

THE PORTLIGHT

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



June 5 - 10:00 AM

Graduation is an important milestone to recognize. Whether it be from elementary school, Jr. high, high school, college or a trade school.

Come celebrate with Megan Mahre, this year's high school graduate from The PORT, and recognize many others in our extended church family.

June 12 - 10:00 AM

Three of our 8th and 9th graders have been meeting throughout the year to deepen their faith and prepare for Confirmation.

Come celebrate with Jael Medzagoh, Blake Mahre, and Joseph Matton as they confirm their faith.



June Milestones

June 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.

One of my favorite teachings by Jesus is the parable of the soils. In it Jesus says, "Let anyone with ears listen!" (Matthew 13:9)

Kay Lindahl, in her book *The Sacred Art of Listening*, writes, "Perhaps one of the most precious and powerful gifts we can give another person is to really listen to them, to listen with quiet, fascinated attention, with our whole being, fully present. This sounds simple, but if we are honest with ourselves, we do not often listen to each other so completely."

I just returned from ten days at General Conference, which is a gathering of United Methodists from all over the world. This happens every four years, and this year 864 voting delegates, half clergy and half lay delegates, reported for duty.

I was elected as a reserve delegate, which means most of my time was spent observing from the stands while remaining poised and available should I need to replace one of the two elected clergy delegates from Minnesota if something called them away or they needed a break.

As such, I had a lot of time to observe the proceedings.

It didn't take long for me to realize that we, as a body of denominational leaders, have a long ways to go when it comes to listening.

There was an opportunity to create space for better listening at this General Conference. The rules committee, at the request of the 2012 General Conference, proposed a new way to discuss some of the topics that have been dividing us. "Rule 44," as it was called, would have every delegate assigned to a small group of no more than 15 people, along with a facilitator and a scribe to take notes. Small group conversations would occur with summaries passed on to a Facilitation Group. The Facilitation Group would discern trends and bring forth legislation that took into account the original petitions as well as the small group notes, and the body could then debate and vote on the legislation. Ultimately, Rule 44 was voted down (57% said "no"); an official opportunity to listen differently to one another was thereby lost. Only 43% of the body willing to listen to one another in a new way.

Lindahl continues, "Listening is a creative force. Something quite wonderful occurs when we are listened to fully. We expand, ideas come to life and grow, we remember who we are. Some speak of this force as a creative fountain within us that springs forth; others call it the inner spirit, intelligence, true self. Whatever this force is called, it shrivels up when we are not listened to and it thrives when we are."

There is an unusual dynamic at General Conference in that our bishops do not have a vote on the business at hand. They do preach during worship, and they act as presiding officers/parliamentarians during plenary sessions, but they only have a voice if they are asked. Someone asked them on Tuesday of our second week to speak...to lead...us through this impasse on the most divisive topics. The request was to bring us, by the next day, a non-binding sense of a way forward through our differences. 46% of the body voted "no, we don't want such a report" – 46% didn't have any interest in listening to what our bishops...our denomination's spiritual leaders...had to say!

I'd like to see us get better at listening. There's a long way to go at General Conference, so maybe we could just start right here with you and me.

"Listening well takes time, skill, and a readiness to slow down," Lindahl concludes, "to let go of expectations, judgments, boredom, self-assertiveness, defensiveness. I've noticed that when people experience the depth of being listened to like this, they also begin to listen to others in the same way. Listening is an art that calls for practice. Imagine if we all spent just a few minutes each day practicing the art of listening, being fully present with the person we are with. There would be a collective sigh of contentment and joy. Listen!"

Jesus calls us to listen. One needn't look far to find commentaries about how progress on the business at hand was hindered at this General Conference. Dare I say that if we all learn better to listen, we might find ourselves in a better place in the years to come? I pray it may be so.

Shalom,
Pastor Carol



Special Offering Update

Thank you for your support of The Minnesota Annual Conference 2016 Love Offering. With your contributions we raised \$563 supporting the following projects: 40% to Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services, 10% to UMCOR for health kit shipping costs, 40% to International Child Care, Dominican Republic, and 10% Volunteers in Mission Scholarships.



Health Kits for UMCOR

Throughout the month of May we have been 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. Health Kits will be blessed during worship on June 5.

Spiritual Growth

June Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

| | June 5 | June 12 | June 19 | June 26 |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Greeters | Dave & Linda Schesso | Todd & Julie Rasmussen | Eric & Judy Richardson-Mahre | Mark Wicks, Paul Richardson |
| Ushers | Bruce Benson, Pat Ekstrom, Myron & Ginny Karki | Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Beth Cameron, Bob Deese | Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Myron & Ginny Karki | Bruce Benson, Scott Rice, Rod & Peggy Bacheller |
| Welcomers | Ginny Karki | Eric & Judy Richardson-Mahre | LaVonne Robinson | Jean & Guy Moore |
| Reader | Bob Deese | George Dalin | Neil Anderson | Stephen Dweh-Chenneh |
| Sound | Eric Richardson-Mahre | Dave Smith | Tim Madsen | Eric Richardson-Mahre |
| Media | Nathan Peine | Tim Madsen | Dave Smith | Dave Smith |
| Summer Music | SonRise Singers w/Megan Mahre | | Men's Drop In Choir (rehearse @ 9:15 am) | |
| Closer | Tom Wellman | Paul Richardson | Wayne Andersen | Steve Knopp |
| Communion Stewards | Dave & Ellen Smith | <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 | Mary Nelson, Verne Witt, Dan & Tracy Baker | | | |

Spiritual Growth



One Great Day of Music - May 22

Musicians at The PORT brought their very best to worship on May 22, with songs of praise and thanksgiving sung by the Sanctuary and Sunday School Choirs, instrumental music offered by the Handbells and organist Dale Miller, and soloists Nancy Slagg, Judy Richardson-Mahre, and Peggy Larson accompanied by Rocky Mjos, all singing songs of our faith. Thank you to all for the blessing of music throughout the program year, culminating in this annual tradition of One Great Day of Music.



We celebrate YOU during June

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2- Blaine Daniels Mark Wicks | 16- Jeremiah Carroll, Blake Mahre Dan Smith |
| 3- Dianne Madsen Julie Rasmussen | 18- Bryan Darnell |
| 4- David Swenson | 19- Harvey Erstad |
| 5- Chuck Groth | 21 - Denise Carroll Alina Haugen |
| 6- Clint Andrus | 22- Mackenzie Roach |
| 7- Paul Swenson | 24- Ann Benson |
| 8- Guy Moore Peggy Erstad | 25- Les Castro |
| 9- Joshua Rice | 29- Heather Anderson |
| | 30- Jeff Carroll |



Jeff and Lynn's Celebration—May 21

Lynn Furda and Jeff Chamberlain, along with their families and Pastor Carol, gathered here at The PORT on May 21 to celebrate Jeff and Lynn's relationship.

Lynn and Jeff met 4-5 years ago at the Brunswick Zone in Eden Prairie. They were each bowling on separate teams in a league, but noticed each other. When reminiscing about that day, Jeff said to Lynn, "I loved you at first glance."

Pastor Carol met several times with Jeff and Lynn to practice healthy communication skills for a strong foundation in their relationship... using "I statements" as a way to express what one person wants, and then using active listening skills to restate what the other heard.



When asked about what they appreciate most about each other, Jeff said, "I just enjoy her company." Lynn added, "Me, too." Some of the things they enjoy doing together include going out to eat, bowling, shopping, dancing, visiting the Hopkins and Richfield libraries, and coming here to church at The PORT.

1 Corinthians 13 reminds us that the greatest gift God gives us is love. That Lynn and Jeff found one another to share in such love is something we celebrate with them.





Cy & Fran Carpenter

Let's start by dropping a few names: Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale, Orville Freeman, Elmer Anderson, Wendell Anderson, Al Quie, Rudy Perpich, Paul Wellstone, Mark Dayton, Tom Harkin, and Tom Daschle. In addition to being well-known political leaders, all these men share something else in common; they've all worked with Cy Carpenter on important rural and community issues.

This month we're going to tell part of the story behind the famous names and continue talking about how a concern for others has always been a part of Fran and Cy Carpenter's lives.

As you remember, the Carpenters moved to Bloomington in 1965 after Cy had been appointed as a state lobbyist for the Minnesota Farmers Union. He must have done a pretty good job because he became President of the Minnesota Farmers Union in the 70's and was elected President of the National Farmers Union in 1984. As National President, Cy headed an organization with more than 300,000 family farm members in 20 states. As one of the leading voices in rural America, Cy has worked with national, state and local leaders on issues ranging from farm policy and international trade to rural employment and disadvantaged youth.

Cy has also been a long-time advocate for developing programs to meet the special needs of seniors through expanded programs and services. He chaired the Minnesota Board on aging in the late 80's, and served as a board member in the National Council of Aging under President Carter.



Cy has also been a member of the board of directors of Green Thumb Inc., which is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to strengthen families, communities, and the nation by providing older and disadvantaged individuals with opportunities to learn, work and serve others. Founded in 1965, Green Thumb is best known as America's oldest and largest provider of mature worker employment and training services. The organization has expanded its services to bring workforce opportunities to more than 40,000 mature workers, dislocated workers, welfare participants, and adults with special needs in 44 states and Puerto Rico.

Truth be told, Cy's been involved in more worthwhile causes than we've got space to list. So next time you see him, be sure to ask about his plan to create more telecommuting jobs and businesses in rural areas, or his "Experience Works" program to provide meaningful employment for low income farm people. Then again, maybe you'll want to ask about the "Green View" program that uses rural people to staff rest areas across the state, or "Camp Buckskin," a special camp for disadvantaged kids near Ely. Trust me, if the question is "What can I do for others?" he's got the answer.

Cy will also quickly tell you that Fran's been a full partner in everything he's done. "She really is the wind beneath my wings," said Cy. Actually, Fran smiles and puts it a little differently: "Whenever there's a good man, there's a better wife."

Before completing the story, we've got to answer the question, "How did the Carpenter's come to PAUMC?" After the kids left the home in the mid-90's, Fran and Cy left Atonement Lutheran and joined PAUMC. "We liked the close congregation here and it seemed so friendly and outgoing that we felt at home," said Fran. "When it's right, you just feel it, and at PAUMC we know we're around our kind of people."

If you'd like to have the SPOTLIGHT on you, or someone you know, please contact Steve Soucy at 612-869-2087.

June Events at Creekside

- **Creekside Gardening Club Plant Exchange** - Saturday, June 4 from 9:00 am to Noon. You are invited to Creekside Community Center to exchange a plant, donate a plant, or adopt a plant. Indoor, outdoor and vegetable plants accepted.
- **Coffee Talk: The Art & Architecture of Rome** - Wednesday, June 8, 9:30 am to 11 am. Presenter Greg Pulles is an avid student of all things Italian. He has written and photographed several books. His talk will be about the art and architecture of Rome based upon his extensive photography of the eternal city, taken over 12 trips. This presentation is free, but please register by Tuesday, June 7.
- **The Power of Laughter: A Stress Management Workshop** - Thursday, June 16, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm. Join us for a fun filled two hour workshop designed to overcome the life challenges that have caused you stress and disease for months, years, or even decades, through the power of laughter. This workshop is led by Sally Miller a Certified Life Coach and Certified Health and Wellness Coach. The cost is \$10 and you must register by Thursday, June 9.
- **Free Breakfast and Panel Discussion** - Tuesday, June 21 8:30 am - 10:15 am. Join experts for a breakfast and presentations on “Living Healthy, Wealthy and Wise” as well as estate planning, power of attorney and health care directives. Breakfast and the presentations are free but please register by Monday, June 13.
- **The Buyers Club is Closing Thursday, June 30** after 40 years of providing fresh produce, staples, dry baking products, pasta and nuts through their mini-market. Watch for specials and discounted products. The final days are June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 9-11:15 am and 12:30-1:30 pm.
- **Red, White & Blue Lunch Party** - Friday, July 1 at 11:30 am. Entertainment is provided by Colleen Raye’s musical tribute to Patsy Cline featuring hits like “I Fall to Pieces”, “Crazy”, and “Walkin’ After Midnight” along with her group of talented musicians. Please register by Tuesday, June 28.

To Register or for more information:
Human Services at Creekside Community Center
9801 Penn Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55431
952-563-4944 or TTY 952-563-4933

From the Mailbox

You Are Invited...

Graduation Open House in honor of Megan Mahre
Saturday, June 11th from 1 to 4 pm.
15699 Highview Drive, Apple Valley, MN 55124

From Betty Belk...

Thanks to my PAUMC family for all of the calls, prayers, cards and rides during my recent heart attacks and recovery. Your friendship plays an important part as I recovered. Our church is a very important, loving and caring place to be a member of. Thanks to all of you.

From Ginny and Myron Karki...

A big heartfelt thank you for all of the many prayers offered for my brother, Bill, during this almost year since his SCI, and to Pastor Carol for remembering him

every week in the pastoral prayer time. It means so much to Myron and me, but also to Bill and his family. It has been an exceedingly tough year, but they are settling into a new program with three caregivers round the clock. Though essentially totally paralyzed, Bill has been able to attend his son's graduation with a masters degree, and an important choir concert for his daughter. His painful spasms have been lessened with the help of a Baclofen pump, but at the same time it weakens his swallowing and his voice. His doctors are still trying to find just the right dose which is a complicated process, but we pray for and are ever hopeful that he will at some time be able to use a voice activated device so we can communicate once again. We are so fortunate to be a part of The Port where we listened last Sunday to all the beautiful, inspiring music, and where we have such a caring congregation who have held Bill and his family and us in your prayers since last June 7. Bless you all.

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 and Coffee Fellowship will resume in the Fall)

Staff

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) carol.zaagsma@paumc.org

Leann Olsen (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org

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

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org

PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org

www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-Avenue-United-Methodist-Church/109195009206962



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------|-----|--|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 | 2 6:30am Men's Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Workshop | 3 | 4 |
| 5 GRADUATE SUNDAY 10:00am Worship/ Communion | 6 | 7 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop | 8 | 9 6:30am Men's Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Workshop 6:30pm Girl Scouts | 10 | 11 |
| 12 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 10:00am Worship 11:15 Congregational Care Mtg | 13 | 14 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop | 15 | 16 6:30am Men's Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Workshop | 17 | 18 |
| 19 FATHER'S DAY 9:15am Men's Drop-In Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship | 20 6:30pm Tai Chi | 21 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop | 22 | 23 6:30am Men's Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Workshop | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10:00am Worship | 27 6:30pm Tai Chi | 28 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop | 29 | [Pastor Carol at Minnesota Annual Conference in St. Cloud] | | |
| | | | | 30 6:30am Men's Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Workshop | | |

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. We had a congregational meeting after worship on May 22 to offer more information, distribute pledge cards, and see a video related to this seven-year plan for congregational development. Here is a link if you'd like to see it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhH6jsW7JWs>.

The Reach•Renew•Rejoice plan itself has two components: 1) starting new churches, and 2) growing existing churches by equipping them to increase vitality. Every United Methodist Church in Minnesota has the opportunity to participate in this plan by offering financial support and to benefit from this plan through the vital-

ity resources it will generate. For more detailed information, you can visit their website at: <http://www.minnesotaumc.org/reach-renew-rejoice>.

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. By working together, we as a conference can do great things.



Would you consider making a 5-year commitment beyond your current commitment to the ministries of The PORT? If so, please indicate on the pledge card below and return to the office. For questions, please contact Dave Smith at (952) 884-8609 or Pastor Carol at (952) 888-6070.



YES! I/we will support the mission and ministry of Reach, Renew, Rejoice with my/our prayers and financial gifts as follows:

Name (s) _____ Home Phone _____

Mailing Address, City, State, Zip _____

Email #1 _____ Email #2 _____

My/our plan for giving to the Reach, Renew, Rejoice Fund:

\$ _____ Weekly for 52 weeks per yr. (5 years) \$ _____ Monthly for 12 months per yr. (5 years)
\$ _____ Annually (5 annual payments) \$ _____ as follows: _____

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is a convenient and reliable way to fulfill your financial commitment to Reach, Renew, Rejoice. To choose EFT as a way to make your contribution, or change current EFT contribution amount or dates to include your Reach, Renew, Rejoice pledge, please complete below.

Electronic Funds Transfer Authorization

Please indicate the frequency and amount of the automatic electronic draft we are to make:

- Monthly on the 1st of the month: \$ _____ Monthly on the 15th of the month: \$ _____
- Semi-monthly on the 1st AND 15th of the month: \$ _____ \$ _____
- Use bank account information currently on file; or
- Attach a voided check from the account from which the withdrawals will be made. Withdrawals will begin in June, 2016, unless otherwise specified.
- I understand that this estimate of giving may be revised or canceled at any time at my/our request.

Authorizing Signature _____ Date _____