



**PORTAGE
LAKE
UNITED
CHURCH**

PLUC

United Church of Christ & Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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June 2019

What's Happening @ PLUC

Consistory Highlights

submitted by Terry Monson, Clerk

Finances: Pledges (42%), unpledged (60%), loose plate (35%) and building use (48%) receipts are all greater than one-third of budget expected during the first four months of 2019. The KCF Wagner Fund distribution will be about \$1,500 lower than expected. Distributions from the Church's other two KCF funds, which were less affected, will be used to offset the lower Wagner Fund distributions to Church mission activities and the Fellowship Guild).

The Clerk traveled to Marquette for the **PCUSA's annual review** of PLUC Consistory and Congregation/Corporation meeting minutes from April 2018 through March 2019. No problems were identified.

Audit Reports are being sent to Elders for discussion at the June meeting.

The furnace room's **roof leakage problem** is being addressed but the furnaces may need replacement in the near future.

Pastor Norland reported that Holy Week services were well received and thanked the Consistory, Congregation, the

Fellowship Guild, and others involved in his installation. The KUUF is sponsoring a "Dare to Share" program in which people can list items (e.g., medical equipment, tools, yard equipment) for others to borrow. Sunday School will go on vacation at the end of May. The two local Methodist churches are collaborating on a vacation bible school that PLUC children can attend. He will be on vacation July 21 and 28.

The Consistory is reviewing the Congregation and Corporation **By-Laws** and will present any revisions at the November meetings.

Jan Medlyn was appointed Presbytery alternate.

Elders discussed plans for a **Consistory retreat** to be held later this summer

Elders suggested that the Memorial Committee use its funds to purchase an appropriate plaque for the **Christ Candle** that Melinda and Fred Quivik donated.

Elders agreed to continue hiring **summer musicians** to accompany services.

Flagstaff Bank requested that its parking area **only be used on Sundays**.

Elders approved building use requests for AA and Al Anon groups and a retirement celebration for Ann and Greg Campbell on Thursday, July 11 from 6-9:00 pm.

Elders discussed a possible **time change for services to 10:30 am** so that Adult Education and Sunday School could meet at 9:30 am. No decision was made. Please provide your thoughts to Elders Brookhouse, Jambekar, Lydia and Will Lytle, Monson, and Tumban.

Elders wished Heather Tisdale, Kiska, and Hudson well on their forthcoming relocation to California.

Financial Report

Information received from Financial Secretary

Received in May

Pledge	\$3,868.40
Unpledged	800.00
Loose Plate	112.00

Summer Hours

Well, the seniors have graduated and everyone else is almost done with school for the year, so allegedly summer is here (why is the heat still running at my house?). Starting on June 2nd we will not be having Sunday School for the summer. We will continue with Worship at 10:00 and refreshments following the service.

As was mentioned in the Consistory Highlights, Consistory is considering changing Worship Service to 10:30 with Adult Education and Sunday School at 9:30. Please share your thoughts on this proposed change with a member of the Consistory.

Other News

Celebrating an Installation and College Graduations

Submitted by Lou Ellyn Helman

On May 5th, Portage Lake United Church was a buzz. Excitement was in the air!!!

Everyone seemed to be dashing here and there. There was so much going on – we were installing Pastor Peter - we were honoring two college graduates, Kyle and Korri – and Fellowship Guild was having a fund-raising dinner.

We felt very special having three ministers to share the various responsibilities for the installation and service. Reverend Rob MacDongall, Associate Conference Minister, gave the sermon. Reverend Stephen Russell, represented the Northwest Association UCC Wisconsin Conference, and George Carnahan, represented the Presbytery of Mackinac. Their installation service was beautiful and very meaningful, and we were all proud and happy to welcome Pastor Peter as our official minister!!!!

We celebrated Kyle Brill and Korri Baird, our two students graduating from Michigan Tech. It has been fun getting to know them – and we wish them God's Speed as they start on their next adventure. We hope they will visit us whenever they are in the area!

Thanks to Kiska Deering who sang and played while members waited for dinner to be served... Fellowship Guild members had decorated the tables with yellow roses, contributing to the festive air. The serving table was loaded with sliced turkey, cranberry sauce, dressing, vegetables, potatoes, and a variety of fruit and desserts. There is no way that anyone could have left the Fellowship Hall without a smile of contentment!!!

Fellowship Guild thanks everyone who made a dish for the dinner, especially Kathy Lekvin who contributed and baked the turkey!!!! The dinner was a big success and it was the combined effort of so many, many - those who put up and took down the tables, those who cooked and baked, those who decorated, those who cleaned and served, and those who stayed to enjoy a delicious meal and a time of fellowship and laughter.

It truly was a busy, busy Sunday – and one we all will remember for a long time!

Congratulations again to Kyle and Korri – and one more big welcome to Pastor Peter!!!

The Angel Mission

by Barb Brookhouse

The month of April was quite busy at the Angel Mission. Besides the many donations of clothing and household items, the food pantry had 10 new people signing up for food. Thus 78 adults and 39 children were helped with food for the month. An added plus was that oranges, apples, pork chops, and pork loins were included in the food pantry items. Also 37 families were provided with Easter dinners. April was also the beginning of prom season. The Angel Mission has many beautiful prom dresses and accessories for young women who might otherwise not attend the prom because of financial constraints. The mission was even able to provide a dress to someone attending Mom Prom.

We would like to pass along a huge "Thank You" from Lynn, the director, for the continued support the church provides. We'd also like to add that the Angel Mission is so appreciated by the tri-county area they serve. When we're volunteering there we here thank you often and see smiles on so many faces as adults and kids find items they need.

From the Finance Committee

Submitted by Terry Monson

The Committee, which now consists of Bobbie Dalquist, Harold Evensen, Brent Lekvin, Jerry MacInnes, and Terry Monson, met on May 7. Among other items, it:

- Suggested several simplifications to the Church's financial records (closing all SNB savings accounts and merging or transferring small balances in several categories).
- Reviewed the May Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's Reports to the Consistory. The Treasurer reported no problems on the balance sheet and profit-loss statement other than kitchen supplies appearing to be well over budget. The Financial Secretary reported that pledges (42%), unpledged (60%), loose plate (35%) and building use (48%) receipts are all greater than one-third of budget expected during the first four months of 2019.
- Endorsed proposed By-Law changes that merge the Endowment and Memorial Committees (since their functions often overlap) and eliminate the Budget Committee (since the Finance Committee now prepares the annual budget). The Consistory will present all proposed revisions at the November Congregation/Corporation meeting.
- Reviewed recent activity in the Church's KCF endowments. Their March 31, 2019 balances totaled \$134,905 (\$96,527 in the Wagner Fund, \$17,308 in the PLUC Agency Fund, and \$21,070 in the PLUC Endowment Fund). This year, distributions will total \$4,793 (\$3,314 from the Wagner Fund, \$866 from the PLUC Agency Fund, and \$611 from the PLUC Endowment Fund). The Wagner distribution is about \$1,500 lower than expected because KCF policies do not allow distributions to reduce a fund's original principal. Declines in financial

markets during 2018 coupled with the Fund's short history have not allowed significant growth in its balance, which is \$3,314 greater than what was transferred from the Superior National Bank to the KCF in 2017.

□ Discussed how the Church can begin to set aside funds to replace its heating system in the not too distant future.

John L. Lowther

On June 22nd, family and friends will gather at PLUC to remember and celebrate the life of John Lowther who passed away on May 9, 2019. Visitation will be at 1:00 PM with the Memorial Service at 2:00 PM. A light snack reception will follow the service.

John was born on September 5, 1943 in Burlington, Iowa. He married Biruta Lacis, his high school sweetheart in 1966. They are parents of two children, Sara and Edward.

John graduated from the University of Iowa with a MS in Mathematics and a Ph.D in computer science. He began his long teaching career on the charter faculty of Southwest Minnesota State before joining the faculty at Michigan Tech in 1974. He retired from MTU in 2009 after suffering a stroke.

He did not let his health issues keep him away from some of his favorite things such as staying in touch with former colleagues by computer or attending seminars. He also continued to enjoy attending concerts, and he and Biruta planned and sponsored a concert by the Michigan Tech's Visual and Performing Arts at the Rozsa Center in 2016 to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. John also enjoyed Husky sports and the pep band.

Music was a very important part of John's life. Besides being a long time member of

the PLUC and Michigan Tech Concert choirs, he also played bassoon the Southeast Iowa Symphony and the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra.

Please join us on June 22nd as we share memories of our friend John.

We Need You

submitted by Beth Smock, Office Manager

First, let me thank all of you who are already volunteering to help with the many tasks that are important to our worship and fellowship (which is pretty much everyone).

However, we still need more help. We are unfortunately losing some folks, either as they move away from the area into the next step of their lives or are away for the summer. We will miss you.

This especially leaves us with some holes in our Worship needs, especially readers, prayer writers, and folks to do our Sermon Under the Tree (we only have three people to do this and one often travels). While we enjoy these short sessions with the children of all ages we would love to hear what others would have to share.

Therefore, if you would like to help by being a reader (this involves doing the announcements and reading the first two readings), learning how to be a prayer writer, or giving a short Sermon Under the Tree, please let Beth know. While the reader is usually scheduled for a month at a time, that is not set in stone. Beth will be glad to work with you and meet your scheduling needs. So even if you want to do something only once a month or so, we want to hear from you.

Summer Musicians

submitted by Beth Smock

We will have summer musicians again this year. However, we will be doing it a little differently this year. There will be a sign up sheet in the lounge, but you would not sign up for a specific Sunday (unless you would like a specific day to celebrate something like an anniversary). This will give Susie a little more leeway in finding people who would like to share their talents with us.

We would ask for a \$60.00 donation to sponsor a musician again this year as we do want to acknowledge the time they spend preparing for and presenting their musical talent with us.

The sign up sheet will be available on the table in the lounge beginning June 9th.

Why Teacher's Drink

Since we have several teachers in our church family I thought I would share some of the questions and genuine answers from 16 year olds from a recent GED exam. I am sure some of you can relate. The comments are not mine, they came with the questions, though some of them are funnier and the answers. Thanks to Nancy for sharing this with me.

Q. Name the four seasons.

A. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes.

A. Premature death.

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour?

A. Keep it in the cow.
(Simple, but brilliant.)

Q. What is the fibula?

A. A small lie.

Q. What does "varicose" mean?

A. Nearby.

Q. Give the meaning of the term "Caesarean section."

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

Q. What is a seizure?

A. A Roman Emperor.

(Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit.)

Q. What is a terminal illness?

A. When you are sick at the airport.
(Irrefutable.)

Q. What does the work "benign" mean?

A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

(Brilliant.)

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

**Portage Lake United Church
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Return Service Requested

ONE WORD ESSAYS

Determination



Curiosity



Contentment



Awe

