



**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

August 2025

Consistory Highlights

Consistory took a well deserved break in July. They will meet again on August 13th.

Financial Report

Received in July

Pledge	\$4,214.00
Unpledged	699.00
Loose Plate	40.00

Angel Mission

submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

We continue to see more people coming in for assistance, both for food and for utilities. We are expecting the slow increase to continue until the SNAP and other programs are severely cut back in late fall next year. In the meantime, we continue to help all whom we can.

Our volunteers give between 350 and 400 hours each month and material donations continue to arrive. Remember, we welcome you as shoppers to pick out useful items and then place a corresponding donation in the box at the door. This is recycling at its best. Come shop with us!

Mark your calendars! We will have a Stuff the Bus school supply collection at Walmart,

August 1-2 from 9:00 to 5:00. Lois Jambekar leads the School Supplies Backpack Program again this year. She expects more than 300 students to sign up this year. We offer online signup and form download, as well as the hardcopy forms available from the Free Store and from our partner, The Salvation Army. If you wish to help, bring school supplies or backpacks (we need packs for Middle School and High School) to the church, the Stuff the Bus event, or to collection bins in various businesses throughout Copper Country. If you wish to join in filling backpacks, please talk to Lois.

We will also have a rummage sale for Angel Mission in September. I'll tell you more next month.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers that we continue to touch the lives of our neighbors who are in need.



No one has every become poor by giving.
Ann Frank

Stuff the Bus Backpack Program

submitted by Lois Jambekar

Summer is moving along quickly and in a little over five weeks children will be heading back to school. The stuff the Bus School Backpack Program being sponsored by the Copper Country Angel Mission and The Salvation Army with support from Walmart is in full swing now. Letters were sent out July 15th to all the superintendents and principals in schools in the CCISD requesting they inform all the parents whose children are participating in the Free and Reduce Lunch Program and any other families they feel need assistance in purchasing school supplies about this program. The letter included a link to an online registration sheet so parents could sign up for the program. Also, parents can pick up paper registration at the CC Angel Mission store and at The Salvation Army Bread of Life Center. The events that are happening are:

- August 1 & 2 a school bus will be parked in front of Walmart and as people enter either door at Walmart they will receive half sheet flyers asking for donations to the program and listing the items needed. We will have a large wagon there to collect donations those days.
- Registration ends August 15. August 15, 16, if necessary
- August 18 we will be filling backpacks 11:00-2:00 in The Salvation Army gym. We would welcome people's help on those days.
- August 23 parents will pick up their children's backpacks at The Salvation Army gym, and they will have a chance to pick up new socks, underwear, and shoes for their children at the same time.

There are some items needed for the backpacks that aren't considered school supplies so they probably won't be donated in the Walmart event. The items are:

- water bottles, new or used in good condition
- new tooth brushes and little tubes of toothpaste
- canvas or cloth bags. Any child who indicates on the registration sheet that they don't need a new backpack receives their school supplies in a canvas or cloth bags.

We welcome donations of the supplies I listed above, other school supplies, or monetary donations. We always appreciate the support given by members of our church.

Sharing! A Lifelong Attribute

Submitted by Judy Albee

Reflecting back on recent events at Portage Lake United Church, I was reminded of things I would say to our three sons when they were toddlers or from my teaching days with early elementary children. **Share!** That was very evident here on July 11th and 12th.

Long-time member Karen Lewis passed away on June 25th after several years of health issues. Although she was quite limited in regard to getting out and about, she was delighted when family and friends visited. Husband, Paul, was a great host.

In that regard, it was thoughtful to provide a time of remembrance for around 30 friends, family, former neighbors and PLUC members to gather in the Fellowship area for reminiscing and a light lunch. The Lewis family provided many photos for attendees to reflect on. They also furnished sandwich fixing and a cake with lovely yellow roses on it. Karen's favorite color was carried out in the huge floral arrangement at the

cemetery and tiny vases of garden flowers on the luncheon tables. Information that was shared with us as we were setting up on Friday was that daughter, Anne, and “our” Susie had both taken flute lessons from Joan Luehers, many years ago. Joan’s husband, Dean, had recently sent copies of concerts in which they participated. My thought was to share their efforts while viewing photos or eating. There was way too much sharing of past events they mutually experienced. Perhaps we could listen to the recordings some time.

When it comes to sharing, I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the kind generosity of our members. Some were out of town on that day, others had prior commitments, but everyone shared what they could, when they could. This included setting the room up for the luncheon, supplying some food items, arranging flowers, serving and cleaning up afterwards. Paul’s family, Anne, husband Eric, and children Ben and Elise, pitched in where they could.

Not sure if I should classify the event as therapy or just our way of paying homage to a wonderful lady and her family through everyone’s SHARING!

A Busy Week with Fellowship Guild Friends

Submitted by Liz Evensen

Bright and early on July 21st morning, a group of seven women and two children met at church to clean the Kitchen and Nursery! Before noon, the Kitchen sparkled and the Nursery looked ‘refreshed’. What an awesome group of Volunteers: Mary, Sangja, Biruta, Lois, Sze-Wenn, Easter, Ethan, Judy & Liz! A ‘Tip of the Hat’ also goes out to Mary & Al for replacing the coffee maker and stove dripping pans. The kitchen is ‘stocked’, cabinet facing in place (thanks to Sangja and her husband, Jong)

and we’re ready for Coffee Hour and Sunday School activities!

Later that same week, on Thursday afternoon, a group of 13 Members/Friends met at The Bluffs for Snacks and primarily a chance to Visit! Within the group there were three former church secretaries, including, Nancy Johnson, who was secretary when the churches merged back in the 1970’s. Let the reminiscing begin; when members were identified by which denomination they represented – time flies! It was a delightful afternoon and if you weren’t there – we missed you! Before we parted Liz distributed the upcoming Fellowship Guild calendar (included under a separate article) – lots of activities to add to your calendar! Special thanks to Judy for coordinating this event and to Bobbie, Biruta, Judy & Liz who provided the lemonade and snacks.

Fellowship Guild Executive Board Plans for 2025

submitted by Liz Evensen

The Executive Board met on June 29 to begin planning the remainder of 2025. Please note that these meetings are held twice a year and open to all FG members. Meeting Dates and Times TBA.

Treasurer Bobbie Dalquist submitted a Treasurer’s Report. It reflected a very successful Winter Carnival Rummage Sale that saw profits of over \$1,000. However, 2025 Pledges are down by almost half. This is very concerning and the board discussed a variety of solutions. We will start by making members aware of the situation and hopefully the reminder will trigger action! This item is tabled until the next Business Meeting.

Mark Your Calendars:

- ☐ August 16 & 17, 2025 - 11AM-2PM. 'Pack the Backpacks' at Salvation Army. Lois Jambekar, Coordinator.
- ☐ August 23, 2025 - 'Afternoon on the Town' from 11 AM-2 PM. Volunteers & wrapped Candies are needed. Distribute candy, stickers and a raffle signup for 5-\$20 Gift Card Certificates to Jim's Foodmart. Ann Campbell, Coordinator.
- ☐ September 14, 2025 – 'All Church Fall Picnic' following Worship. Bobbie & Dan Dalquist, Hosts at their lakeside home: 44564 US 41; Chassell.
- ☐ September 27, 2025 'Breakfast' & Business Meeting @ 9:30 AM – 'Place TBA. Liz Evensen, Coordinator.
- ☐ October 19, 2025 – 'All Church Potluck with a Purpose'. Fellowship Guild, Coordinator.
- ☐ November 8, 2025 – 'Holiday Rummage Sale'. Your Christmas 'treasures' are always welcome! Bobbie Dalquist, Coordinator.

Lots of opportunities for all church members to participate – everyone is welcome!

Don't Forget..... Your Fellowship Guild Pledge!

This friendly ♦♦ reminder is asking you to check on your response to Fellowship Guild's 2025 Pledge Letter! We are hoping you intended to support Fellowship Guild but we haven't heard from a lot of people! Please rectify this by sending your Pledge/Payment to Bobbie Dalquist (FG Treasurer) as soon as possible.

Your support is appreciated and your participation is of utmost importance! Thank You for considering this request! If you would like another Pledge Letter, just ask any Executive Board Member: Judy Albee, Bobbie Dalquist, Liz Evensen, Lou Ellyn Helman, Lois Jambekar or Biruta Lowther.

Helping Hands Update

submitted by Beth Smock

I wanted to add on a little from Sherri's report on how much aid is being given out by Angel Mission.

Helping Hands is also seeing a slight increase in requests for assistance. After receiving no requests in June, I have given out 8 vouchers in July. (Not including the woman who stopped me at Walmart to ask for a voucher last weekend. She hasn't called the office yet but probably will soon as she is one of our regulars.) However, most of our requests are for help with gas. This might be because there are other places people can receive help with food.

As of the writing of this article we have given out 34 vouchers this year, compared to 55 all of last year. We are coming up to a busier time of year, as last year we gave out 6 vouchers in October and 8 in November. With prices starting to rise, I am anticipating that need will be greater this year.

Right now we are doing okay with financially keeping up with the need, having taken in \$1,832.00 (with possible spending at \$1,700.00). However, this is helped by a couple of larger donations received earlier this year. We usually receive between \$100.00 and \$200.00 per month in donations.

Your continued giving allow us to maintain this important ministry of PLUC. Thank you for all you do.

You Know It Is Too Hot

submitted by Beth Smock

You know it is too hot when you want some ice cream, but it is too hot to go get in your hot car to go the air conditioned store to buy some.

True story from this past weekend.

Building and Grounds

Take a moment to stop and thank all those who help keep our building in good shape.

Al Eckhart and Pastor Peter have been working this spring and summer on getting our fire safety up to code. The most recent upgrade was the tuckpointing of the chimney. Work is still being done to upgrade the fire alarm system.

As I reported in the weekly email a few weeks ago, a woman stopped by the church and spoke with Pastor Peter about how she has been inspired by our flowers. She took some pictures and said she was going to go home and plant some of the same flowers.

Thank you to everyone who keeps our church building and grounds beautiful and safe.

Quotes Needed

You might have noticed that Beth had a quote on her office door for a while. A suggestion was received to put up a different quote each week or so. If you have a favorite quote you would like to be posted, please give it to Beth and she will put it in the rotation.



Children's Corner

THE BEE-ATTITUDES
MATTHEW 5:3-12

Blessed Are...

Connect the Beatitudes!

THE POOR IN SPIRIT	FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED
THE MERCIFUL	FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED
THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD
THE MEEK	FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
THE PEACEMAKERS	FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH
THOSE WHO MOURN	FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY
THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS	FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD
THE PURE IN HEART	FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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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 AM - 12:00 Noon or by appointment

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

August Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
08/03	Ann	Beth	Greg	Lou Ellyn & Louisa
08/10	Beth	Nancy	Carl	Bobbie & Sze Wenn
08/17	Liz & Harold	Harold	Lois	TBD
08/24	Marla & David	Lois	Jim	TBD
08/31	Sze Wenn	Dianne	Peter	TBD

