



**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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March 2019

## ***What's Happening @ PLUC***

### **Consistory Highlights**

*submitted by Terry Monson, Clerk*

The Angel Mission moved two truckloads of shelves and racks donated by Shopko to the Mission and distributed 45 bags of food serving 85 adults and 52 children (including 21 new sign-ups) in January.

Treasurer: As of January 31, 2019, the Church's savings and checking account balances were \$1,318 and \$37,218, respectively. The checking account was divided between General Fund (\$15,713) and designated and special funds [\$19,623, of which flood relief funds comprised a little more than half (\$10,407)].

Financial Secretary: The percentage received through the end of January for Pledges/Unpledged/Plate were 188% on a monthly pro-rated basis and \$872 of 2018 pledges were received in January, bringing the final total to \$73,415 or 96.6% of what was pledged for 2018.

Finance Committee: The Church's Keweenaw Community Foundation (KCF) endowments totaled \$123,802 at the end of December 2018. Despite declines due to

market conditions in the last quarter of 2018, the Committee anticipates that 2019 distributions should be about \$7,000 since distributions are based upon a rolling average of fund values during the previous 12 quarters.

Office Manager: Gave out four food vouchers since the Consistory's January meeting and asked the Consistory to set a date for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The Consistory approved this suggestion. (Editor's Note: The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken on March 31st.)

Pastor Norland: The Ash Wednesday service will be March 6 at 7:30. In partnership with Good Shepherd, Lenten services will be held March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 and 10 with March 20 and April 13 at Portage Lake.

Provided \$880 from the Flood Relief Fund to a family needing HVAC repairs. United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) social workers identified the family in need.

Met with UCC officials at Wausau and will meet with PCUSA Committee on Ministry February 23.

Met with KCF Director Jim Vivian to discuss methods of increasing the Church's

KCF endowments. The Consistory suggested that Director Vivian be invited to give a brief presentation on KCF resources following a noon potluck.

Clerk: Identified 15 Church “friends” (those who attend but are not members) and discussed Committee assignments for 2019. By-Law work revisions were referred to a sub-committee of Pastor Norland and Elders Lydia Lytle, Will Lytle, and Monson to review the By-Laws and make recommendations to the Consistory at a later date.

Committee Reports: There were none.

New Business - Update Church Brochure: The Consistory delegated this task to the Outreach Committee. The Youth Ministry will be a significant addition to the brochure.

### **Highlights of the February 3 Congregation/Corporation Meeting**

*submitted by Terry Monson, Clerk*

Moderator George Carnahan, a member of the Mackinac Presbytery Committee on Ministry, opened the meeting.

2018 Annual Report: The Congregation unanimously approved accepting the 2018 Annual Report.

2018 Finances: Ordinary income and expenses showed a deficit of \$2,554, about \$25,000 below the projected budget deficit. Lower than budgeted clergy compensation and higher than budgeted income accounted for most of the lower deficit. There was a surplus of \$11,298 for “other” (designated and/or otherwise earmarked) income and expenses. Contributions for Flood of June Relief (\$12,107) moved the net “other” income into surplus.

2019 Budget: The Finance Committee projected a budget deficit of \$18,741 for

ordinary income and expenses as clergy compensation returns to “normal” and income declines slightly due to membership losses (from 51 to 48) despite more than half of pledging units increasing their pledges. In addition, the Youth Ministry (included in the “other” category) will need to be financed. Balance sheet carryovers (\$1,944), Wagner Endowment earnings (\$3,840), and Vanguard account transfers (\$7,216) will be used for that purpose. The Congregation unanimously approved accepting the 2019 Budget.

Approve the call to Peter Norland: Lydia Lytle, Chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee recommends congregational approval of the call Peter Norland as the Church’s next pastor. Paper ballots were circulated with 21 congregation members voting to approve and one abstention. Following this ballot, Rob Middlemis-Brown moved (Sherry Middlemis-Brown second) to amend his call agreement to include a three-year contract. This amendment was unanimously approved. Then the Moderator and the congregation welcomed Peter as our permanent pastor

Pastor Report: Pastor Norland thanked the congregation for its support while he served as transitional minister.

Adjournment to Corporation Meeting

Open the Meeting: Moderator Terry Monson, Finance Committee Chair opened the meeting.

Business: Jan Medlyn moved (Karen Hubbard second)) to approve business conducted during the Congregational Meeting. Carried.

Adjournment: Sherry Middlemis-Brown moved (Lou Ellyn Helman second) to adjourn. Carried.

## Financial Report

*Information received from Financial Secretary*

### Received in January

Pledged	\$3689.50
Unpledged	620.00
Loose Plate	79.00

### Received in February

Pledged	6774.40
Unpledged	335.00
Loose Plate	121.00

**Note:** This is for three weeks as services were not held the last Sunday of February due to the blizzard.

## Other News

### Ash Wednesday and Lenten Schedule

#### Ash Wednesday

March 6 7:00 PLUC

#### Lenten Mid-Week Worship:

**6:00 Soup 7:00 Lenten Prayer**

Mar 13	Good Shepherd
Mar 20	PLUC
Mar 27	Good Shepherd
April 3	PLUC
April 10	Good Shepherd

**Note:** Information about Palm Sunday and Easter will be in the April newsletter



Time to  
Spring Ahead

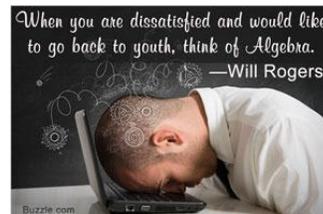
March 10, 2019

## One Great Hour of Sharing

**Note:** The following is an excerpt from a children's sermon written by Jenna Campbell, a Certified Christian Educator serving as the Director of Children and Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma

What are we celebrating when we celebrate birthdays? Today I want to tell you about something that turns 70 years old this year!. Yes, we are celebrating the 70th birthday of The One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year! One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering of money we and many other Presbyterian churches around the country give at this time of year. The money collected from the One Great Hour of Sharing goes to help people in our country and countries all over the world: people who are recovering from natural disasters like hurricanes or floods or human-caused disasters like school shootings, people who are hungry and need sustainable food resources, people are aren't treated fairly or need assistance in creating a better future for themselves and their family. And One Great Hour of Sharing has been helping people all over the world for the last 70 years! So as we celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing's birthday this year, YOU get to share the gift of God's love through your generous giving.

We will be taking our One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 31, 2019.



Okay, maybe this is not so funny to a bunch of MTU people but your Office Manager can certainly relate.

## Fellowship Guild Meets at Miscowaubik Club

*Submitted by Lou Ellyn Helman*

**S**aturday, February 16, was a day of celebration as twelve members of Fellowship Guild met at the Miscowaubik Club in Calumet for a Valentine's Day Luncheon. In addition to those who regularly attend FG events, we were honored to have Julie Myers, Connie Julien, Jan Dalquist and her daughter Marthe,

After a delicious lunch, a business report by Judy Albee, and much friendly chatter, we enjoyed the highlight of the afternoon, Bobbie Dalquist's program. She spoke about decluttering, sorting, organizing, etc. and gave many helpful tips. One such tip was to label paper bags, "throw away, give away, elsewhere" (for relocating an item because it doesn't belong in that room). She also said, "Decide what to keep - not what to throw out!"

For an estate sale, she recommended hiring Empty Nesters, who are professionals and know the value of things. Don't throw anything away as the Empty Nesters might find something, such as a "rock" that sold for \$6,000 (no one in the family knew it had any value.) **After** the sale, is the time to throw things out!!

Bobbie cited many reference books and provided interesting, detailed handouts. Later the audience named places to recycle, etc. For instance the Shipping Shop will shred seven pounds of personal papers for \$5.00! Down Wind Sports has a consignment shop in the basement and there is a new consignment shop, called the Tool Shed, in the old Sear's building.

Having too much stuff is a challenge everyone has! We left the luncheon feeling energized and ready to tackle "that" closet, you know the one I mean, the one where things fall out when you open the door!!!

Thanks, Bobbie, it was a great program, a delicious luncheon, and a fun afternoon! Happy decluttering!

## Declutters Unite

*submitted by Judy Albee*

After Bobbie Dalquist's recent Fellowship Guild program entitled Downsizing, Organizing and Tidying we are all motivated to look at our 'stuff' with fresh eyes and renewed vigor. Now is the time to 'repurpose' a few items that we can part with and don't really want in the landfill. After recently speaking to the retiring Presbytery Point camp director, Caron Christopherson, she indicated that there are several needs they have as the new director and staff prepare for the summer ahead.

In the past few years Fellowship Guild has taken on a couple of mission projects for the staff and campers. Last year alone we furnished them with over 40 beach tote bags made from used T-shirts. These enabled the campers to keep their gear together when they went down for waterfront activities. Caron felt that they won't need any more of these now, but could use about 15 counselor 'goodie bags' and any items from their Kitchen Shower list.

The goodie bags consist of a dozen personal items that makes the counselor's jobs easier. "Everything was perfect," related Caron when we spoke about the contents of last year's donations. There will be a list of needed items on the bulletin board and updated quantity-wise, as things are turned in. Fellowship Guild members also plan to sew/donate some bibbed cook's aprons and any other excess utensils or kitchen requests they can spare.

Men, it's OK for you to check over the camp's entire Wish List as well. Although the list has been sent to a couple dozen Presbyterian churches in the Upper Peninsula and part of the lower peninsula,

we have an opportunity to support this Michigamme youth facility in a variety of ways. Our church and youth have been involved with 'The Point' for decades.

Give it some thought, time decluttering and/or a donation by the end of April. Our donations will be taken to the camp in early May for summer use. Thanks for sharing.

### 2019 Presbytery Point Camp Wish List

- Sponsor(s) for a large capacity washing machine for Mackinac Lodge
- High efficiency Laundry Soap
- Sponsor(s) for a large capacity dryer for Mackinac Lodge
- Sponsor(s) for 7 freestanding cabin heaters

#### Kitchen Shower:

- small, medium and large metal spatulas
- small, medium and large Rubbermaid spatulas
- small, medium and large spoon-shaped spatulas
- bibbed cook's aprons
- heavy-duty hot pads
- heavy-duty rubber gloves (all sizes)
- clear, 2 qt. Rubbermaid pitchers with covers
- clear, 1 gal. Rubbermaid pitchers with covers
- Sponsor(s) for 3 additional anti-fatigue kitchen floor mats matching present mats
- professional food thermometers

#### Waterfront Shower:

- Various sizes- swim fins, swim masks, snorkel kits
- Fox 40 Lifeguard whistles
- Canoe paddles
- Kayak paddles
- Lake Kayaks

Summer Volunteers: call for information on paperwork and training

- Camp Nurses
- Craft leaders or helpers

- Maintenance helpers (mow lawn, trim around cabins, building repairs and maintenance)
- Baking leaders or helpers
- Sailing, canoeing, tenting, and fishing leaders or helpers

### Angel Mission

*submitted by Barb Brookhouse*

This is a little overdue, but a big, heartfelt hug to all of those who helped provide gifts for the Angel Mission's Angel Tree Christmas project. This hug doesn't come from me (although I think you deserve one too), but from a young mother I have often seen when I go to the Mission to help. I was in ShopKO when this young mom recognized me at the same time I recognized her. Her eyes lit up as she came over to me. She then thanked me over and over again for the wonderful gifts her son received because of the Angel Tree. She was surprised that it wasn't just a toy or two that he got. As she said, "He can now go outside and play because he has snow pants and a warm coat." That's when she reached out and gave me a big hug and I hugged her back because she made my day! So....I pass this hug on to you.

March 2019

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(USA)

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Office Manager: Beth Smock

#### General Office Hours:

8:00-11:00 AM - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

#### Pastor Office Hours

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

**Return Service Requested**

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Can you tell I am ready for spring? Beth