



**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

October 2021

Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

Clerk's Report: No report.

Pastor's Report: The new AV equipment is mostly working well with just a few glitches. We now have three people (J. Northerly, C. Norland, and A. Plummer) who are able to work the equipment. We are currently celebrating "Seasons of Creation" during worship. Pastor Norland is working with the Worship Committee of G. Campbell, J. Koskiniemi, B. Hirvela, and S. Byykkonen in developing each week's service. Pastor Norland reported that he has been receiving "thank you's" from the Recovery groups that continue meeting at the church. Other groups would like to return but are having to step back with the resurgence of the virus.

COMMUNION: Elder L. Jambekar assisted with September communion, with Elder G. Campbell assisting in October. Pastor Norland requested the Sunday of October 17th as a vacation day (approved). He asked who was responsible for finding pulpit coverage. Elder G. Campbell said he would contact someone he knows.

Angel Mission: Angel Mission is currently closed as the asbestos is removed from the area of the fire across the street. They are trying to keep people away from the area until this job is completed and it is safer to be there. They do not know how long this will take. They are not officially accepting donations, though they have found things left in front of their door. They do continue to help with some food and in emergency situations.

Office Manager: The Office Manager shared two options for the continuation of the Helping Hands program. One was to return to the way Helping Hands was done prior to the pandemic. The other option was to provide a household a maximum of \$100.00 in assistance for a year, with a \$50.00 limit for each use, but allowing people to receive help more than twice in a year until the \$100.00 is reached. With this option Office Manager would keep a spreadsheet of how much each household used to stay within the \$100,00 limit. Elder G. Campbell moved (second by Elder W. Lytle) to accept Option #1, with the amount of the BP gas voucher being raised to \$50.00 (over the current \$25.00 voucher).
Approved.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee is beginning work on the 2022 budget. They will be meeting the week of September 26th and will have a preliminary budget to present to the Consistory at the October meeting. They anticipate that PLUC will experience a deficit next year.

Financial Secretary: Based on pledged, unpledged, loose plate and building use giving as of the end of August, the Financial Secretary expects that the 2021 budget will not be met. It is expected that Unpledged giving will be met, and possibly surpass the budgeted amount. Pledged giving will be close, but probably not 100%. Building use is estimated to be around 50% of budgeted amount, with loose plate including a very small amount of giving. This information has been shared with the Finance Committee as they begin their work on the 2022 budget.

Old Business: As is done every month, Consistory reviewed office hours, in-person worship, and building use by outside groups. Due to the current surge in cases, the current Covid-19 guidelines will continue. The introduction of a yearly theme is being paused at this time, with the Worship Committee looking more toward seasonal themes, such as the current “Seasons of Creation” to be followed by “Advent, Christmas, Epiphany”.

The AV committee continues to work on improvements.

New Business: The Personnel Committee has been activated to do yearly evaluations of the staff.

Building and Grounds has been working with UPPCO regarding improved lighting of the church parking lot. UPPCO will be installing a light on a pole that they will place by the parking lot. They are waiting for the final written proposal (received and signed). This will be a three year contract at

\$27.87 per month. Elder B. Brookhouse moved (second by Elder M. Jarvie-Eggart) to accept the proposal. Approved.

The Fall Church clean up will be held on October 23, 2021.

The possibility of having “Creative Garden Space” on the East lawn was discussed. The development of this idea received Consistory’s blessing.

Capital Improvements: As the church building continues to age, concerns such as the leaking roof and the lifespan of the heating/cooling system need to be addressed. Consistory decided to begin the process of looking at maintenance and improvement needs for the next 5-10 year by identifying building and budgeting needs. A team to examine our Capital Improvements will be put together in the near future.

Financial Report

Information received from Financial Secretary

Received In September

Pledge	\$5,534.92
Unpledged	492.00
Loose Plate	

October Volunteer Schedule

Date	Greet	Reader	Prayer Writer
10/3	Lois	Christina	Greg
10/10	Barb	Beth	Jim
10/17	Liz & Harold	Jim	Lois
10/24	Beth	Lois	Barb
10/31	Jon & Brian	Liz	Carl

**Holiday Decorations Rummage
Sale**
**Saturday, November 6, 10:00 a.m.
to 2:00 p.m.**

Submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

We are planning a repeat of our successful Holiday Decoration Rummage Sale that we held 2 years ago. We've received donations of Christmas decorations from 6 rummage, estate and moving sales for a really good start on our inventory. If you are downsizing your Christmas, Easter, Halloween or Thanksgiving decorations, please put them aside and bring them to the church during the first week of November. Toys, in new condition, and jewelry will also be sold.

Two to three work bees will be scheduled the week of November 1. If you can help, sign up on the list that will be on the lounge table or contact Bobbie Dalquist (rbdalqui@gmail.com). We need help with set up, pricing and working on the day of the event. This is a Fellowship Guild fundraiser but all help and donations are appreciated.

New this year, we'll take orders for evergreen arrangements that will be delivered in early December. We have about 20 Christmas mugs to choose from.



Angel Mission

Submitted by Barb Brookhouse

Thanks to everyone who donated backpacks and school supplies to the Angel Mission for their back to school give away. A little less than 100 backpacks filled with school supplies were given away before schools started. Backpacks and school supplies will continue to be given out to those who need them.

As of Wednesday, September 15, the Angel Mission again closed its doors. The reason for its temporary closure is the burned out ruins of the buildings across the street from the Mission have begun to be cleared out. Because these ruins contain asbestos, workers at the Mission do not feel comfortable being around the nearby area and do not want to encourage others to come into the affected area. Once the removal is complete the doors to the Mission will again be open.

Meanwhile work is being put into emptying the rented storage units and making space for items at the Rose and Thorn building.

A few weeks ago I was at the Angel Mission and a woman from Florida who was visiting the area asked me questions about how the Mission worked. We got into a very interesting and meaningful discussion not only about the Angel Mission but also about faith. As our discussion ended she asked me to tell everyone in our congregation what a wonderful place the Angel Mission is and thank you for supporting it.

October 2021

Volume 23, No 9; Published 11 times/year

Portage Lake United Church
United Church of Christ & Presbyterian Church
(USA)

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**

Return Service Requested



**Church Fall Clean Up
Saturday, October 23**