



Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rooted in Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.

A Report to the September 2018 Meeting of the Presbytery of Mackinac

Greetings in the Name of Christ Jesus our Lord!

Grateful to God for you, your prayers and concerns, and your gifts, I write on behalf of Portage Lake United Church with an update on the ongoing flood recovery efforts.

It has been fourteen weeks since the Father's Day Flood of 2018. On that Sunday morning, hundreds of individuals and families in the communities of Houghton, Ripley, Dollar Bay, Lake Linden, and others, were affected by the record setting, intense rainfall. Small creeks became raging rivers. Scores of homes were damaged, some destroyed. Gravel roads and state highways alike were washed out. Life was upended for hundreds of area residents. Several members and friends of PLUC were affected with damages resulting from a few inches of water in the basement all the way to having an angry river rush through dining room windows, filling the basement with mud and rock, flowing out the front door.

Our community's immediate response to the flooding was been nothing short of amazing. Before the flood waters had fully receded, good-hearted neighbors and strangers alike picked up shovels and buckets, brought in tractors and equipment, and went to work. Homes were mucked out, roads were rendered driveable, and flood debris was hauled away. Local churches--PLUC included-- foundations, volunteer fire departments, business, and more, took on aspects of the response and recovery. We are proud of the community for its quick and energetic response.

The Presbytery was in immediate contact, and quickly requested help from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Within days, a three-person PDA assessment team was in town providing guidance and support, answering questions, and ministering through their presence. Thanks be to God for PDA and the Presbytery request on our behalf! The Presbytery secured a PDA grant for use in flood recovery. To this has been added gifts by generous churches and individuals from all over the Presbytery, as well as gifts from the United Church of Christ. We have received nearly \$12,000 of gifts to be used in helping our congregation and community recover from the flooding.



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PRESBYTERIANS

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COALITION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Our community is now headed on the path of long-term recovery. In many ways, perhaps for most people, life has returned to normal. However, for the people and places most severely affected, the daily reminders of the flood and the enormous amount of work and expense that still lie ahead can be overwhelming. One couple in our congregation will not be able to move back into their home for many months; another hopes to have a hole in the basement closed before winter. And even now, three months after the flood, local clergy meet to discuss the recovery and share new and previously unmet needs. This work is done in good hope. The United Methodist Church Committee on Relief is hiring two, full-time, disaster case managers to help coordinate our community's recovery. These workers will partner with Portage Lake United Church, and other congregations, helping us to use our resources effectively meeting recovery needs in our community.

For this ongoing ministry, which aims at the full recovery of those in our congregation and community, we ask your continued support and prayers. Portage Lake United Church thanks you for your generosity, your care and support. May God be praised!

Your partner in Christ's service,



Rev. Peter Norland,
Transitional Minister

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