



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

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July 2025

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<b>Consistory Highlights</b>
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*submitted by Beth Smock*

**Discussion of Consent Agenda items:**

**Pastor Report:**

1. Elder A. Eckhart assisted with June communion. Elder B. Lowther will assist in July.
2. Pastor Peter led two memorial services: one for Doug Stuart and another for his father, John Noland which was held in Minnesota. Pastor Peter thanked all those who assisted with the service and luncheon for Doug Stuart.
3. We are now in "Ordinary Time" which is between Trinity Sunday and Christ the King Sunday. In September we will celebrate "Peace with Creation" during "Signs of the Season."

**Finances:**

1. All church finances are tracking in good shape.

**Old Business:**

**Chimney Tuckpointing:** Elder A. Eckhart has a contractor coming the week of June 15 for an estimate for the tuckpointing of the chimney. He has three other contractors who might be interested.

**Consistory Re-organization:** Consistory will continue to address issues as they arise.

**Church Credit Card:** Office Manager Smock reported that we had received notice that our application for a church credit card had been denied. She contacted the lending agency and learned that they need our EIN approval letter. Smock will work with Treasurer Lowther to get this information to them.

**Outdoor Signage:** Consistory had previously discussed outdoor signage in order to make the church more visible. Signage in front would make PLUC more obvious to those traveling on Highway 41. There is nothing along Houghton Ave. that would indicate to those students, and others, walking to and from campus that PLUC is a place of worship. Pastor Peter

stated that he would look further into better outdoor signage for the church.

### **New Business:**

**Afternoon on the Town:** Pastor Norland will contact Ann Campbell and Nancy Byers Sprague to see if they want to lead this outreach to students again this year. Elder B. Lowther will speak to Fellowship Guild about their interest.

**Next Consistory meeting:** Consistory decided to not meet in July. They will meet on August 13 (a Wednesday) at 6:00 pm at the home of Elder A. Eckhart.

**Note:** Normally I do not include the Elder Concerns in the newsletter. However, recently we have faced many challenges so all prayers are appreciated.

**Elder Concerns:** A rather long list this month.

Both Elder T. Monson and A. Eckhart have been dealing with health issues this past month.

Elder B. Smock's cousin, Linda, fell and broke her hip. Linda's husband, Phil, suffers from dementia, and Linda is his primary caregiver. Their two daughters will now have to provide care from both Linda and Phil. The entire family needs prayers Amos Norland as he recovers from surgery on his legs

The people of Iran and Israel

The families of the two Minnesota Senators involved in recent assassination and assassination attempts.

There are a couple of praises also raised. Elder Middlemis-Brown shared joy for all of the Angel Mission volunteers  
Pastor Norland is grateful for the time he was able to spend with his family as he, and

his immediate family, traveled to Minnesota for the remembrance of his father.

### **Financial Report**

#### Received in June

Pledge	\$7,125.00
Unpledged	\$2,842.00
Loose Plate	\$25.00
Roof	\$1,060.00

### ***In Other News***

#### **A Life of Service Doug Stuart**

Submitted by Judy Albee

That is one description of the life Doug lived. He, Norma Lee and their children observed this and have continued to focus on helping others.

Reflecting on these individuals, who haven't been able to attend our services or activities over the past few years due to health issues, was rectified this past May 31st when we assisted with a requested potluck luncheon after his funeral.

This weekend was a busy time for so many in the Copper Country. However, the family and many of our Fellowship Guild members made this a priority and helped set up tables Friday afternoon. It looked festive as we left after an hour of work. The small vases of flowers and lace tablecloths made the fellowship area look inviting.

Saturday morning the suggested food was brought in by family, friends and International Neighbors members. Our menu of salads, sandwiches, a relish tray, fried chicken, cookies and bars were enjoyed along with coffee, tea and lemonade. We served around 45 attendees who were able to remain after the

funeral service. It was a great opportunity to reflect on Doug's involvement in the community to those in attendance.

We washed the used dishes and took much of the remaining food to the Stuart's house. Norma Lee and others gathered there continued sharing experiences of their involvement in some of the past area-wide service endeavors they had with Doug.

We were grateful for the opportunity to return his service.

### Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

The store has been busy with donations and shoppers. The food pantry seems to increase the number of people served each month.

Lois is preparing for the start of the School Backpack program. She is partnering with volunteers from The Salvation Army to lighten the workload. The first event to support the program will be a Stuff the Bus school supply donation event in the Walmart parking lot, August 1-2. Donations from church members can be placed in the Angel Mission donation barrel or into collection boxes in area businesses. You are also welcome to stop by during Stuff the Bus with your donations of supplies and backpacks. **Note:** See next article for more information.

We are still looking for a manager for the food pantry. We are also working with CLK Council of Churches Food Pantry to discover how we can work together to better meet the needs of the community.

We are anticipating that the need will increase as funding for government programs decreases.

Please keep CCAM in your prayers as we continue to care for our neighbors needing help in making ends meet.

### Stuff the Bus Backpack Program

submitted by Lois Jambekar

Even though students just began their summer vacation a few weeks ago, the Copper Country Angel Mission has already been busy planning and preparing their School Backpack Program for the next school year. This coming school year the Angel Mission is working together with The Salvation Army to combine their efforts to help more families in the area that will need help in purchasing School supplies. We have named the program "Stuff the Bus School Backpack Program."


Some of the scheduled events for this program are: August 1 & 2 a school bus will be parked in front of the Houghton Walmart Store 9:00-5:00 as a reminder that school will be beginning in a month. Brochures will be passed out to people as they enter the store listing items needed for the School Backpack Program. Hopefully many donations will be received for the program. Large decorated boxes with lists of school supply needs listed on the side will be placed in businesses and churches in the area for donations too. August 16 & 17 11:00-2:00 packing the backpacks will take place at The Salvation Army building in Hancock. We welcome people's help with this activity. Saturday, August 23 school backpacks will be available for parents to pick up at The Salvation Army building. On that same day parents will be able to select new underwear and some other clothing items for their children.

Portage Lake United Church will have a box in the church lounge where school supply donations can be put. Money donations are appreciated too.

## Volunteer Opportunity

The Copper Country Strawberry Festival is coming up on Friday and Saturday, July 11th and 12th. The Chassell Lions Club invites you to support the event and join in the fun by volunteering to clean strawberries on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm, at the Chassell Centennial Park Pavilion. No experience is necessary. We will train volunteers. Bring your favorite paring knife, a bowl, and some newspapers.

## Children's Corner




### Just for KIDS

#### Bugs in the Bible

Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs! Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.

*Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse. Circle them in the puzzle below.*

Proverbs 6:6 _____	Exodus 16:20 _____
Psalms 78:45 _____	1 Sam. 24:14 _____
Matt. 23:24 _____	Isaiah 50:9 _____
Judges 14:8 _____	Isaiah 59:5 _____
Acts 12:23 _____	Leviticus 11:22 _____
Leviticus 11:22 _____	Leviticus 11:22 _____
Leviticus 11:22 _____	
Deuteronomy 7:20 _____	



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

Answer: ant, flies, gnats, moths, spiders, katydid, cricket, maggots, flea, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet.

## July Funny



Just a reminder of all those fun summer road trips with the kids in the car.

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 (USA)  
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 49931  
 Phone: (906) 482-5224  
 E-mail: [office@pluc.org](mailto:office@pluc.org)  
 Website: [www.pluc.org](http://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 AM - 12:00 Noon or by appointment

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

<b>July Volunteer Schedule</b>				
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
07/06	Marla & David	Christina	Ann	Ann
07/13	Sze Wenn	Dianne	Carl	TBD
07/20	Judy	Marla	Lois	Lois & Mary
07/27	Nancy & Dianne	Beth	Jim	TBD

