

THE PORTLIGHT

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

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you.

Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”

Job 12: 7-10



Summer Fellowship & Blessing of the Animals July 31

Join us for Outdoor Worship on July 31 at 10:00 am, followed by a BBQ lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers (free-will offering appreciated).

The worship service will include a Blessing of the Animals, so bring your family pets. If your child's "pet" is a stuffed animal, we will bless those as well. All pets are welcome, but please ensure their vaccinations are up to date and bring them leashed or contained in a carrier for the safety and comfort of all. If your pet is easily frightened or doesn't like being around other animals, please feel free to bring a picture instead.

If it rains, we'll move into the Fellowship Hall.

July 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.

Outdoor Worship

After the shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando a week before Annual Conference, several of our Minnesota clergy and laity worked together to draft a resolution, which was passed on June 23. While there is a summary article about Annual Conference on Page 4, I'd like to share with you here the contents of this particular piece of legislation:

Resolution in Response to the Pulse Nightclub Shootings in Orlando

On June 12, 2016, over 100 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender persons were shot at a Latino night at the Pulse Night club in Orlando, Florida. We, the members of the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church stand in horror at the loss of life and safety.

At the recent meeting of the New England Annual Conference, UMC, the Rev. Lindsay Flick told the conference how, at age 13, a United Methodist told her she was going to hell because she was gay. She continued with the following words: I stand before you all today, asking for truth... I am asking that we all quit pretending as though we are providing a healing witness. I ask that we stop pretending that our hands are clean in the spreading of hate, and in the oppression of LGBTQ people. I ask that we stop the whitewashing of all of our stories.

We are humbled to know that within the United States, Christian teachings and other religious traditions are now and have been perverted to justify violence, killing and hate crimes.

We, the members of the Minnesota Conference of The United Methodist Church, commit ourselves:

- To repent of the ways in which our words and The United Methodist Church's positions toward LGBTQ persons have been used to demean, discriminate and encourage violence; and,
- To find timely avenues toward resolution after 44 years of dialogue; and,
- To practice humility and gentle conversation with those in our church who have convictions different from our own. We seek a time when, as United Methodists, we all can practice and live in a church where our actions are in accord with the call of God; and,
- To pray for our bishop, Bruce Ough, as he seeks to lead the Council of Bishops and its commis-

sion to the place where God is calling us today.

Many of the speeches against this resolution cited the speaker's resistance to the call to repentance for "our words and The United Methodist Church's positions toward LGBTQ persons [that] have been used to demean, discriminate and encourage violence."

As a child, I remember my own resistance to speaking public prayers of confession at church on Sunday mornings. It felt wrong to pray, "we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors..." when I couldn't remember in that moment any personal examples to confess. But as I grew in my faith, I came to understand that these prayers of confession are as much communal as they are personal.

As a people, I think it's fair to say that we have participated in the villainization of races and classes of people which has encouraged violence. I have personally demeaned and discriminated against people. And I recognize that I serve as a clergyperson in a denomination that calls homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching." So while none of us reading this personally engaged in the shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, we are part of a denomination that has continued to uphold this hurtful statement. And I grieve that this statement has, at the very least, makes our denomination one of the last places that GLBTQ persons would come in order to sort through their questions of faith. This is a huge grievance of mine, especially after such violence; violence that often leads people to question the meaning of life, or search for a safe place to be.

Granted, some United Methodist Churches have become "Reconciling Congregations," thereby publicly professing their resistance to our denomination's language, and their commitment to welcome and serve with GLBTQ persons along their faith journey. Many find hope in such Reconciling Congregations, and in Annual Conferences like Minnesota who have taken steps similar to this resolution, which publicly resolves to repent and work toward justice. With a vision such as "a safe harbor along life's journey," I hope and pray The PORT will serve as a safe and welcoming place for all people, including GLBTQ children of God, as we journey together in faith.

With repentance,

Pastor Carol



Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation is an important marker along one's spiritual journey. At baptism, we are initiated into the new covenant in Jesus Christ and membership in the Church as Christ's body in the world. For many, this happens at a very early age. Confirmation is an extension of one's baptism – an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith.

On Sunday, June 12, three of our youth were confirmed: Blake Mahre, Joseph Matton, and Jael Medzagoh.

In preparation for this day, these three met monthly

during the school year with Pastor Carol, studied the general arc of stories of faith in the Bible, took worship notes, reached out in mission, and learned about United Methodism.

We offer a big welcome to Jael, Blake, and Joe.



July Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Greeters	Marlus Jackson, Dorothy Allen	Floyd & Pat Ekstrom	Jacob & Laurette Lawson	Carol Emdy, JoAnne Volden	Outdoor Worship
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Chaz Brobst, Dave & Ellen Smith	Bruce Benson, Pat Ekstrom, Myron & Ginny Karki	Guy Moore, Beth Cameron, Rod & Peggy Bacheller	Bruce Benson, Craig Carlson, Dave & Linda Schesso	Guy Moore, Jocelyn Medzagoh, Myron & Ginny Karki
Welcomers	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Kathy Swenson	Helen Witt	Jeff Chamberlain	Marilyn Anderson
Reader	Pat Ekstrom	Judy Richardson-Mahre	Katelyn Hagerty	Bob Deese	Tim Hagerty
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Dave Smith
Summer Music	Paul Richardson, Megan Mahre	Peggy Larson	Judy Richardson-Mahre	Women's Drop-In Choir (Rehearse @ 9:15)	
Closer	Floyd Ekstrom	Jeff Carroll	Harvey Erstad	Jeff Carroll	Paul Richardson
Communion Stewards	Ellen & Dave 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	Helen & Verne Witt, Mary Nelson, Bea Batchelor				

Conference News

A Letter From Bishop Ough

Dear Members and Friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church:

God's great redemptive incursion took place 2,000 years ago in Jerusalem. The world was turned upside down through Jesus' ministry, death and resurrection. The first congregational development initiative took place following Pentecost. The early church engaged in reaching new people, teaching new disciples how to love God and neighbor, and healing a broken world. Widows were saved from starvation; missionaries were sent into the world; new disciples praised God and demonstrated God's goodness to everyone; the Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved. These were transformational, cutting-edge innovations which left Jerusalem, all of Judea and Samaria, and the entire world amazed and forever changed.

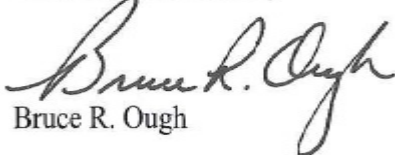
When Christians come together, there is great ability and resources to change lives and transform the world.

Thank you for partnering with us in the Reach•Renew•Rejoice Initiative. I rejoice to hear your congregation met the challenge and became a Tithe Goal Partner. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Your church's gift for congregational development is a wise gift which will enable lives to be changed through the bold ministries of new churches and the renewed vitality in existing congregations.

Thank you for sharing the treasure of God's love and grace with others. Thank you for your extravagant generosity. The actions we take now to bring people into a loving relationship with Christ will ensure the Minnesota Conference and God's reign has a future with hope.

May God's richest blessings be upon your continued ministries. With deepest appreciation for your faithfulness and stewardship, I am

Yours in Christ's love,


Bruce R. Ough



Update From Annual Conference

Blake Mahre and Pastor Carol attended Annual Conference in Saint Cloud June 21-23. This year there was an intentional effort to bring youth and young people to Annual Conference, and to refresh the experience through a schedule change, with dates later in June so that students wouldn't have to miss school to attend.

The first afternoon we spent a fair amount of time engaging in Open Space Conversations, an organic process that simply helps facilitate and/or organize small



group conversation around many different topics of interest for all in attendance. After such rich conversation,



we took Church outside to a celebration in the park, where we enjoyed music by the band Boiling Point, outside activities, and a moment where the Bishop blessed all recent confirmation students.

Our keynote speaker on Wednesday was Sara Miles, author of *Take this Bread* and *City of God: Faith in the Streets*. We brought 35 health kits from The PORT and added them to all the others brought from United Methodist churches around Minnesota. Our goal was 10,000



health kits and our total turned out to be 13,842! In addition, Portland Avenue United Methodist Church was recognized as one of six churches who reduced their carbon footprint in the last two years (retrofitting our light fixtures to LED lights has been making a big difference in our reducing our energy consumption.)



Blake sang with the Mass choir at Wednesday's Celebration of Life worship service, and Pastor Carol could be heard playing her trumpet at several different worship services.

We celebrate YOU during July

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

- 1 - Koffi Bruce
Nathania Bruce
Nancy Hagerty
- 10 - Bea Batchelor
- 21 - Betty Belk
- 22 - Steven Johnson
- 25 - Linda Knopp
- 26 - Jocelyne Medzagoh
- 27- Wayne Andersen
Tim Madsen



Caregivers Support Group

If you are a caregiver or may be called upon as one soon, consider attending our next meeting, Wednesday, July 20, at 6:30 pm. This is a caring group established to support one another and share resources. The group is open, so you may attend as your schedule allows.

Coming Soon – The PORT Pacers!

The Congregational Care Team is working with a contact from the Bloomington Public Health Department to measure our Fellowship Hall and various hallways to map out a walking route here inside the church. Soon we'll have posted times when the building is open for you to come and walk in a safe and predictable environment while you socialize with your friends.



Ice Cream Sunday Fun

After worship on June 26, we stayed for a fun summer treat, as well as fellowship with one another.



Mission Outreach

The VEAP Back to School Program



VEAP relies on the generous support of the community to help meet the needs of those students. The PORT will gather needed school supplies from **July 17 through August 7**. A cart will be in the narthex for your donations.

Items Needed:

- Backpacks
- Loose leaf paper
- Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Colored Pencils (12 count)
- Rulers
- Glue Bottles
- Highlighters
- Two-Pocket Folders
- Crayons (24 count)
- Markers (10 ct)
- Composition Books
- Pencil Pouches/Boxes
- Dry Erase Markers
- Notebooks
- Blunt and Sharp Scissors
- Blue and Black Ink Pens

VEAP Food Donation Delivery

A big “thank you” goes to Mike Moreland. He has been delivering our non-perishable food donations to the VEAP food shelf for quite some time. Work gets busy for him in the fall, so he’s retiring from this ministry at the end of August.

In order to continue to collect non-perishable food donations throughout the year here, we will need to find another person willing to make the delivery as needed (about once a month or so) to VEAP at 9600 Aldrich Ave S in Bloomington. Donations must be dropped off when they are open (M,T,W,F from 8 am – 5 pm. Thursday is their late day when they are open 8 am – 7 pm). They are closed on the weekends.

If this sounds like a ministry you’d like to care for, please let Mike Moreland or Pastor Carol know.

From the Mailbox

From the Family of Audrey Kohlstedt



“Thank you very much for all you did for our mother, Audrey Kohstedt’s memorial service.”

Janet & John Kohlstedt and Family

From Applewood Pointe Bible Study

“We are so thankful that you have shared your books from *The Call* Bible class study to ours here at Applewood Pointe. How good it was that George Dalin pursued the thought. Really all glory to the Lord Jesus that we are truly blessed.”

Mabel, Ardys, Dorothy, Lois, Marilyn, Bruce, Virginia, Pat, Vernetta, May, George and Violet

Bits & Pieces


Medalist Concert Band

Pastor Carol is playing trumpet in several outdoor concerts this summer. Grab a friend and come listen.

- July 3, 8:00 pm - Summerfete at Normandale Lake 5901 W 84th St , Bloomington
- July 26, 7:30 pm - Lake Harriet Bandshell, 4135 E. Lake Harriet Blvd, Minneapolis
- July 27, 7:00 pm - Centennial Lakes Amphitheater, 7449 France Ave S, Edina

Check out www.MedalistBand.com for more info.

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00am Worship/ Communion	4  Independence Day!	5 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	6 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	7 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	8	9
10 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach	11 6:30pm Tai Chi	12 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop 7:00pm Trustees Mtg	13	14 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Workshop Newsletter Deadline	15	16
17 10:00am Worship	18 6:30pm Tai Chi	19 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	20 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	21 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	22	23
24 10:00am Worship	25 6:30pm Tai Chi	26 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	27	28 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	29	30
31 10:00am Outdoor Worship, Blessing of the Animals & BBQ						

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

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