



**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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April 2022

Consistory Highlights

submitted by Beth Smock

Office Manager and Financial Secretary

Reports: Office Manager Smock gave a report on the Helping Hands account. For the first 2 ½ months of the year, she has given out \$40.00 more in vouchers than we have taken in with donations. We have given out 10 food and gas vouchers so far this year compared to 30 all of last year. We can continue the program through the use of vonBatchelder funds if we continue to give out more than receive. A suggestion was made to run the program in a deficit until the end of the year so that the congregation has a better view of the need. This is a discussion that would need to be had with the Finance Committee.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Peter has been busy leading Sunday morning worship, leading the Lenten book study, and presenting Lenten Services with Pastor Bucky from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. For Holy Week, Maundy Thursday service will be held at PLUC, with Good Shepherd holding the Good Friday service. The possibility of having a

breakfast before Easter morning worship was discussed. Fellowship Guild has also been thinking about this. Elder B. Brookhouse will check and see if people are willing to do this.

Old Business:

Covid policy review: Consistory decided to follow the CDC guidelines for Houghton County. Therefore, masks will be requested for those not vaccinated, and wearing a mask will be optional for all others. Elder M. Jarvie-Eggart moved (second by Elder G. Campbell) to accept this policy. Elder J. Northey made a friendly amendment that PLUC will follow CDC guidelines based on local risk levels. Motion (with amendment) accepted. Pastor Peter will create a poster with the PLUC Covid guidelines for Consistory review before it is posted for the congregation and all guests of PLUC.

Flood Relief: Pastor Peter reported that there is \$5527.00 left in the Flood Relief account from the 2018 Father's Day Flood. There was one request for flood relief assistance. Using the funds for Ukraine Relief was also discussed. The person who made a request stated that they

would withdraw their request if a decision was made to give the money to Ukraine. Consistory tabled this decision until next month. The Office Manager was asked to again communicate to the congregation that this money is available and that they can request funds by Easter. Any funds not disbursed locally will be returned to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund.

Elder Transition: Will and Lydia Lytle have submitted their resignations to PLUC Consistory as they no longer live in the area. Elder B. Brookhouse moved (second Elder G. Campbell) to accept these resignations. Accepted with appreciation of Will and Lydia's work for PLUC. Pastor Peter will talk to newly elected Elders D. Sprague and A. Campbell about joining Consistory earlier than their scheduled June start date. They will be invited to attend the April meeting prior to D. Sprague being installed and A. Campbell being ordained and installed. After this has taken place, they will join Consistory as standing members at the May meeting.

Policy Updates: Pastor Peter will write a policy regarding decisions about small expenditures (what expenditure decisions can be made without Consistory approval). Office Manager Smock will write a policy regarding decisions made by Consistory over email (what decisions can she and/or Pastor Peter make on their own and what needs to be decided by Consistory? If decisions are to be made by Consistory, when can they be made over email or when do they need to be made during a "face-to-face" meeting?) Pastor Peter and Elder G. Campbell are working on updating the Building Use Policy.

New Business: A request to use the building on the Saturday before Easter to pass out Easter dinners was approved by unanimous consent.

Financial Report

<u>Received in March 2022</u>	
Pledge	\$3321.00
Unpledged	\$889.92
Loose Plate	\$43.00

April Volunteer Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Prayer</u>
04/03	Judy	Lois	Barb
04/10	Jon & Brian	Nancy	Lois
04/17	Nancy & Dianne	Ann	Greg
04/24	Beth	Jim	Terry

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm	PLUC
Good Friday	6:30 pm	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Easter Sunday		PLUC
Breakfast	9:00 am	
Worship	10:30 am	

Breakfast Together Easter Morning
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Submitted by Barb Brookhouse

Barring an increase in Covid-19 cases, the plan is to once again share breakfast with one another Easter morning at 9:00 am before worship.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the the church lounge on which you can indicate what you would like to bring to the breakfast.

Easter Lilies

Once again this year we will have beautiful Easter lilies in the sanctuary for our Easter service. If you would like a lily, please let the office know, either by signing the sheet in the church lounge or by email/phone call to the office. Orders are due no later than April 3rd. Lilies will cost \$22.00 this year.

Covid-19 precautions

At this time, we are following the CDC guidance for Houghton County. [Click here for more information.](#)

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

In Other News

Urgent Need for Helping Hands Donations

Submitted by Beth Smock

So far this has proven to be a difficult year financially for many people. Our requests for Helping Hands assistance are up substantially (see Consistory Highlights for more details). We continue to take a Helping Hands offering the first Sunday of each month but donations are welcome at any time. Thank you for your continued support of this very important ministry.

Ukrainian Assistance

If you would like to make a donation to assist with relief for the people of Ukraine who are being devastated by the attack on their country, you can write a check indicating "Ukrainian Relief" on the memo

line. All donations will be sent to the Presbytery to be added to the funds received from other Presbyterian congregation around the country to be sent directly to agencies assisting the Ukrainian humanitarian efforts.

Flood Relief Funds

As was noted in the Consistory Highlights, we still have over \$5,000.00 available in our flood relief fund from the 2018 Father's Day flood. Consistory has been reviewing how best to use these funds.

If you would like to request any of these funds, requests are due no later Easter Sunday, April 17th. The next Consistory meeting is on April 22, at which time they will review any local requests that have been received. All remaining funds will be returned to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund.

Fellowship Guild

submitted by Bobbie Dalquist

We have received \$1,725.00 in donations and a pledge for \$200 for 2022. We have plans for a June rummage sale and a November holiday decorations rummage sale. Our fundraising goal for the year is \$3,500.00. Thanks to your generous donations, we are well on our way to meeting that goal. Typical proceeds from our spring rummage sale have been \$500, but if we can add and advertise some easily transported furniture, we may be able to exceed that amount. Take a look at your home and figure out what you have that is just in the way!



Saturday, May 21st 10:30 am-1:00 pm

Angel Mission

Submitted by Sherry Middlemis-Brown

Copper Country Angel Mission has received generous gifts from our church family and from the community towards our new home. I am always stunned by the kindness and community concern shown locally. We not only receive contributions from caring people who would never need our services, but also from those who have gotten back on their feet after being helped by Angel Mission.

We have had some success in getting the word of our fundraising efforts to a broader audience through Houghton Broadcasting and WNMU-FM, Marquette's National Public Radio. We have also been noticed by the Copper Beacon. In addition, a gentleman from the Economic Development Commission has taken an interest in seeing what grants may be available for our future rehabilitation work. WOW! God is opening doors for us. But, we couldn't have gotten this far without the support of PLUC's members. Thank you for standing behind Angel Mission.

We have our down payment for the old North End Bar building on Fifth Street. The inspector's report showed us nothing unexpected, but we were aware of the work that needed to be done. The previous owner had stabilized the building, replaced windows, insulated, rewired and plumbed the basement and first floor, and sheet rocked the first floor. We need to trim, paint, add fixtures and lights, and eventually lay a nice floor covering. We are seeking a Portage Health Foundation \$3000 grant to partially cover an ADA ramp to the side door. We want to create a top-notch, accessible center for the care and well-being of all our community members.

We are still looking for financial assistance to complete the renovations, but

we intend to move as soon as the heating plant, bathroom, lighting, and painting are complete. We removed ourselves from the second storefront in the current building saving us about \$750 monthly and allowing us to put more into the building.

Perhaps when we reopen in the new building, we will have an open house for all our generous patrons to see what they helped us achieve. I'll keep you posted. And, again, I and everyone associated with Copper Country Angel Mission, thank you for your support of this important mission.

We're Back



Coffee time after worship on March 27th

April 2022

Volume 25, No 3; Published 11 times/year

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(USA)

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Website: www.pluc.org

Pastor: Rev. Peter Norland

Office Manager: Beth Smock

General Office Hours:

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

Pastor Office Hours:

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

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