized in the process of fulfilling those children's Christmas requests.

Coat the Copper Country is winding down a little, in part because we met the needs of children requesting coats, snow pants, mittens, and hats through Angel Tree. We are still working with the schools that

provide us with lists of winter wear needs and sizes for their students. We do not yet know how #GivingTuesday through Copper Shores went for us. We are very dependent on those donations. I hope to share the results of our community's generosity in a month or so.

All the volunteers are thankful for the wonderful support that we receive from our friends and benefactors. This small group of people accomplish a great deal because of the kindness and charity of our community and the support of the Presbytery of Mackinac. As Matthew 25:40 tells us, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

**Goodbye 2024  
Hello 2025**

submitted by Beth Smock

Take a deep breath! After a very busy 2024, we have a couple of days before we begin what looks to be an even busier 2025. Please remember that the office will be closed Tuesday, December 31st and Wednesday, January 21st.

The first big project of 2025 is the Annual Report. I will need to have this completed and ready for distribution by Sunday, February 2nd. That means I will need reports by January 17th. Any reports that come in early just make it easier to get it done in time. The work of all those who submit reports is greatly appreciated.

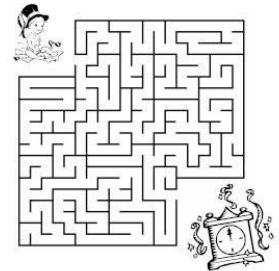


Before I do the Annual Report, I will also be getting out the final 2024 Financial Reports. Want to get those out early so everyone can get working on their taxes. I'm sure you are all excited to get working on those.

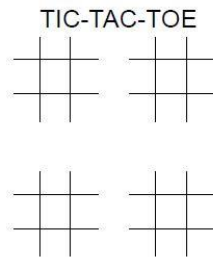
**Children's Corner**

# Happy New Year!

C R T S R I F F K R V H Y U N  
D A Y Z V J T J E C A L M W O  
X D H Z T M A S Y P O Y E L I  
U N L E W Y O N P R W L N P S  
Z E H P T L P Y U O D R C T E  
F L Y Y U A A L M A A F D Z M  
W A W T S K R O W E R I F T A  
X C I V D W O B H K S Y H P K  
J O N Z E J L K E G X G B A E  
N C O N F E T T I L I L W R R  
G U E D E Y X H Y N E K O A P  
I I U F X O J T D O A C R D Y  
N G J T S B B I W E J J A E Q  
C K B D B E M X H N F V E S W  
G Z W X E M U H P T V V Y G E



CALENDAR	FIREWORKS
CELEBRATE	FIRST
CLOCK	JANUARY
CONFETTI	MIDNIGHT
HAPPY	NOISEMAKER
NEW	PARADES
	YEAR



On the back of the paper, see how many words you can make from

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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

**Return Service Requested**

<b>January Volunteer Schedule</b>				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
01/05	Ann	Christina	Lois	Biruta
01/12	Lois	Lou Ellyn	Peter	FG Potluck
01/19	Elizabeth	Beth	Jim	Mary
01/26	Beth	Elizabeth	Carl	TBD

**Portage Lake United Church**

United Church of Christ & 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.- Tues, Thurs-Fri

**Pastor Office Hours:**

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

