

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



**Shout** *triumphantly*  
to the LORD,  
**ALL** the **earth!**

Be happy!

*Rejoice out loud!*

**SING YOUR PRAISES!**

Psalm 98:4

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## One Great Day Of Music

*May 22, 2016 at 10:00 am.*

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*Celebrate all our music ministries  
during this inspiring worship service.*



May 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*

We have heard about General Conference in a sermon; we have prayed for it during a prayer vigil; and we have read about it in a summary document made available in March. It's almost time now for it to happen.

Two years ago, I was elected as the second reserve clergy delegate to represent Minnesota at the 2016 General Conference, which will be held in Portland, Oregon, May 10-20. General Conference is a gathering of laity and clergy from around the world. General Conference is the body that decides what guidelines our denomination sets as policy, procedures and recommendations in the *Book of Discipline*. They meet every four years.

While I'd like to jump ahead and speculate on the outcome of many divisive issues before us, I will save a report on what actually happens for when I return.

Until then, I covet your prayers, not only for me but for all who gather in Portland during this time, that we

may truly see Christ in each other, that God's wisdom may inform our words and our decisions, and that the Holy Spirit may inspire us to faithful action.

While I am away, Rev. Jim Gaughan is available for pastoral care emergencies from May 9-15. He may be reached at (952) 470-9118. He will be preaching on Pentecost (a celebration of the Holy Spirit) Sunday, May 15. Rev. Becky Sechrist is available for pastoral care emergencies from May 16-20. She is pastor at Minnehaha UMC and may be reached at (612) 721-6231.

Tune in here for updates until I get back:  
<http://www.umc.org/topics/general-conference-2016>.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Carol*



## Congregational Meeting May 22

### Reach • Renew • Rejoice

On Monday, April 25, the Church Council voted to pledge \$20,000 over five years (\$4,000 per year) to support this program of the United Methodist Church.

After the church service on May 22, a video outlining the program will be shown to the congregation. At that time, pledge cards will be available for those members who wish to support this important effort.

Below is a brief overview of Reach Renew Rejoice. For more detailed information, you can visit their website at: <http://www.minnesotaumc.org/reach-renew-rejoice>

### About this Vision and Plan

The Minnesota Conference's vision is for all congregations to live out God's call to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world.



The Minnesota Conference's seven-year plan for congregational development has two components:

- 1) starting new churches and
- 2) growing existing churches by equipping them to increase vitality.

We have an opportunity to help new people find and experience Christ while stirring our own hearts and aligning them with what God is calling us to do. Sustained prayer and generosity are needed to accomplish the work that God has prepared for us.

Here's what the seven-year plan would make possible: Each year for the next seven years, we will

- start one new church where demographics and opportunity align,
- assist 20 existing churches in revitalizing their ministries, and
- partner with a vital parent church to multiply its ministry beyond its current site.

These efforts will occur in every district within the Minnesota Conference.

May 2016



## May Youth Activities



May brings one of our busier months with our last fundraisers. We have our spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Sat May 7<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm @ Hillcrest (9100 Russell Ave S, Bloomington) and is a free will donation. Join us for some delicious food and fellowship!

- May 1 Carl & Rylie
- May 8 Emma & Clara
- May 15 Jeremiah & Janea
- May 22 Oliver & Luke
- May 29 Summer Break!

We have our last meeting of the year on May 22<sup>nd</sup> discussing the topic of life and death. We will come together one last time in June for our end of the year party before we take a break to enjoy our summer! All of our fundraising proceeds go directly to the kids to help financially pay for the cost of camp which is \$399. If you aren't able to attend a fundraiser but still would like to support your youth you can sponsor a youth to help pay for part or all of their camp. Ultimate Challenge Camp is a life changing week for these kids and hands down the one week a year they look forward to the most. The kids already have a countdown until camp!

## May Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Coffee & Treats			Livingstons	Heather Anderson, Lorianne Nelson	Memorial Weekend
Greeters	Dorothy Allen, Marlus Jackson	Dan & Alisa Smith	Jeff & Denise Carroll	Floyd & Pat Ekstrom	Lynn Livingston, Mary Lou Johnson
Ushers	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Pat Ekstrom,	Rod & Peggy Bacheller, Jacob & Laurette Lawson	Bruce Benson, Beth Cameron, Myron & Ginny Karki	Guy Moore, Scott Rice, Steve & Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson, Jocelyn Medzagoh, Rod & Peggy Bacheller
Welcomers	Barb & Clint Andrus	Barb & Bob Deese	Paul Richardson	Jeanne Hansen	Lynn Livingston
Reader	Nathan Peine	Ted Murphy	Pat Ekstrom	Guy Moore	Joel Sponsel
Sound	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen
Media	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury	Summer Schedule
Closer	Harvey Erstad	Tom Wellman	Wayne Andersen	Floyd Ekstrom	Jeff Carroll
Communion Stewards	LaVonne Robinson, Peggy Erstad				
Communion Servers	Kathy Soucy, Ardy Anderson, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt				

**Want to serve on Sunday mornings?**  
 Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator

# Spiritual Growth

## Calling All Graduates

Graduates of high school, college and post high school learning institutions will be recognized in worship on June 5. In the bulletin we will be listing the graduate's name, the name of the institution and to whom they are related. Please submit information about your graduate to Leann in the office (952) 888-6070 or by email at [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org).



## Memorial Sunday is May 29

During this annual recognition Sunday, we will have the memorial book on display in the narthex, and will recognize memorial gifts received in the last year.



IN MEMORY

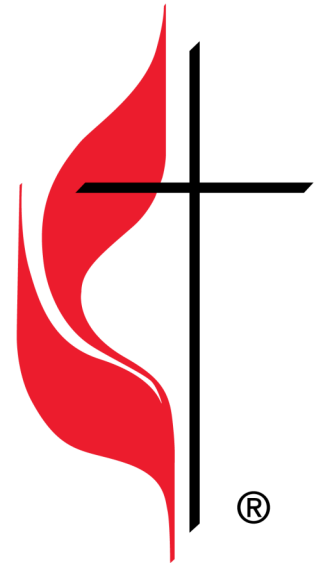
## Did You Know?

The United Methodist Cross and Flame emblem was created to mark the 1968 union of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church.

The design combines the cross with a single flame composed of dual tongues of fire, signifying the church's relationship to God through Christ and the Holy Spirit.

The flame is also a reminder of Pentecost and of the transforming moment in the life of John Wesley, when he sensed God's presence and felt his heart "strangely warmed" on May 24, 1738.

The two tongues of a single flame also represent the union of the two predecessor denominations.



# From the Trustees

## Spring Clean-Up, May 14

The Trustees are sponsoring a Spring Clean Up on Saturday, May 14, from 9:00 – Noon. Arrangements have already been made for morning refreshments to provide energy for the task. All we need now is YOU!

There will be indoor and outdoor jobs to complete, and while there will be some cleaning materials available, you may wish to bring your favorite supplies from home (Shop Vacs and extension cords for the sanctuary pews, rakes and shovels for outdoor work, extended dusters to grab any cobwebs, and your own work gloves).

By all pitching in, we'll have a spiffed up building inside and out in no time.



## Love Offering

Minnesota Annual Conference is just around the corner, and one of the neatest displays of our connectional nature is always through the love offering in the way each church brings what they can and it grows to a significant contribution together.

Here at The PORT, we'll collect our love offering on May 1 and May 8. Special envelopes will be available in your bulletin both Sundays. If you'd like to send a contribution to church, just designate in the memo line of your check that it is for the "love offering."



This year, the love offering will be divided as follows:

- 40% to Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services. Since 1985, this program has welcomed thousands of refugees from around the world, offering support through case management, immigration, employment and education.
- 10% to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This portion of the love offering will go specifically for shipping the 10,000 health kits our conference is working on putting together to parts of the world where they are most needed.
- 40% to International Child Care, Dominican Republic. Basic health care for families is a constant concern here, and health agency International Child Care has developed grassroots, community-based health and rehabilitation programs that teach parents and other residents how to care appropriately for children with disabilities.
- 10% Volunteers in Mission Scholarships. Through this program, teams spend up to two weeks working on mission projects domestically or abroad. Most teams are engaged in hands-on projects that build infrastructure to ensure that nutritional, medical, and educational programs in developing countries become sustainable and locally run. Returning team members pay their own way, but these scholarships help offset the cost for first-time participants.

The Minnesota Annual Conference Love Offering reaches near and far, supporting people in great need. This year's Annual Conference session theme is "Living Generously: Unleashing God's Gifts." Through the Love Offering, we have the opportunity to show our generosity in support of these four projects.

## Native American Ministries Day

Thank you to all who participated in April's United Methodist special offering. We collected \$221 for this special offering.

This offering provides support for Native American Ministries around the country, including Minnesota's very own In-Dah-So-Gwaa-Nibb "All Feathers" Spiritual & Community Center in Cass Lake, serving members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

## Health Kits Reminder

Between now and May 31 we are collecting health kits as a part of the Minnesota Conference's goal to donate 10,000 kits for UMCOR. Details on how to assemble a health kit are available in the Narthex.

If you would like to provide a health kit without doing the shopping, designate a \$12 donation for health kits and one will be prepared on your behalf.



# Mission Outreach

## Cornerstone Meal April 5

Our Mission Outreach Committee organized dinner service for residents at Cornerstone Shelter in Bloomington on Tuesday, April 5. Here are a few of our volunteers from that night getting dinner ready and/or waiting for time to clean up.



## Feed My Starving Children April 23



Boxes Packed: 153  
Meals: 33,048  
Kids Fed For A Year: 91  
Cost: \$7,720.56



## We celebrate YOU during May

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



- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3- Bob Deese                      | 16- Mike Moreland                   |
| 5- Tom Wellman                    | 18- Rylie Rasmussen                 |
| 6- Amy Runck                      | 23- Evelyn Runck                    |
| 10- Janene Haugen                 | 24- Scott Swenson,<br>Shiloh Wilson |
| 12- Zoe Peine                     | 25- Jim Louisiana                   |
| 14- Laura Avery,<br>Chuck Bartels | 28- Sharon Beckler                  |

## Address Change

Audrey Kohlstedt  
9889 Penn Ave S #206  
Bloomington, MN 55431

## Conversation About Funeral Planning

Come for a casual group conversation with Pastor Carol on Thursday, May 26 from 1:30-3:00 about funerals here at The PORT. We'll talk about questions on your mind, how the funeral luncheon happens, and you'll get the chance to mark down some of your favorite hymns and scripture readings on a form so your family will have an idea about these personal things when the time comes.

# Bits and Pieces

## Saturday May 7 is Kite Day



In celebration of children, Bloomington Human services is sponsoring Kite Day at Valley View Playfield on Saturday, May 7 from 12-3 pm. All kids 18 and younger will receive a free kite while supplies last. Come for live entertainment and activities.

## Art Classes at Creekside

Bloomington Human Services is partnering with Artistry to bring these art workshops to Creekside:

- Handmade Memory Journals - Friday, May 13, 10am-12pm. The cost is \$15 and registration deadline is May 6.
- Clay Gnome/Fairy Houses - Friday, May 27, 10 am - 12 pm. The cost is \$20 and registration deadline is May 20.

Register by phone 952-563-4944 or email: [humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov)

## Older Americans Month Event

Enjoy an ice cream sundae and musical entertainment by The Medicine Show Company at Creekside Community Center on Thursday, May 19 from 12:30-2 pm. Please register by Monday, May 16 by calling 952-563-4944 or email: [humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov)



## How to Plan the Perfect Move

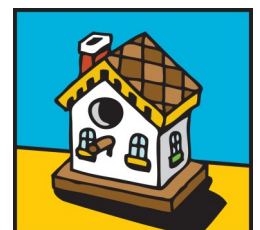
Aurora on France invites you to attend this informative session presented by Gentle Transitions and Re/Max Results Senior Services. This one hour session offers resources on how to make your move as easy as possible. Gain helpful tips about downsizing, sorting, packing and choosing an estate planner. Find out about trends in real estate and selling your home.



This free presentation will be Tuesday, May 17 at Edina Senior Center (5280 Grandview Square, Edina) from 3:00 pm -4:30 pm. RSVP to Jane at (952) 848-888.

## DIY Project & Lunch at Home Depot

Come to Home Depot in Bloomington on Friday, May 27 for a free lunch and an instructor lead bird-house and planter project. The event is free to attend, but please register through Human Services at Creekside Community Center by Thursday, May 19 by calling 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 thru May 22)

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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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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)





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:15am Confirmation	2	3 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp 7:00pm Trustees Mtg	4 7:00pm Choir Rehl	5 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	6	7
8 Mother's Day 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	9 (Pastor Carol at General Conference May 9-20)	10 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	11 6:00pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl	12 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 6:30pm Girl Scouts	13	14 9-12 Spring Clean-Up
15 Pentecost! 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	16	17 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	18 6:00pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl	19 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	20	21
22 One Great Day of Music 8:30am Handbells Rhl 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:00am Congregational Meeting 11:15am Mission Outreach	23	24 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	25 1:30pm Book Club	26 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 6:30pm Girl Scouts	27	28
29 10:00am Worship	30 Memorial Day	31 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp				