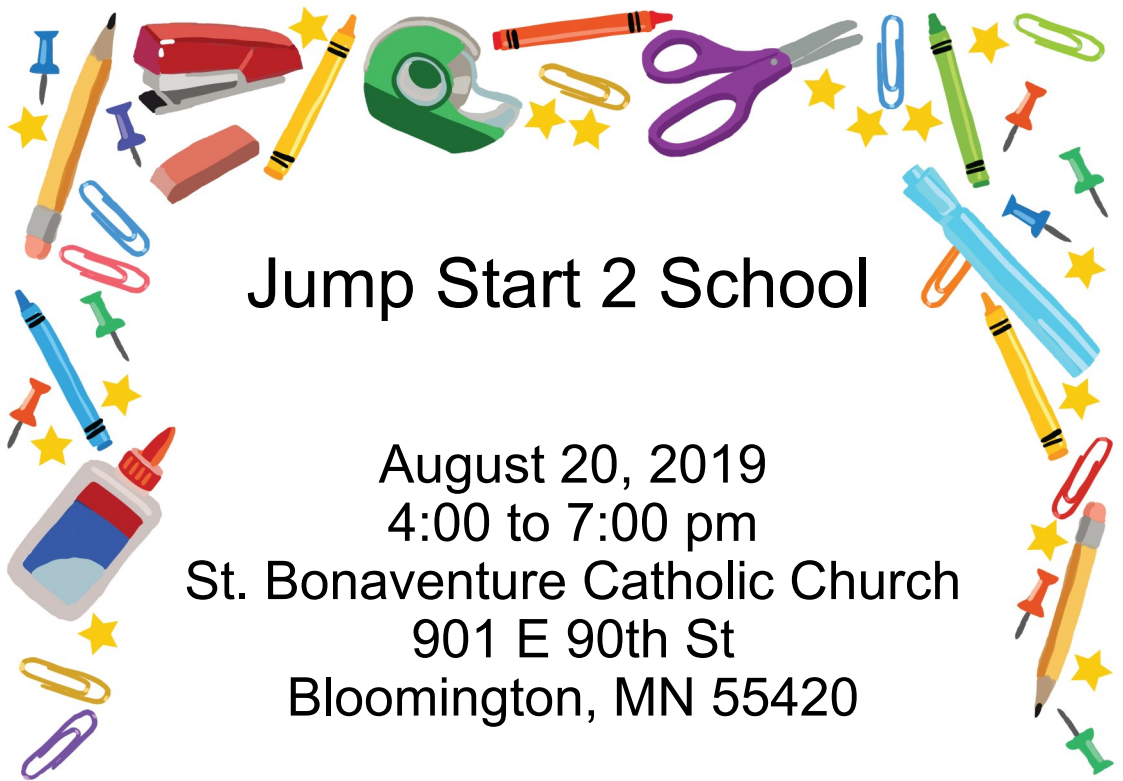


THE PORTLIGHT

A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



Jump Start 2 School

August 20, 2019

4:00 to 7:00 pm

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church

901 E 90th St

Bloomington, MN 55420

Bloomington's second annual Jumpstart 2 School event is a cooperative ministry that provides school supplies for students in need living in Bloomington.

There are many volunteer opportunities available from 9:30 am on to help host this event. If you are willing to help out, please sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e44aba82aa2fa7-jumpstart>

August 2019

Our Mission

"To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."

Our Vision

"To be a safe harbor along life's journey."

The **PORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

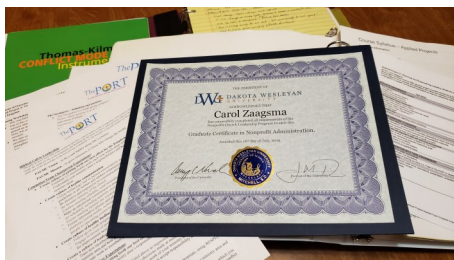
Pastor's Message *Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

I've had a pretty amazing opportunity to participate in the Nonprofit Church Leadership (NPCL) Graduate Certificate Program at Dakota Wesleyan University over the last year, and now that I've graduated, I wanted to share a summary of what we've accomplished together through this program.

First, a little background: This opportunity was created thanks to a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant given to the Dakotas and Minnesota Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church.

Fifteen clergy from the Dakotas and Minnesota completed the program and graduated in July. We each earned 21 graduate degree credits, which is a little more than one half of an MBA. For now, I have two binders full of notes and assignments to refer back to, a cohort of colleagues to

continue to consult with regarding future ideas, along with a certificate to hang on the wall!



The program included four courses: Stewarding Finances in the 21st Century, Stewarding Human Resources, Stewarding Vision, and Stewarding the Church. We studied both the economics and spirituality of giving and living generous lives; looked at the complexities of capital campaigns and endowment investments; considered how the ministry work our paid staff and volunteers both fits into our call to discipleship; took a deeper look at outcome-based job descriptions; reviewed the Drexler-Sibbet high performance teams model within the context of our congregation; learned how to identify an organization's purpose, vision and mission; looked at some efficiency and project management concepts such as SIPOC, flywheels, Gantt and PERT charts; and studied innovation, change and governance structures. Every week there was either an online lecture or video to watch, reading to do, an online discussion post to engage in and an assignment to complete.

Besides these four courses, we were expected to complete two applied projects specifically geared toward our ministry setting. The first project I developed for the fall was entitled a Multi-Generational Giving Strate-

gy. This project included the typical stewardship campaign cycle, but added a few extra components such as the "Parents, Kids and Money Matters" workshop conducted by Thrivent Financial, and the individual witnesses shared in worship last fall. These extra components served to deepen the meaning of generous living as we worked toward our goal of creating a culture of giving. Additional objectives were to increase our electronic vehicles for giving, and increase giving to the PAUMC endowment that was created in 2010.

My second applied project was entitled Visioning along with Empowering Leaders. We began this work with a visioning workshop on February led by my coach, Dr. Alisha Vincent. Some ideas emerged to help us fulfill our vision and mission more fully, including strengthening and expanding our small group ministries, as well as to improving communications within the congregation as well as the community regarding who we are here at The PORT.

Another key component of the second applied project was to increase laity involvement and develop leaders who are prepared to lead with autonomy and purpose. A group called The Navigators, comprised of Lay Leader, Church Council Chair, and Pastor, was formed to share responsibility for stewarding our vision. We also created a document that outlines expectations of our leaders, which will help train new leaders and recalibrate tenured leaders each year.

The last part of this applied project included the 65th Anniversary Celebration on May 18 as a way to reconnect us to our past and encourage us in the present and into the future.

As you can see, it was a full commitment, and some great outcomes were gained. I am certainly glad I took the opportunity to be part of the first cohort to enter the program. Now I find myself excited about a little extra free time without classes each week, and yet I'm also beginning to imagine what might be next for us to work toward in strengthening God's Kingdom here on earth. If you've got an idea, please come see me!

Growing & Learning Together,

Pastor Carol



Outdoor Worship Recap

Due to fast-approaching thunderstorms the morning of July 28, we moved our outdoor worship with blessing of the animals inside to the Sanctuary, with lunch afterwards in the Fellowship Hall. Many thanks to the Congregational Care Team for organizing the lunch, the extended Richardson family for grilling, and all those who pitched in to set up early before worship and clean up after lunch. It was an enjoyable morning.



AUGUST Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Special Music	Drop in Choir	Larry Stalberger	Judy Richardson-Mahre	Diana Korpi
Greeters	Lynn Livingston, Linda Dicks	Floyd & Pat Ekstrom	Todd & Julie Rasmussen	Russ & Carol Cox
Ushers	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Mike & Lori Moreland	Steve & Kathy Soucy Dave & Ellen Smith	Scott Swenson, Beth Cameron, Bob Deese, Linda Schesso	Bruce Benson, Scott Swenson, Laurette & Jacob Lawson
Welcomers	LaVonne Robinson	Guy & Jean Moore	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Kathy Swenson
Reader	Tim Hagerty	Paul Richardson	Joell Anderson	Linda Dicks
Sound	Tim Madsen	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith
Media	Nathan Peine	Dave Smith	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen
Closer	Wayne Andersen	Wayne Andersen	TBD	Tom Wellman
Counters	Merlin Gilbertson, Mike Moreland	Dave Smith, Mike Moreland	Dave Smith, Darlene Wicks	Linda Dicks, Darlene Wicks
Communion Stewards	Linda Schesso, Darlene Wicks	<p>Want to serve on Sunday mornings? Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>		
Communion Servers	Kathy Soucy, Lynn Livingston, Mary Nelson, Tracy Baker			

Spiritual Growth



Now Hiring!

We're hiring a Nursery Attendant and a Youth Director, both to start in September. The nursery attendant is a new position here at The PORT; and Jim Verbout, our youth director for most of the 2018-19 program year resigned for personal reasons. If you or someone you know is interested in either or both positions, please forward their resume to carol.zaagsma@paumc.org. More information about both positions can be found at www.paumc.org.

Sunday School Teacher Openings

One of the best privileges you can have is to shape the faith of our children. Our preschool Sunday School room is in need of a couple of teachers. After more than twenty years of teaching, Ellen and Dave Smith are retiring from this role. We have five to seven children on a regular basis in this classroom, so it is an exciting place! And in this room, parents often stay to help their children with the arts and crafts. Sunday School starts at 9:00 am and then the children go at 9:30 to practice music with Peggy Larson, so the commitment is roughly 30 minutes. We use curriculum from Cokesbury and you would have that in advance of the fall schedule. Sunday School begins Sunday, September 8. Please let Beth Cameron (beth.cameron@hines.com) know if God is nudging you to help in this ministry.

Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during AUGUST

If you have a birthday during the month of August but your name isn't on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year.



- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Darlene Solheim | 11 - Floyd Ekstrom | 18 - Chrissy Wells | 26 - Lynn Livingston |
| 02 - Isabelle Swenson | 13 - Becky Rice | 19 - Wendell Carroll | 27 - Blessing Wilson |
| 06 - Barb Deese | 14 - Richard Comee | 22 - Elizabeth Cottier | 30 - Jim Anderson |
| 08 - Jean Moore | Ethan Runk | Paul Richardson | Annie Comee |
| Jason Thompson | Helen Witt | 25 - Joe Matton | Marcie Huser |
| 09 - Carol Emdy | 16 - Joell Anderson | Luke Rice | Carol Zaagsma |
| 10 - John Perry | 18 - Scott Rice | Terry Wells | |

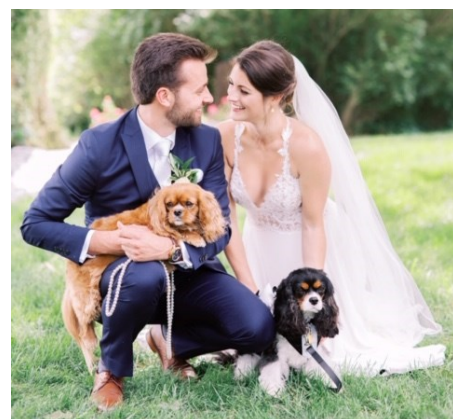
From the Mailbox

Cameron Family News

Congrats to Kathleen Cameron and Michael Kessler who married on June 14, 2019 in Franklin, KY.

Kathleen is attending medical school at New York Institute of Osteopathic Medicine at their Jonesboro, Arkansas campus and Michael is attending medical school at the University of Tennessee in Memphis.

The couple will reside at 2211 Clark Street Unit B, Jonesboro AR 72401.



School Supply Drive

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's School Supply Drive. It is a blessing to help our neighborhood children start the school year with the supplies they need to succeed.



Generous Giving



Thank you for your support of several mission opportunities throughout the summer. This year's MN Annual Conference Love Offering supported a Minnesota

missionary to Laos, the Volunteer Lawyers Network, and Scholarships for first-time mission trip participants. This offering, received May 19, totaled \$481.15.

The United Methodist Special offering for Peace with Justice Sunday on June 16, which supports a number of United Methodist ministries aimed to bring healing, support and reconciliation to areas where human rights are being violated, totaled \$163.50.

And the Special offering for Native American Ministries on July 14 totaled \$316.00. This special offering helps equip and empower Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to maintain and grow ministries that honor the Native American heritage in Minnesota and many other locations.

Special Offering for UMCOR

Through the end of August, we are receiving donations to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) specifically for their work with humanitarian organizations along the US-Mexico border. UMCOR has already distributed over 46,000 hygiene kits to transitional shelters in the area. Hygiene kits include a hand towel, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, bandages, bath-size soap, comb, and metal nail file or nail clippers, all in a plastic gallon size sealable bag, which serves as a much-welcome item of relief for those seeking asylum who have been traveling with so few resources on hand.

If you'd like to participate, please make your check payable to PAUMC and include a note that it is for UMCOR, or offer a donation through our GivePlus+ App and indicate it is for UMCOR. While we are quite a distance from the southern border, we can still offer a sense of our vision to be a "Safe harbor along life's journey" by supporting these humanitarian efforts regardless of our own thoughts about immigration laws.

Mission Summit 2019

Larry Stalberger is interested in going to the Annual Mission Summit on Saturday, September 28, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in Motley, MN. This is hosted by the Minnesota United Methodist Missions Promotions Team, and will feature presentations about the future of missions, United Methodist Social Principles, Haiti Partnership, health ministries, OC Ministries, agricultural ministries, Hubbard UMC Outreach Ministries, and the Mid-West Mission Distribution Center near Springfield, IL. There will also be enough supplies on hand to create 500 health/hygiene kits. The event is free with lunch included, and every church attending will receive \$50 seed money to start a new outreach ministry. If you'd like to go, please contact Larry Stalberger at (952) 888-7676 or larrystalberger@aol.com.

Mission Summit 2019



Sept. 28

Learn about

- The future of missions
- Haiti Partnership
- OC Ministries
- Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Attend and receive \$50 seed money to start a new ministry!

Holy Spirit Breakthroughs

By *Christa Meland, MN Conference Director of Communications*

Participants at the 2019 Minnesota Annual Conference session in St. Cloud were inspired to live into this year's theme "*Dare to Reach: Love Boldly!*" and many shared specific ways in which they see the Holy Spirit breaking through in their congregations and communities.

Each individual received a perforated sheet with tools to help them live out the theme, and one section invited people to record a way in which their congregation is daring to reach new people or loving boldly. Dozens of people turned in responses by placing them on a display board for others to see.

Some named innovative ways in which they are connecting with neighbors. For example, members of Federated Church in Morris are mentoring those involved in a local "treatment court" and forming relationships with people living at low-income apartment complexes in the community. This has resulted in four new families attending worship—and in 2018, the church had 21 new professions of faith, seven baptisms, and 17 new children.

Some forms of outreach named by other attendees: "Marvel movie Mondays" and a "backyard Bible club" offered by Main Street Church in North Branch, a grocery giveaway hosted by Community UMC in Monticello, Ely UMC's "Gift of Giving" program through which members purchase holiday gifts for nursing home and assisted living residents, and a party in the park organized by Buffalo UMC. Others talked about welcoming unchurched neighbors to enjoy their community gardens and Vacation Bible School.

Meanwhile, some Annual Conference attendees lifted up new worship experiences they are offering. For example, Aitkin UMC is organizing a weekly "Bible and brew" gathering at a newly opened brew pub—and Mount Bethel UMC in Inver Grove Heights is launching an informal and contemporary Wednesday night worship service called "Forge" that focuses on conversation around the Bible. Holy Spirit breakthroughs were shared on a display board at Annual Conference for all to see.



Many attendees named ways in which they are sharing

God's love with the children in their communities. Hope UMC in Duluth is opening a childcare center that will serve 66 children; the hope is to build loving and supportive relationships with each of their families. Wesley UMC in Hibbing offers a free after-school program on Wednesdays that includes playtime, a snack, a Bible lesson, a craft, and worship; it has grown to 58 participants over the past two years. Similarly, Sauk Centre UMC hosts K-5 students for breakfast and activities on late-start days during the school year; it averages 30 kids each time. Common Ground UMC in Cambridge is hosting a free event for children at a local park each month this summer—the first will be a carnival day, the second will have an engineering theme, and the third will be about music and theater. And First UMC in New Ulm collects and donates diapers and other baby hygiene items to families in need through its "Blessed Bottoms" diaper assistance program. Others mentioned Holy Spirit breakthroughs in the form of partnerships with local schools, after-school programs, and trunk-or-treat events.

Some attendees shared ways in which they are working to be inclusive of those with special needs or challenges. For example, one person mentioned installing a T-loop electronic hearing system in worship and fellowship areas so as to bring announcements, prayers, scripture readings, and sermons directly into the ears of those with hearing aids. Another wrote about creating a Dementia-friendly worship service. And someone else talked about live streaming worship to reach those unable to attend in person.

Last, some Annual Conference attendees highlighted ways in which they are healing a broken world in tangible ways. For example, Hubbard UMC has been raising money to build wells and provide clean water in Africa. This year, the church made a five-year, \$50,000 pledge to this effort.

As Rev. Susan Nienaber, Big Waters District superintendent, told attendees at Annual Conference: "Whatever the future of The United Methodist Church...we create that future with how we are being church with one another, in our communities and all across the state of Minnesota, right here, right now."

Thanks be to God for all of the ways in which you are reaching new people for Christ and boldly loving the people in your lives and mission fields!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:00am Worship/ Communion	5	6 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	7	8 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	9	10
11 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care	12	13 ELECTION DAY	14	15 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	16	17
18 10:00am Worship	19	20	21 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	22 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	23	24
25 10:00am Worship	26	27 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	28	29 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	30	31

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420



GIVE+
Electronic Giving Options



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 am
Sunday School (9:00 am) and Coffee Fellowship (9:30 am) September - May

Staff

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) carol.zaagsma@paumc.org (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)

Britt Halaas (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org

Open Position (Youth Director)

Peggy Larson (Music Director) peggylarson@comcast.net

Dale Miller (Accompanist) miller.daler@gmail.com

Judy Richardson-Mahre (SonRise Singers Director) jembrm@charter.net

Mary Nelson (Handbells Director) nelsonc2m@aol.com

Paul Herrmann (Custodian) 612-916-3376

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org

PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org

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