



**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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June 2021

**Consistory Highlights**

*submitted by Beth Smock*

Due to scheduling conflicts, the May Consistory meeting was not held until May 27<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, highlights are not currently available. However, some decisions were made with current applications. Please see articles below to learn about these decisions. The Consistory meeting minutes will be available by June 11<sup>th</sup> for those who would like to review them.

**Financial Report**

*Information received from Financial Secretary*

**Received In May (through May 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

Pledge	\$6,544.86
Unpledged	792.00
Loose Plate	00.00
Per Capita	191.00

**June Volunteer Schedule**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer</u>
June 6	Beth	Greg
June 13	Liz	Barb
June 20	Jim	Lois J.
June 27	Ann	Carl

**WE'RE BACK!!!**

At the May 27<sup>th</sup> Consistory meeting, Consistory approved returning worship to full in-person worship, beginning June 6<sup>th</sup>. Covid-19 regulations, including mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing, and staying home if you are sick, will be enforced. We will be continuing the ZOOM option for those who prefer to attend in this fashion.

**NOTE:** Consistory also approved changing the worship start time to **10:30 am**.

We are excited as we begin to transition back to pre-pandemic days (though we do plan to continue the online option indefinitely.)

## Office Open

Beginning, Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, the PLUC office will be open for regular hours, 8:30-11:00 am Monday – Wednesday and Friday, with Thursday hours being 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Covid-19 restrictions of mask wearing, social distancing, and hand washing will be enforced. Beth, who has been working in the office by herself for about a month, is excited to start seeing people drop by the office in the future.

## *In Other News*

### Masks

*Submitted by Beth Smock*

Thank you to all those who made masks during the past year. A sign regarding free masks was put on the door on the cut through side and masks were placed on the bench. Handmade masks were also available in the office, and store bought masks were available on the table in the lounge.

All of the original handmade masks were given out, and Beth asked some people to make a few more. As of the writing of this note, only three handmade masks are still available. We also gave out at least one box of store bought masks and are working on the second box.

Hopefully the need for masks is now almost over. While this was a relatively simple (I am guessing the masks were not that hard to make. I don't sew.) task, it was one that met a need and was greatly appreciated.

## Produce Vouchers

*Submitted by Beth Smock*

For the last 11 months we have been working with Trinity Episcopal Church and their food pantry to provide \$20 food vouchers to Jim's Foodmart that may only be used to purchase fresh produce. This is in addition to our regular \$50.00 food vouchers.

We have given Trinity Episcopal Church 220 Produce Vouchers during that time. At the beginning of May, Lois (Trinity point person for Food Pantry) had 55 vouchers on hand, which did include the 20 I had given her for May. We have, unfortunately, not received the physical used vouchers back from Jim's, so I went through the bills from Jim's and hand counted the bills for around \$20.00 that only included produce.

Therefore, I do not have an exact count of how many vouchers have been used as vouchers could have been used in conjunction with other purchases. But from this count, at least 138 vouchers have been used through April 2021. That leaves 27 vouchers unaccounted for. These could have been used but are not obvious so I didn't count them, or people took them and did not use them. At this time, I will be contacting Trinity and inform them that we will not be giving them 20 vouchers a month, but will wait and see what they need (they have enough for a couple of months). If they need more, they can call and I can make some up.

This has been a very successful program. During the time the office was officially closed, we did not give out many regular food vouchers, though that has started to pick up in the last month. Your continued support of this program is greatly appreciated.

## Finance Committee May 2021

*Submitted by Terry Monson, Finance Committee*

The Committee met on Monday, April 5 to review the first quarter's financial statements and to discuss changes to the Church's Investment Policy.

**Profit-Loss Statement:** Bobbie Dalquist identified several minor errors - mainly mistakes in classifying transactions. She has spoken to Ed and had him send out a revised version prior to the April Consistory meeting.

**Balance Sheet:** Assets in the Balance Sheet include both checking and savings accounts at the Superior National Bank and Trust. Savings deposits earn only 0.05% per annum, so the Committee recommends moving the General Fund savings account balance (\$1,002) and the Memorial Fund savings balance (\$2,979) to General Fund and Memorial Fund checking accounts. This move will reduce the number of entries in the Balance Sheet.

**Investment Policy:** The Committee reviewed and revised Church's Investment Policy that was approved in the spring of 2017. Most of the revisions are cosmetic or reflect lessons learned since the 2017 Policy was approved.

a. The 2017 Policy delegated responsibility for oversight of our Keweenaw Community Foundation (KCF) endowments to the Finance Committee. The revised policy establishes and delegates this responsibility to the Memorial and Endowment **Sub-Committee** of the Finance Committee or delegates this responsibility to the Memorial and Endowment **Committee**. If it continues as a "Committee", then the Consistory needs to appoint a Consistory member to it (all Church Committees must have at least one Consistory member). In

contrast, a "Sub-Committee" does not require any Consistory member.

b. The revised policy also contains a clause (III D) that "As much as possible," the (Vanguard) account's assets should be invested in equities and funds that have high MSCI and/or other organizations' Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) ratings".

c. The revised policy retains some of the old policy's other conditions, including ranges for the composition of Vanguard assets between equities and bonds (III F), i.e., "the bond composition must range between 30% and 50% and its equity composition must range between 50% and 70% of the account's total value."

## Angel Mission

*Submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown*

Angel Mission will remain closed until the mess on Fifth Street is cleared up. Anyone needing assistance can call Donna or Lynn directly, or work through the church to contact them. Angel Mission will post their reopening on Facebook.

Sherry Middlemis-Brown saw Donna in Calumet the other day and learned that the donations for the fire victims are flowing out the doors of the Americinn and Salvation Army. They had to put a stop on item donations. Donna is afraid that once the items are sorted through, anything that has not been taken by victims will end up at Angel Mission. That will be a lot to handle without storage in the basement. They may need to stay closed a few extra days to accommodate the sorting.

We will keep people updated on any needs that Angel Mission may have.

## Church Clean Up

*Submitted by Ann Campbell*

MANY THANKS to all who helped with the PLUC Spring Cleanup! It was great to see so many people involved in caring for our church building and grounds, and especially nice to enjoy the beautiful Spring weather and fellowship together after the long COVID 19 winter. "Hats off" to :

Dianne Sprague  
Peter and Christina Norland  
Liz and Harold Evensen  
Lois Jambekar  
Sangja Lee  
Jim Northey  
Barb Brookhouse  
Ann and Greg Campbell

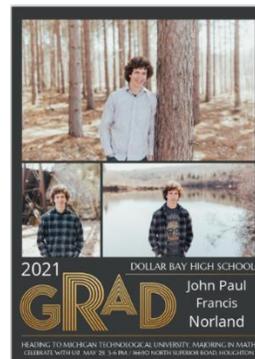


Please bear with us as we work our way through the steps of re-opening all our pre-pandemic programs.

## Congratulations John Paul

*Submitted by John Paul Norland*

Thank you to everyone from the church for all the support over the past few years. After high school, I plan to stay in the area and live at home, while I go to college at Michigan Tech to study Math. I'm considering joining the track team and music ensembles, and I'm excited for what the future has in store for me.



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### **Portage Lake United Church**

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Church (USA)

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Pastor: Rev. Peter Norland

Office Manager: Beth Smock

### **General Office Hours:**

8:30 AM – 11:00 AM – Mon.- Wed, Fri.;  
9:00-noon Thurs

### **Pastor Office Hours:**

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

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



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.

HAVE A GREAT  
SUMMER!!!

