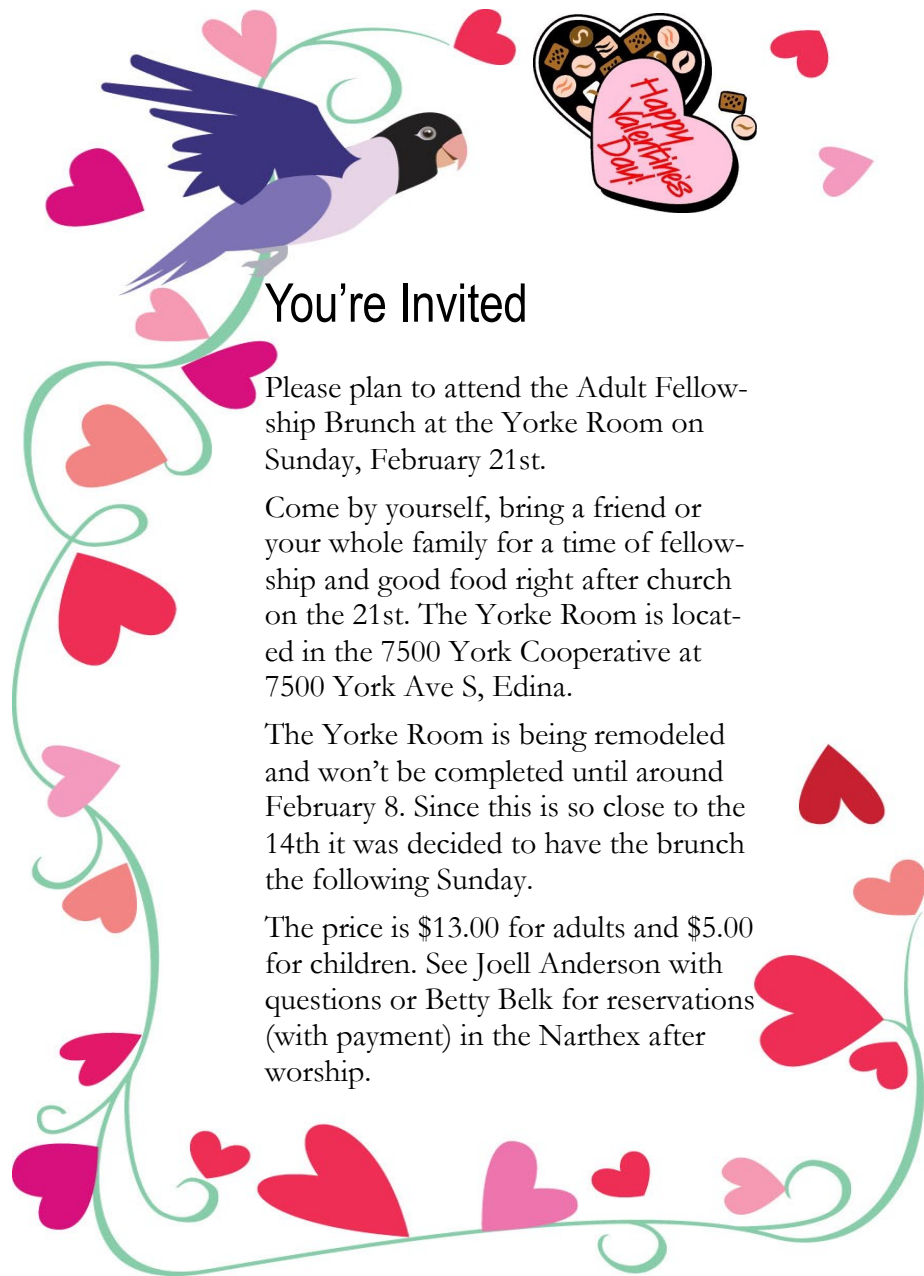


# THE PORTLIGHT

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



## You're Invited

Please plan to attend the Adult Fellowship Brunch at the Yorke Room on Sunday, February 21st.

Come by yourself, bring a friend or your whole family for a time of fellowship and good food right after church on the 21st. The Yorke Room is located in the 7500 York Cooperative at 7500 York Ave S, Edina.

The Yorke Room is being remodeled and won't be completed until around February 8. Since this is so close to the 14th it was decided to have the brunch the following Sunday.

The price is \$13.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. See Joell Anderson with questions or Betty Belk for reservations (with payment) in the Narthex after worship.

# Adult Fellowship Brunch

February 2016

### 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*

Throughout January and the beginning of February, we are exploring difficult passages in the Bible through a “Hard Sayings of Jesus” sermon series.

According to our *Book of Discipline*, which contains the laws, plan, polity and process by which The United Methodist Church governs itself, “United Methodists share with other Christians the conviction that Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine.” (§105) This illustrates the importance and the emphasis we place on Scripture in exploring the Christian faith.

And yet when we read some of the hard sayings of Jesus in the Bible...sayings such as “If your right eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out and throw it away,” (Matthew 5:29) or “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother,” (Luke 14:26), we are charged with the task of figuring out if Jesus really meant what he said, or if it’s supposed to mean something else.

When it’s written in Scripture, and we consider scripture to be our primary source, how are we supposed to understand these teachings? That is at the heart of our exploration the last few weeks...and it is a very important question in our day, when we so often hear people stand firm in their convictions because “the Bible says so.”

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, believed that the living core of the Christian faith was revealed in Scripture, illuminated by tradition, vivified in personal experience, and confirmed by reason. These four sources to understanding our faith are commonly referred to as the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, and it is one of my favorite things about being United Methodist.

I am particularly fond of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral because it places the Bible as the foundational source for us – it is the “primary” source; and yet it is not the only source by which we understand our faith. In some churches, Scripture would be the only source; but Wesley recognized the importance of considering other valuable sources to help us understand our faith, the sources of tradition, experience and reason.

My seminary professors often reminded us to read stories of the Bible in their proper context. Consider the social customs of that particular time in history; imagine the purpose the writer might have had in mind;

take a look at what the political and economic conditions might have been – tending to each of these aspects of a story help us to read it in context. The Wesleyan Quadrilateral also helps put some context around a particular Scripture passage we may read.

When using Scripture as the primary source for understanding the Christian faith, a good pursuit would be to ask, “How is this passage similar to or different from other passages of Scripture on the same topic?” So, when reading a particularly difficult or hard saying of Jesus, look for other verses where Jesus talked about the same subject, and pay attention to how they might be similar or different.

Then, in your study, bring in the source of tradition by asking, “What have scholars throughout history said about this passage,” or “How does this passage relate to the traditions we’ve followed in our church or in your family?”

Before coming to a conclusion about what you’re reading, consider the next source, which is experience (personal and collective experience of humanity). To do this, ask, “What did this passage mean to those at the time it was written and how might that be different today,” or “How does this passage relate to your own experience of God?”

Your final source when reading the Bible is reason. This is when we pull everything together to make sense of a Bible passage. As the *Book of Discipline* suggests, it is by reason that we “organize the understandings that compose our witness and render them internally coherent.” It is also by reason that we “relate our witness to the full range of human knowledge, experience, and service.” (§105)

Reading the Bible can be quite challenging, and yet it is not something just for the scholars to do. Making room for tradition, experience and reason alongside the reading of Scripture helps us all participate and share our voice in the process of understanding the meaning of Scripture at the time it was written and for our time today.

Growing in faith with you,

*Pastor Carol*



February 2016



## Youth Group News

February 21 - 6:30 - 8:00 pm @ Hillcrest UMC  
 February 28 - Activity TBD



- Feb.7 Oliver & Clara
- Feb. 14 Rylie & Katelyn
- Feb. 21 Jeremiah & Janea
- Feb 28 Luke & Carl



In January we had our camp reunion and got to spend time in fellowship and playing games with some of our favorite people. We were able to skype our campers in Missouri for a worship service!

We went to Feed My Starving Children and of the whole volunteer site we packed 106 boxes which is 22,680 meals. That will feed 62 kids for one year! Of the 106 boxes our camp group alone packed 32 of them! In February we will meet to talk about priorities and do a fun activity.

-Melissa Kuyper

## February Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Coffee & Treats	JoAnne Louisiana	Carol Emdy	Kay Livingston	
Greeters	Melinda & Joe Matton	Paul & Kasey Swenson	Jeff Chamberlain	Barb & Clint Andrus
Ushers	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Beth Cameron, Scott Rice	Bruce Benson, Chaz Brobst, Rod & Peggy Bacheller	Bruce Benson, Bob Deese, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Bruce Benson, Jerry Solheim, Jacob & Laurette Lawson
Welcomers	Carol Emdy	Claire & John Perry	Neil Anderson	Barb & Clint Andrus
Reader	George Dalin	Megan Mahre	Guy Moore	Melinda Matton
Sound	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith
Media	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury
Closer	Tom Wellman	Jeff Carroll	Wayne Andersen	Harvey Erstad
Communion Stewards	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler	<p><b>Want to serve on Sunday mornings?</b>                      Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>		
Communion Servers	Ardy Anderson, Linda Schesso, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			

# Spiritual Growth

## Lenten Small Group Studies

We'll be reading *Prayer 101: Learning to Talk with God*, by Don M. Aycock in small groups throughout Lent. This 8-week study will begin the week of February 8. Nancy Hagerty's and Dave Smith's small groups are full, but there is an opportunity to study with Pastor Carol at church on Wednesdays at either 1:30 pm or 7:00 pm. Cost is \$12 for the book. Scholarships are available. Sign up on your Connection Card on Sundays or email Pastor Carol at [carol.zaagsma@paumc.org](mailto:carol.zaagsma@paumc.org).

## Ash Wednesday - Feb. 10, 6:30 pm

Church of Peace UMC (6345 Xerxes Ave S., Richfield)

At this combined worship service with Church of Peace, Hillcrest, and Portland Ave UMCs, we will experience the imposition of ashes to mark the beginning of the Lenten Season (40 days, not including Sundays, before Easter). Unlike in the past, this year no meal will be served beforehand.

## Maundy Thursday - March 24, 7:00 pm

Portland Avenue UMC (8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington)

We will host this combined worship service where communion will be served as a remembrance of the final meal Jesus shared with his disciples. We will also be blessed with music by our Sanctuary Choir.

## Good Friday - March 25, 7:00 pm

Hillcrest UMC (9100 Russell Ave S, Bloomington)

The death and burial of Jesus is remembered at this Holy Week worship service. This tenebrae service incorporates scripture readings interspersed with extinguishing candles, allowing darkness to fill the sanctuary. It is a meaningful way to begin the weekend that will bring us to Easter Sunday.

## Human Relations Day Special Offering

Thank you for your contributions to the Human Relations Day special offering. This year \$131 was collected. This offering helps young people on the road to healing and healthy lives in United Methodist ministries across the country.

## Easter Garden Flower Orders

Flower order forms will be available starting February 21 in the Narthex or you may call Ellen Smith at 952-884-8609 to place your order.



The following plants will be available:

- \$7.75 Easter Lilies
- \$7.25 Tulips (red, purple or yellow)
- \$8.75 Mums (purple, yellow or white)
- \$14 Pink Hydrangeas

Payment is appreciated at the time of your order. If you prefer to order by phone, payment may be sent to the church office. Plants may be taken home after the 10 am worship service on Easter Sunday (March 27.) Many thanks to Ellen Smith for organizing and arranging our Easter Garden again this year.

## 2016 Camping Brochures

Get ready for a spiritual adventure at one of many camp offerings with the United Methodist Church. Brochures are available in the literature racks in both narthexes. Camps have been planned for all ages as well as opportunities for families to camp together.

## 24 Hour General Conference Prayer Vigil

Every annual conference has been invited to host a 24-hour prayer vigil in the months leading up to General Conference. General Conference meets every four years and is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. As such, they are responsible for all the guidelines printed in the Book of Discipline. They will convene May 10-20, 2016 in Portland, Oregon. Four delegates from Minnesota, along with Pastor Carol as a clergy alternate, will join other United Methodists from around the world in making decisions that impact our denomination. Join other Minnesota United Methodists for part of our conference prayer vigil on Wednesday, March 23. Churches, groups, and/or individuals within the Minnesota Annual Conference are invited to sign up for a 15-minute period on March 23 when they commit to prayer. Sign up for a time slot at <https://www.slotted.co/mnprayervigil>.

## We celebrate YOU during February

If your birthday isn't on our list, **please let us know**, so we can update our records for next year.

- 2 - Dorothy Stavros
- 5 - Trenton Olson
- 8 - Julie Johnson  
JoAnne Volden
- 9 - Audrey Bartels
- 10 - Samantha Bump
- 14 - Kathleen Cameron
- 19 - James Stinson
- 21 - Kay Livingston

- 28 - Jodi Anders  
George Dalin  
John Lystad



## Can you smell that coffee brewing?

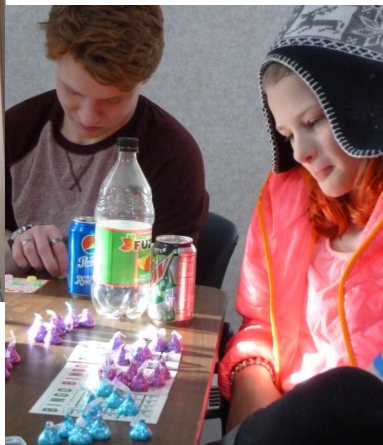
The tradition of offering coffee and treats on Sunday mornings continues at The PORT. Many volunteers stepped up to provide the goodies and do the set up this fall. **THANK YOU** to all for this gracious hospitality. A sign up sheet for the new year is in the Narthex. If you feel like you would like to sign up for some Sunday but couldn't "go it alone," invite someone to partner with you - twice the fun, half the work. Homemade or store-bought goodies are graciously received—whatever you can offer is a blessing.



Coffee & refreshments are served from 9:30-10:00 am in the Wesley Room.

## Bingo!

Many thanks to the Hospitality Committee for organizing Bingo fun on January 23. Fun and fellowship warmed up our winter afternoon.

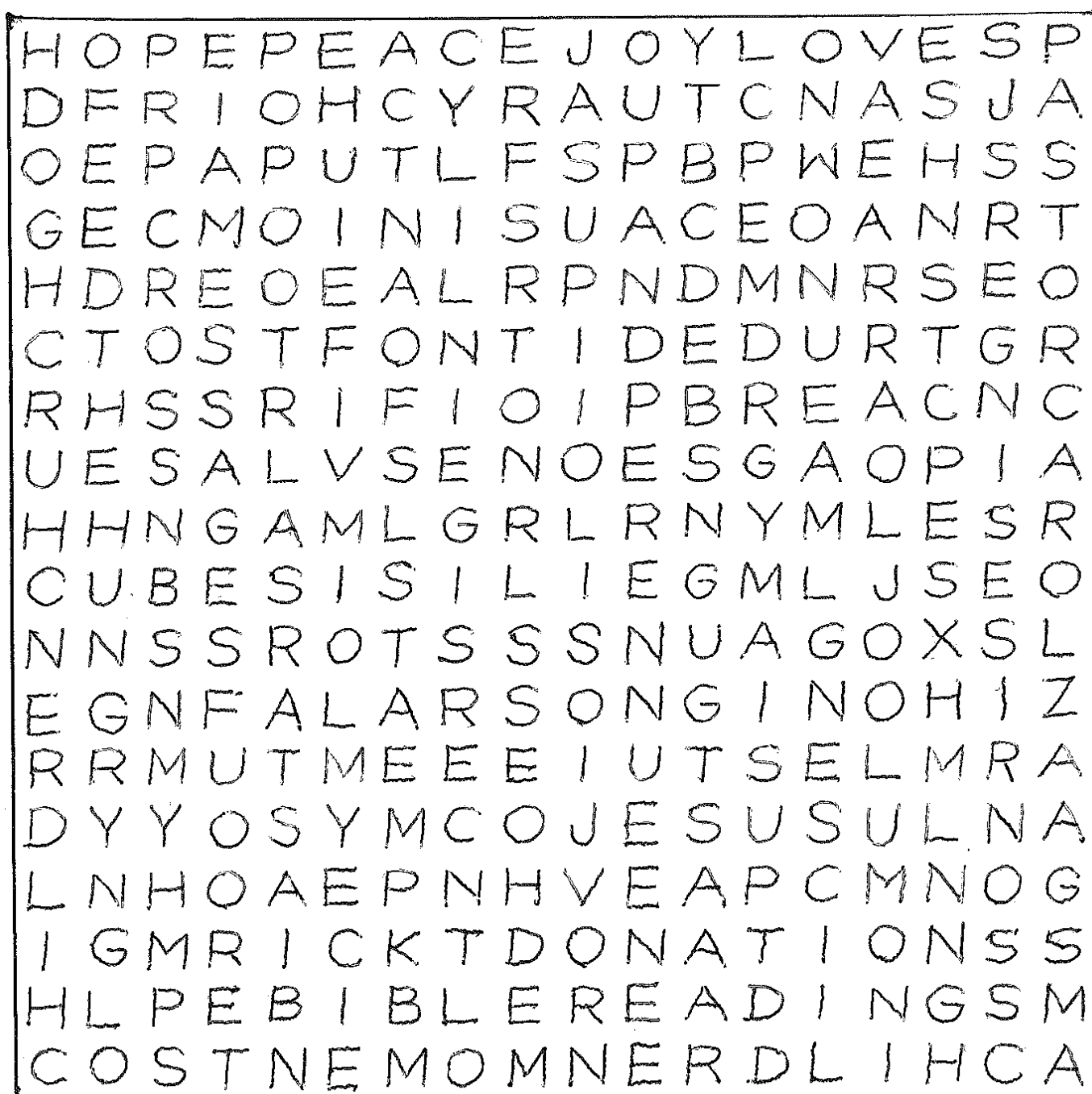


BAPTISMS  
BIBLE READINGS  
CHILDREN CHURCH  
CHILDREN MOMENTS  
COMMUNION  
CROSS  
DONATIONS  
FEED THE HUNGRY  
FUNERALS  
GOD  
HANDBELLS



HOLY SPIRIT  
HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE  
HYMNS  
JESUS  
MESSAGES

MESSENGRS  
OFFERINGS  
PASTOR CAROL ZAAGSMA  
PAUMC  
PIANO ORGAN  
PORT  
PRAYERS  
SANCTUARY CHOIR  
SONRISE SINGERS  
VEAP  
WEDDINGS



## Energy Savings Update

Late in 2014 and throughout 2015, the Board of Trustees has replaced many of our old incandescent and CFL church lighting with new LED lamps and fixtures. Funding for this extensive project was provided through the use of escrow funds specifically set aside for capital improvements, as well as bazaar funds for the outside parking lights, fellowship hall and bazaar workshop room. We also benefited from rebates made available from Xcel Energy.

The new LED technology was expected to bring about significant reductions in energy expenses, and we're happy to report this assumption is holding true.

In 2014, we spent \$9,065.52 on energy costs with Xcel Energy. Our 2015 energy costs with Xcel totaled \$6,609.85. This represents **a savings of \$2,455.67, or 27%!**

Many thanks to our Trustees, who completed most of the labor themselves. We look forward to continued energy savings in the years to come.

## From the Mailbox

### From Jim and Marilyn Anderson

"Thank all their Port family and pastor for prayers during their daughter, Susan's, illness. She almost left us and your support was treasured."

*Thank You!*

### Invitation to Olive Ellenson's 100th Birthday Open House

Join us to celebrate on Sunday, February 28th for an open house from 12:00-3:00 pm at:

MN Masonic Homes  
11501 Masonic Home Drive  
Bloomington, MN 55437

Follow the signs to the right for the Care Center and look for the balloons at the left of the entry doors.

RSVP to [bruce.ellenson@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.ellenson@gmail.com).

If you are unable to make it cards may be sent to:

Olive Ellenson  
c/o Bruce Ellenson  
18451 Harrogate Dr  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

## Bits and Pieces

### Jerusalem at the Omni Theater

Considered to be one the holiest places on Earth by three major religions, Jerusalem is home to some of the holiest sites for Jews, Christians and Muslims. Explore this storied city with a rich, complicated past. *Jerusalem* will be showing as a part of Omnifest through March 3. Tickets and more information at [www.smm.org/omnifest](http://www.smm.org/omnifest) or call the Science Museum at (651) 221-9444.

### Valentine's Day Lunch at Creekside

Enjoy entertainment by the Girl Singers and the Hit Parade during lunch at Creekside Community Center Friday, Feb. 12 at 11:30 am.

Reservations are required by Tuesday, February 9 by phone 952-563-4944 or email: [humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov).



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 am  
(Sunday School for all ages at 8:45; Coffee Fellowship at 9:30)

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**Staff**

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) [carol.zaagsma@paumc.org](mailto:carol.zaagsma@paumc.org)

Leann Olsen (Administrative Assistant) [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org)

Peggy Larson (Music Director) [peggylarson@comcast.net](mailto:peggylarson@comcast.net)

Dale Miller (Accompanist) [miller.daler@gmail.com](mailto:miller.daler@gmail.com)

Judy Richardson-Mahre (SonRise Singers Director) [jembrm@charter.net](mailto:jembrm@charter.net)

Mary Nelson (Handbells Director) [nelsonc2m@aol.com](mailto:nelsonc2m@aol.com)

Paul Herrmann (Custodian) 612-916-3376

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Church Office E-mail: [PAUMC@paumc.org](mailto:PAUMC@paumc.org)


PAUMC Website: [www.paumc.org](http://www.paumc.org)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-Avenue-United-Methodist-Church/109195009206962](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-Avenue-United-Methodist-Church/109195009206962)





# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm Tai Chi	2	3 6:00pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl	4 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp	5	6
7 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:15am Confirmation	8 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7:00 pm Small Group at Nancy Hagerty's	9 7:00 pm Small Group at Dave Smith's	10 ASH WEDNESDAY 1:30 pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship @ Church of Peace UMC 7:30pm Choir Rehl	11 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 6:30pm Girl Scouts	12	13
14 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 pm Tai Chi 7:00 pm Small Group at Nancy Hagerty's	16 7:00 pm Small Group at Dave Smith's	17 1:30 pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 6:00pm SonRise Rehl NO Choir Rehl 7:00 pm Pastor Carol's Small Group	18 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp	19	20
21 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:30am Adult Fellowship Brunch @ 7500 York Co-op	22 7:00 pm Small Group at Nancy Hagerty's	23 7:00 pm Small Group at Dave Smith's	24 1:30 pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 1:30 pm Book Club 7:00pm Choir Rehl 7:00 pm Pastor Carol's Small Group	25 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 6:30pm Girl Scouts	26	27
28 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	29  7:00 pm Small Group at Nancy Hagerty's					