

THE PORTLIGHT

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



Backpack Blessing

Sunday, September 15, 2019 @ 10:00am

Students, bring your backpacks to church for a special blessing during worship!

Adults who are no longer in school are welcome to bring a bag, backpack, or briefcase that you carry your work or hobbies around in for a blessing as well.

September 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*

Conversations about race are often uncomfortable. Dr. David Anderson Hooker observes that there are three common themes that form our hesitancy to talk about race and racism: 1) the idea that there is only one race; the human race, 2) we've moved on; there is no real racism, and 3) conversations are usually so divisive that they're not worth the time or energy.

And yet it's not a very good excuse to avoid conversation around sensitive topics just because they're difficult conversations to have.

Would it surprise you to see that every annual conference, district, and local congregation within the United Methodist Church in the United States is to develop and implement a strategy and program to educate and support systemic and personal changes to end racism? If that doesn't surprise you, would it surprise you to learn that this resolution was established in 2000 (nearly twenty years ago now), with our commitment to it being renewed every four years since then? I'm afraid we have not made the progress we could have in this amount of time in our local congregation and beyond. Perhaps that is because of the prevalent notion that we don't really have a problem, or that it's just too difficult to talk about or to address.

Dr. Hooker created a video as part of a series produced by the United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race. You may watch it here: <http://www.gcorr.org/meaningful-conversations-about-race-featuring-rev-dr-hooker/>

In the video, Dr. Hooker asserts that our systems are not neutral, but instead are shaped by biases, tradition, histories, and practices. He talks about dandelions and bluegrass to illustrate his point, as these biases are one reason that dandelions are considered weeds to be destroyed, while bluegrass is prized as creating a beautiful lawn.

Dr. Hooker suggests we consider the following list and reflect on what we consider as good/positive/appropriate/traditional appearances of:

- A dating/marriage partner
- A hardworking person
- A safe neighborhood
- Beautiful hair and skin
- A reliable world leader
- A cute baby
- The "All-American" couple
- The kind of pastor you want in your church
- Artists' renderings of Jesus, Mary or Moses

After reflecting on what you consider as good/positive/appropriate/traditional appearances of the list above, think about how your perceptions of race and racial identity influenced what you imagined as your answers. Were all the images you called to mind the same race as you? If so, it simply illustrates his point that we are shaped by our biases, tradition, histories and practices.

We've recently been reminded in the news that the first enslaved Africans arrived on our mainland 400 years ago, in August of 1619. This is a part of our history best not to ignore. It's important for us to be willing to engage in the conversation, however difficult it may be.

I'm looking at some timeframes during this program year when we may be able to study race and racism in a small group here at church, so let me know if you're interested in participating. I'd also appreciate a co-leader to work on this together, so if God is nudging you to help lead us in this conversation, please let me know.

Poised to learn more with you,

Pastor Carol



New Member Class

New Member Orientation Sunday, September 29 after worship – If you're interested in membership here at The PORT, come to a new member class on Sunday, September 29, after worship. We will talk about the United Methodist denomination and about the specific ministries here at The PORT. If you're interested in learning more, even if you choose not to join right now, then come to meet with others who are also exploring. We'll meet for about an hour. Please RSVP with Pastor Carol.

September 2019



Sept 1 N/A
 Sept 8 Evelyn & Joshua
 Sept 15 Becca & Jeremiah
 Sept 22 Oliver & Olivia
 Sept 29 Janea & Katelyn

Help Wanted!

We are seeking volunteers to work with our young children on Sunday mornings. See Pastor Carol to sign up:



- Be a helper in the preschool Sunday School room (ages 2 to pre-K) from 9:00-9:30 am. Linda Schesso & Lynn Livingston are the teachers in this room. Children in this class often need help and encouragement with crafts that are part of the lesson each Sunday.
- Be a Nursery Volunteer, helping our Nursery Attendant on staff to care for our young children. The nursery is open from 8:45-11:15, but we're looking for Nursery Volunteers to help on rotation one Sunday a month specifically during worship from 10:00-11:00 am.

SEPTEMBER Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Coffee & Treats	Congregational Care	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Rica Giersdorf	Jim & JoAnn Louisiana	Jeff & Denise Carroll	Clint & Barb Andrus	Linda Schesso, LaVonne Robinson
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Kathy Soucy, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Scott Swenson, Terry Wells, Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler	Pat Ekstrom, Beth Cameron, Bob Deese, Linda Schesso	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson, Scott Swenson, Steve & Kathy Soucy
Welcomer	Kathy Soucy	Marilyn Anderson	Carol Emdy	Lynn Furda	Neil Anderson
Reader	Neil Anderson	Ardy Anderson	Scott Rice	Katelyn Hagerty	Guy Moore
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus	Dave Smith	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen
Closer	Floyd Ekstrom	Paul Richardson	Tom Wellman	Harvey Erstad	Wayne Andersen
Counters	Linda Dicks, Steve Soucy	Linda Dicks, Steve Soucy	Merlin Gilbertson, Wayne Andersen	Merlin Gilbertson, Wayne Andersen	Merlin Gilbertson, Dave Smith
Communion Steward	Linda Knopp	<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	N/A (serving by intinction)				

Mission Outreach

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, 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.

Shoe Drive



Lexi and Chrissy Wells are asking for gently worn, used and new shoes as part of a fundraiser for the Kennedy Kollens Dance Line.

The shoes ultimately will go into a supply chain for micro-entrepreneurs in developing nations who will repair or otherwise sell them as a way to work out of poverty.

If you have shoes to donate, please bring them to church between now and September 15. Thank you!



Congregational Care

Back to Church Potluck Sunday, September 15, 2019 Following Worship

Many of our families have been away during the summer months. Let's celebrate the return of the program year with an all-church potluck!

Congregational Care will provide the beverages, dessert, plates, cups and silverware.

Everyone else please bring your favorite entrée or side dish to share.



Lay Visitor Ministry

We're looking for Lay Visitors who would be willing to visit homebound folks once a month at a time you coordinate together.

The Lay Visitor Ministry helps those who can no longer attend worship or other activities regularly or at all here at the church to know that the church still cares about them.

Lay Visitors will be assigned one homebound member to visit. Your commitment is to arrange one monthly visit each month throughout the year.

Training is available for those new to this program to offer a few helpful pointers as you begin. Anyone in the church may participate, as long as you can travel to a location where a homebound member lives.

Call Pat Ekstrom at (952) 884-6781 for more information or to sign up to be a Lay Visitor this year.



Homebound
MINISTRY

We celebrate YOU during SEPTEMBER

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

04 - Ardy Anderson	18 - Oliver Darnell	27 - Jerry Janes
06 - Cashis Minks	20 - Travis Runck	28 - Barb Andrus
08 - Joaquina Lawson	21 - Joy Plourde	29 - Ronele Janes
Trey Thompson	25 - Clara Haugen	
15 - Paul Schesso	Georgina Wittstruck	



From the Mailbox

Address Updates

Jason & Tara Thompson
3782 S Hills Ct
Eagan, MN 55123

Gary Heinle
108 Louann Dr
Mountain Home, AR 72653

Stephen Johnson
4029 Utica Ave S
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Guy Moore new email: guy.moore1@comcast.net

Farewell from Administrative Assistant

Dear Members of PAUMC,

It is with great sadness that I leave my position. I had hoped to stay here for a much longer time. You are all forever in my prayers. I also ask for prayers as I take this new step in my life. The last two years have been so wonderful, and I thank you all for the laughs, kind words, prayers, and great conversations.

I have loved getting to know your church and your congregation. I feel like you are all another church family that I was so lucky to be a part of, you have a great thing going here. Please keep your wonderful energy and warm hearts.

I don't like goodbyes, so I will simply just say that I will



see you soon. I hope to be made aware of some of your community events so that I can come and have a fun time with all of you. I may even pop by a service here and there.

Thank you for the last two years. I am so grateful for my time here and I will see you all soon.

With Love,
Britt Halaas

Emmaus Weekend Retreat

Do you seek spiritual renewal? Are you seeking answers to questions about your faith? Have you been wanting to strengthen your spiritual life but don't know where to start? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, The Walk to Emmaus weekend retreat may be of interest. While "Walk" is in the title, it is not a physically demanding event. Throughout the weekend, you will sing, reflect, pray, worship, learn, share Holy Communion, participate in small groups, and experience God's grace.

Choose from one of the following upcoming retreats:

Location: Koronis Ministries in Paynesville, MN
Men's Walk - October 24-27, 2019.
Women's Walk - October 31-November 3, 2019.

Location: Good Counsel in Mankato, MN
Men's Walk - January 16-19, 2020.
Women's Walk - January 23-26, 2020.

See Pastor Carol for more information.



SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship/ Communion	2 Labor Day	3 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	4 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl	5 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	6	7
8 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach	9	10 6:00pm Trustees 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	11 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl	12 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	13	14
15 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/Blessing of the Backpacks 11:00am All-Church Potluck Newsletter Deadline	16	17 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	18 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl	19 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	20	21
22 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group	23	24 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	25 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl	26 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	27	28
29 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am New Member Class	30					

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)

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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