



**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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June 2025

Consistory Highlights

Pastor Peter welcomed incoming Consistory members Biruta Lowther and Beth Smock who are attending this meeting to enable them to be familiar with current areas of work being done by Consistory. Both have previously sat on the Consistory and, therefore, are already ordained. They will be installed as Seated Members during Worship on June 19, 2025.

Discussion of Consent Agenda items:

Office Manager/Financial Secretary Report:

Office Manager Smock shared a thank you note to Consistory from Nancy Byers Sprague and Dianne Sprague for the use of the church for their annual Easter Dinner. Elder D. Sprague shared that they fed 90 people at the dinner.

Building and Grounds:

The annual spring clean up took place on Saturday, May 17, 2025 with a large crowd of hearty (it was cold) people working to clean up both the outside and inside of the church. It looks really nice.

Elder A. Eckhart reported that all of the fire safety updates are completed with the exception of the Exit Signs and Fire Alarms. Bulbs for the current Exit Signs are on order but he has learned that our current signs are not up to code. Therefore, he will be purchasing new signs but will use the bulbs on order in the current signs until the new signs arrive. Investigative work continues to find the appropriate Fire Alarms. Consistory approved up to \$500.00 for the new Exit Signs and Fire Alarms. Consistory thanks Elder Eckart for all his hard work getting PLUC up to fire safety standards.

Pastor Report:

Elder A. Campbell assisted with May communion. Elder A. Eckhart will assist in June.

Old Business:

Presbytery Point Special Meeting:

Pastor Peter and Elder S. Middlemis-Brown participated in a special meeting held to discuss further training for counselors at Presbytery Point and to establish a commission to investigate and make recommendations on all aspects of

Presbytery Point. More information will be shared after the commission finishes its investigation and shares its recommendations.

Personnel:

Office Manager/Financial Secretary and PLUC Minister of Music completed Self-Evaluations of their job performance. Consistory reviewed and discussed the job descriptions and self-evaluations (Office Manager Smock stepped out of the meeting while her information was discussed).

Christians Against Christian Nationalism

The possibility of investigating local interest in a Christians Against Christian Nationalism group was discussed. There was concern expressed about mixing church and politics. Consistory decided to not pursue this at this time. Several members did take more information about the group.

New Business:

Consistory Organization

As Consistory says good-bye to members who are finishing their terms and greeting new members, a discussion was held about the organization of Church leadership. We have 4 Committees which are viewed as “necessary” to efficient church leadership (Finance, Building and Grounds, Nominating, and Personnel). Consistory thought about what other Committees might be necessary or if it might be best to look for people who might be interested in participating in different “groups” as need arises. It was felt that this would be better than having a Committee that hasn’t met in months. People could be asked to be in groups that specifically meet their interests and skill sets. This will be discussed further during future meetings.

Quote for tuckpointing chimney

When the chimney was cleaned as part of the fire safety upgrade it was discovered that the chimney needed tuckpointing. A quote was received from the company cleaning the chimney for \$4600.00. Consistory found this quote to be very expensive. Elder A. Eckhart recommended going up on the roof to see how much damage there is to the chimney and then seeking more estimates. Elder Eckhart will include this in his fire safety work.

Credit Card

The company from which PLUC has a credit card unexpectedly cancelled the card. Consistory asked Office Manager/Financial Secretary Smock to contact Superior National Bank for a credit card.

Consistory Meeting Time

The current meeting time of the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm works for the incoming Consistory members, so will be continued. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

This is the last meeting for Elders D. Sprague and A. Campbell. Consistory thanked them for their work during the last three years as leaders of our church family

Financial Report

Received in May 2025

Pledge	\$4,455.00
Unpledged	\$1,403.94
Loose Plate	\$0.00

2025 Spring Clean Up

The morning of May 17th was cool and cloudy, but the rain held off so that a hearty group of PLUC folk could clean both inside and outside the church. Don't forget to thank all these folks for their work.

Copper Country Angel Mission Thank You

Submitted by Lois Jambekar

The Copper Country Angel Mission really appreciated the support you gave them for the project "Children Selecting Gifts for Mother's Day" which was held May 10th at the Angel Mission Store. Thank you for all of you who donated small gifts and or gift bags and tissue paper. The children had a lot of nice and useful gifts to choose from as they selected their gifts for their mothers. Each child who participated got to select a couple of gifts, a plant, and make a card for their mom. Even though this school year is not over yet we have started planning for the School Backpack Program for the next school year. The Copper Country Angel Mission and The Salvation Army will be working together on this project for the next school year, and we plan to expand the program to include more families in Houghton and Keweenaw County Schools who may need help in purchasing school supplies for their children. You will receive more information about this project in the July newsletter.

Helping Hands

Submitted by Beth Smock

I know that I am starting to sound like a broken record asking for help with funding Helping Hands. However, this year has presented challenges to all agencies and

churches providing assistance to those in need. As of this week, we have given out 29 food and/or gas vouchers for a total of \$1,450.00. That does not mean we have spent that much as not everyone uses the entire \$50.00 available, especially since we have given out more gas vouchers than for food. At this time we still are slightly ahead in donations received, having received \$1,583.00 so far. However, I am not sure we will continue to have more than we are giving out. The 29 vouchers so far this year are more than half of the 55 we gave out all of 2024. Households can make two requests for help a year. So far, only 2 households have used up their eligibility. And while I wish I could keep politics out of this, the reality is that all agencies are concerned about decreases in funding due to governmental policies. I would ask that you prayerfully consider donating to this very worthy mission of PLUC. Thank you.

Invitation to Participate in MTU Research Project

PLUC has been contacted by researchers at MTU about an opportunity to engage with a new research project focused on energy transitions and community well-being. The project involves surveying residents in select counties across the UP (Houghton and Baraga Counties) as well as WI (Ashland and Iron Counties) and MN (Beltrami and Clearwater Counties). Below is a letter with more information:

Dear Residents:

A study being conducted by researchers at Michigan Technological University is asking community residents to complete an online survey to provide information about your preferences for energy systems in your

homes and communities. This survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. The information collected in the survey is all private and confidential, and all questions on the survey are voluntary. The research team will be sharing the aggregated results of the survey at a community meeting in the future so you can learn about how your community responded. Participants will have the option to share their contact information and those who do will be entered into a drawing to win a gift certificate to a local business as a way to thank you for your participation. Thank you for your time, consideration, and participation in this survey, which will provide information to inform decision making in our community. Please click on the link below to learn more.

Qualtrics:

Link https://michigantech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5o1nBclPd2cxBs

QR Code:



Children's Corner



MEMORIAL DAY WORD SEARCH

WORD LIST

AMERICA
ARMED
BRAVE
CEREMONY
FLAG
FREEDOM
HEROES
HONOR
MEMORIAL
PARADE
PATRIOTIC
REMEMBER
SACRIFICE
SALUTE
SERVICE
SOLDIERS
STARS
STRIPES
TAPS
TRIBUTE
TROOPS
UNITED
VETERANS
WAR
WREATH

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

<https://everydaychaosandcalm.com>



June's Funny

When preparing for the Feast of Weeks, what did some disciples wonder? "

How much is this going to (Pente)cost?"

June 2025

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Portage Lake United Church

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Pastor: Rev. Peter Norland

Office Manager: Beth Smock

General Office Hours:

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Mon.- Fri

Pastor Office Hours:

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

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June Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
06/01	Sze Wenn	Marla	Jim	Ann & Biruta
06/08	Ann	Beth	Greg	TBD
06/15	Beth	Nancy	Car;	Mary & Lois
06/22	Jon & Brian	Harold	Lois	TBD
06/29	Liz & Harold	Lois	Jim	TBD