



**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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October 2025

### **Consistory Highlights**

#### **Discussion of Consent Agenda items:**

##### **Finances:**

1. The Budget Committee (Rob Middlemis-Brown, Terry Monson, Bobbie Dalquist) is beginning to work on the 2026 budget. It should be ready for Consistory review at the October meeting.

##### **Office Manager/Financial Secretary Report:**

1. Two gas vouchers and one food voucher has been given out since the last Consistory meeting. In addition, one request for gas was denied as the person had already been helped twice this year so is not eligible for assistance until 2026.
2. Office Manager Smock found an envelop, that had arrived in the mail, on the bench upon arrived at work one morning. There was no return address (only said PLUC) but had been mailed with a stamp to PLUC and went through Kingsford. There was \$480.00 in cash designated to Helping Hands in the envelop. This is the 2nd time this year that PLUC has received such a gift.
3. The above led to a conversation about cash and checks received through the mail laying on the bench in the entryway until picked up the next time someone

comes to work. There is concern that this could lead to items being stolen (some envelops obviously have checks in them). Elder S. Middlemis-Brown stated that Angel Mission has found a mailbox on Amazon. This will be explored for security purposes.

4. Office Manager Smock requested to take a paid vacation day on October 13, 2026. Her scheduled list of vacation days goes by the state holiday calendar. This includes Christmas Eve which is not a good day to not be in the office. It does not include Columbus Day. However, Columbus Day is a Federal holiday so the banks are closed. Consistory approved Office Manager Smock's request to take off October 13, 2025 (Columbus Day).
5. The above led to a discussion of changing the Office Manager holiday schedule to follow the Federal calendar instead of the State calendar. Consistory approved this change.

##### **Pastor Report:**

1. Elder A. Eckhart assisted with September communion. Elder B. Smock will assist in October.
2. Pastor Peter will conclude this year's Season of Creation on Sunday, September 28, 2025.
3. The students have returned for the new school year and Pastor Peter has been thinking about student ministry. PLUC

will be taking part in the MTU Faith Fair on Thursday, September 25th and the Student Ministries "Taste of Faith" on Sunday, September 28th. Pastor Peter reported that 30+ students have expressed some interest in a Progressive Faith Fellowship.

4. Pastor Peter publicly thanked the Dalquist's for again hosting the PLUC Fall Picnic and pianist Susie Byykkonen for her music each week.

### **Old Business:**

**Church Signage:** Pastor Peter reported he needs a budget to even talk to Industrial Graphics about signage for the church. Elder B. Smock suggested contacting Michigan Tech. Students are looking for projects as part of their class assignments. MTU is pursuing a Central Education Experience in place of the Gen Ed offerings. Pastor Peter will contact the Manager of the program.

**Nominating Committee:** As requested, Elder B. Smock contacted last year's members of the nominating committee, Michelle Jarvie Eggart and LouEllyn Helman. Jarvie Eggart will continue but Helman has declined. Smock also continues on the committee. One more member from outside Consistory needs to be on the committee. Elder Smock will use Sunday announcements, the weekly email, and the PLUC newsletter to advertise for another member of the committee. Before doing that she will ask Elizabeth Middleton which would allow for student input.

### **New Business:**

**Treasurer E. Lowther** has a state form that he must update (this form is submitted yearly). Pastor Peter is listed as President, Elder R. Middlemis-Brown is listed as Secretary, Treasurer E. Lowther is Treasurer, and Elders S. Middlemis-Brown, B. Lowther, and B. Smock are Directors.

**Tree Removal:** PLUC has been informed by the company that did the easement work around

the church that two trees have to be removed as they are too close to the easement work. The fir tree on the far corner of the property and the tree between the drive thru and the street will be removed soon. Elder B. Smock thought that the small tree might have been a gift but it seems this is not the case. NOTE: This tree removal is non negotiable as it is part of the original arrangement.

**Make a Difference Day:** Make a Difference Day is an annual MTU Activity where student groups go into the community and do odd jobs such as leaf removal, painting, etc. Fellowship Guild will discuss if any of our members would like any such assistance and Pastor Peter will speak with Building and Grounds committee member A. Eckhart to see if there is anything to do around the church.

**Fall meeting of the Congregation/ Corporation:** This meeting will be held on November 9, 2025 following worship.

**Advent:** Advent begins on November 30th. Pastor Peter will speak with other churches about holding Advent services. Final decision is tabled until the October Consistory meeting. Since the first Sunday of Advent is during the Thanksgiving weekend, Consistory approved moving the "Greening the Church" to December 7th.

**Presbytery Mission Committee:** Pastor Peter received a phone call from the Presbytery Mission Committee to see if PLUC would be interested in funds for Campus Ministries. Pastor Peter has spoken with Pastor Sarah from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Rick from Canterbury House about a Progressive Christian Fellowship which would provide opportunities on campus for students to gather for things like Bible study, speakers, and game nights. Pastor Peter has spoken with students about this who have told him that this would be better if held on campus. Students would know what churches support this effort but it would not be held in any particular church. Consistory authorized Pastor Peter to pursue a Progressive Christian Fellowship.

**Cultivating the Gift of Preaching:** Elder S. Middlemis-Brown shared information she had received about possible training available from the Synod of the Covenant. The goal of CGPI is to train 140 preachers from across the Synod of the Covenant over five years. Of 650+ Churches in the Synod, nearly 200 are currently without an installed Teaching Elder or CRE. There are many elders and other church leaders throughout the synod who are called and gifted to preach. The aim is to help emerging preachers hone those gifts and live into their calling, particularly training preachers to serve in smaller rural and urban churches who are currently without an installed pastor.

**Upcoming Dates:** Consistory will meet on October 21st, November 18th and December 16th.

### Financial Report

#### Received in September

Pledged	\$823.00
Unpledged	\$601.44
Loose Plate	\$20.00

## ANNOUNCING

Fall Church Clean Up

Saturday, October 11, 2025  
10:00 am – 12:00 noon



## Holiday Decorations Sale with a Side of Rummage

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

Get ready to deck the halls and find some unexpected treasures! What has now become an annual tradition, our **Holiday Decorations Rummage Sale**, is happening on **Saturday, November 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

This year, our stock of Christmas decorations is a little lighter than usual. If you've been thinking about downsizing your collection, now is the perfect time to donate your gently used items and help us create a festive and well-stocked sale.

### More Than Just Tinsel and Ornaments

Because our holiday decor supply is low, we're expanding the sale to include traditional rummage sale items. This is a great opportunity to clear out your closets and help a good cause. We will be accepting donations of:

- **Gently used kitchen and household items**
- **Books**
- **Small pieces of furniture**
- **Winter coats and jackets**

If you have any questions about what you can donate, please contact **Bobbie Dalquist** at [rbdalqui@gmail.com](mailto:rbdalqui@gmail.com) or **906-370-8614**. Donations can be dropped off at the church the first week of November.

### Lend a Hand

We can't make this event a success without your support! Workbees are scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 1:30 to 4:30 and Friday, November 7, 1:30 to 4:30. If you can't commit to a 3 hour shift, come for an hour or two. There will be a sign up sheet in the church lounge for the workbees and shifts on sale day, Saturday, November 8. Your help is greatly

appreciated and makes a big difference.

***Come find new-to-you holiday decorations and a variety of rummage sale finds, all in one place! We look forward to seeing you there.***

## Fellowship Guild Potluck With a Purpose

Sunday  
October 19<sup>th</sup>  
Following Worship



## Time for Coats Already

Submitted by Lois Jambekar

The Copper Country Angel Mission “Coat the Copper Country” event is being held Saturday, October 25, at The Salvation Army building in Hancock. From 10:00 am to 2:00 pm families with children are invited to come in to select winter wear. Beginning at 2:00 pm through 4:00 pm the general public can come in to get winter wear. Winter wear is desperately needed for this event so if you have any winter wear you are not using that is in good condition, please bring it to church. Thanks.

## Children’s Corner

Note: A way to use all that Candy Corn so the kids don’t eat all of it.

### “Candy Corn Collage”

Supplies Needed:

Glue (stick or bottle; stick recommended)

Construction paper or note cards

Markers/decorative materials

Candy corn

1. Have children draw a design or picture on the construction paper.
2. Use a glue stick (or bottle, but the stick likely dries faster and is often less messy) to go over the lines decorated.
3. Carefully attach candy corn pieces onto the glue line.
4. Allow the candy corn to dry. Hang on string, if desired.

## Newsletter Done. It’s Time for a Nap!



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

**Return Service Requested**

October Volunteer Schedule				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer Writer</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
10/05	Judy	Dianne	Lois	Bobbie, Sze Wenn
10/12	Marla & David	Ann	Greg	TBD
10/19	Sze Wenn	Lois	Jim	Potluck
10/26	Lois	Nancy	Carl	TBD