

THE PORTLIGHT

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



Our youth enjoyed Camp from July 17-23, 2016.

Ultimate Challenge Camp

August 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.

The Prophet Isaiah offers a word of hope in Chapter 35 when he proclaims, “The desert and the dry land will rejoice and blossom like the crocus. They will burst into bloom, and rejoice with joy and singing.”

This was part of our Sunday morning scripture a few weeks ago; just days after altercations with police left Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, LA, and Filando Castile in Falcon Heights, MN, dead, followed by five law enforcement officers being killed with seven others wounded by a sniper in Dallas, TX.

I confessed that morning that I had been silent about racism for far too long. And while knowing racism would not, could not, be dismantled in one fifteen-minute sermon, we had to start somewhere. So I offered four of the 28 perceptions and attitudes identified by Jona Olsson as examples that perpetuate racism. Olsson is the Fire Chief of Latir Volunteer Fire Department in New Mexico as well as the founder and director of Cultural Bridges to Justice, an organization that offers cultural diversity programs for non-profit organizations. Here are the four we talked about:

- 1) Colorblindness (saying, “I don’t see you as black,” or “We all bleed red.”). This actually negates the cultural values, norms, and life experiences of people of color. It’s better to acknowledge and honor our differences.
- 2) “Bootstrap Theory” (notion we can all succeed if we try hard enough). This theory denies the impact oppression and privilege have played on a person’s chance for success.
- 3) Don’t Blame Me (saying, “I never owned slaves.”). This ignores the harm that has been done for generations of people of color, and prevents us from seeing how we have benefited from a system that has privileged whites.
- 4) Blame the Victim (“It’s their fault if they can’t get a job.”). This ignores the agents of racism which intentionally and unintentionally perpetuate racism.

I can see how such perspectives have been reinforced throughout my life, and I believe ending racism must begin with such acknowledgment.

And yet the feeling of helpless and not knowing what to do about racism is palpable. Many want to be part of making change, but don’t know where to begin, beyond recognizing it. I want to share with you some comments by Rev. F. Willis Johnson, pastor of Well-

spring UMC in Ferguson, MO. This is part of his forthcoming book and video study, *Holding Up Your Corner: Talking About Race in Your Community*.

First, Johnson suggests we take a look at Chapter 4 in the Book of Esther. The entire Jewish community is in a perilous place, with people fearing for their lives and leaders in disarray. Mordecai tells Esther that this is not the time to quibble, be quiet, or quit. So Johnson offers the following suggestions on what not to do:

- Don’t quibble – there isn’t time to argue over slogans or dispute the fact that racism is in us.
- Don’t be quiet – Esther scurries around, hoping to silently manipulate an outcome. We can’t pray for God to do what we are unwilling to do ourselves.
- Don’t quit – We can’t think the time to act has passed or has not yet arrived. The time is now.
- Don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know” – Don’t make things up or say things that sound good but have nothing behind them.
- Don’t fail to listen – Make space, time and place for listening and affirmation.

Then Johnson continues with list of what to do:

- 1) Get out of the micro and move to the macro. What steps can you take to realign you and your friends with the fact that God’s grace is real, unmerited, for all, for always?
- 2) Be relational, move in, get closer to the points of pain. Talk with people you don’t know to get to know them and their reality.
- 3) Find ways to bind people together. This may mean getting out of your own comfort zone.
- 4) Examine civic structures and policies and systems that need to change. Work cooperatively and productively to change them.
- 5) Speak out and work to proactively change gun laws. No more quibbling.
- 6) Every day, do things in your personal and public spaces to lift yourself and others up.

We remain in the desert and dry land of racism, which prevents all from blooming as they should. With diligent work, and in partnership with God, we will begin to see the land blossom again like the crocus. So let’s, each one of us, keep working at it.

Continuing the Conversation,

Pastor Carol



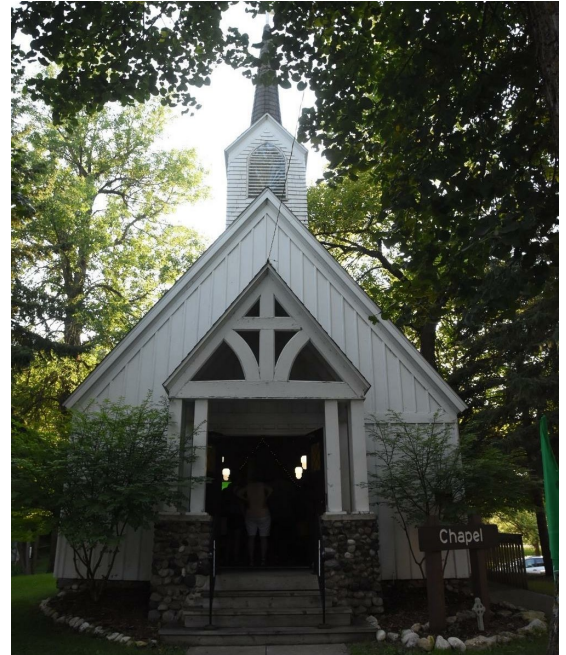
Summer Youth Update

Ultimate Challenge Camp this year was nothing short of amazing! Close to half of the campers were 1st time campers which is an ultimate blessing from God, including a few of our own youth! It filled my heart to see our own youth reach outside their comfort zone and make friends with new campers and welcome them with open arms.

We played many games, water and messy games which may have had the kids avoiding eating ranch for a couple days! After all of our fun we came together each night to worship God and grow closer to Him.

Thank you all for your support throughout the years. It is your love, generosity and dedication to our youth is the reason our kids are able to learn and grow with these experiences!

Melissa Kuyper, Youth Director



Chapel at Camp Koronis

August Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Greeters	Charles & Karen Groth	Paul & Kasey Swenson	Merlin & Linda Gilbertson	Paul Richardson
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Craig Carlson, Myron & Ginny Karki	Guy Moore, Craig Carlson, Mike & Lori Moreland	Guy Moore, Scott Rice, Dave & Ellen Smith	Bruce Benson, Chaz Brobst, Dave & Linda Schesso
Welcomers	Carol Emdy	Claire & John Perry	Neil Anderson	Barb & Clint Andrus
Reader	Judy Richardson-Mahre	Nancy Slagg	Megan Mahre	Russ Cox
Sound	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith
Media	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Summer Music	Blake Mahre	Nancy Slagg	Judy Richardson-Mahre	Katie Peine
Closer	Harvey Erstad	Jeff Carroll	Tom Wellman	Paul Richardson
Communion Stewards	Jim & Marilyn Anderson	<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	Kathy Soucy, Lynn Livingston, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			

Mission Outreach



Back to School Supply Drive

Equipping children with the tools to learn is the first step in ensuring that every child receives an equal opportunity for a good education. The VEAP Back to School Program provides students with the school supplies necessary to begin the year prepared to learn. VEAP relies on the generous support of the community to help meet the needs of those students. This year, VEAP aims to provide 3,300 children in our community with the school supplies they need!

The PORT will gather needed school supplies **through August 7**. A cart will be located in the narthex for your donations.

Items Needed:

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



VEAP Volunteer Opportunity

We have four volunteer spots to help sort and inventory school supplies at the VEAP distribution center (9600 Aldrich Ave S, Bloomington) on Thursday, August 11, from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old, and be wearing closed-toe shoes (no sandals or flip flops) and clothing that is okay to get dusty or dirty. Contact Pastor Carol (carol.zaagsma@paumc.org or 952-888-6070) if you'd like to fill one of these four spots.

VEAP Food Donation Delivery Driver

A big “thank you” to Mike Moreland, who is retiring in August from his ministry of taking all the food donations we collect here at The PORT over to the VEAP distribution center at 9600 Aldrich Ave S in Bloomington.

And many, many thanks for all of you who volunteered to do this in Mike's place! Bruce Benson was first to offer to take over responsibility for this ministry, and will soon learn the process from Mike for a seamless transition. So keep those non-perishable food donations coming. It's a great way to support our local food shelf and help our neighbors who experience food insecurity.

Feed My Starving Children Volunteer Opportunity

Save the date! We'll be volunteering again at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan on September 17. Watch for more details on how and when to sign up in the September Portlight newsletter.



We celebrate YOU during August

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

1 – Darlene Solheim	22 – Elizabeth Cottier, Paul Richardson
6 – Barb Deese	25 – Joe Matton, Luke Rice
8 – Jean Moore	26 – Lynn Livingston, Cindy Quinn
9 – Carol Emdy	27 – Leann Olsen Blessing Wilson
10 – John Perry	28 – Ted Murphy
11 – Floyd Ekstrom	30 – Jim Anderson, Annie Comee, Marcie Huser, Carol Zaagsma
13 – Becky Rice	
14 – Dick Comee, Ethan Runck, Helen Witt	
16 – Joell Anderson	
18 – Scott Rice	
19 – Wendell Carroll	



The PORT Pacers

Regular brisk walking can help you maintain a healthy weight, strengthen your bones and muscles, improve your mood, improve your balance and coordination, and prevent or manage various conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes.

The Congregational Care Team has worked with the Bloomington Public Health Department to measure our hallways and map out a couple of walking loops inside our building. The first floor loop (no stairs) is one tenth of a mile, while the stairs loop is just slightly longer and takes you through either the upper or lower level of the education wing. There is a third option to simply walk around the fellowship hall, which is .03 miles.

You may come and walk any time the office is open, however to improve the fellowship aspect of this ministry, we're encouraging you to come Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am - Noon.

Caregivers Support Group

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, from 6:30-8:00 at Applewood Pointe in their meeting room (8341 Lyndale Ave S). From Lyndale Avenue, turn east on 84th Street, then turn left into the main entryway parking area. This group is open to everyone who is currently a caregiver or anticipates being in that role soon. Feel free to invite a neighbor who might benefit from this supportive small group.

New Address Directories

Stay in touch with your friends from Portland Avenue UMC with a new address directory. A directory has been printed for every family, plus a few extras, so be sure to pick yours up at church on or after August 7.



From the Mailbox

Mason Jars Needed

If you have any canning jars to spare, LaVonne will make use of them for the annual Holiday Bazaar. She is looking for pint or half pint jelly jars. If you have any to give away please bring them to church and leave them in the Bazaar Workroom for her.

2016 Holiday Bazaar

Save the date for this year's annual holiday bazaar November 11-12.



Bits and Pieces

City of Bloomington Farmers Markets

Every Saturday until October 15, the City of Bloomington hosts a Farmers Market at the Bloomington Civic Plaza from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. The market is in the East Lot (1800 West Old Shakopee Road) with parking available in the West Lot of Civic Plaza.



Did you know there are more opportunities to take advantage of farm fresh produce in Bloomington? There are also Pop-Up Farmers Markets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. On August 16 and September 20 the market will be at Bloomington Central Station Park (8170 33rd Ave S) from 3:00 pm-7:00 pm.

If you are eligible for SNAP you can buy tokens at the EBT booth. You can also get Market Bucks to match dollar for dollar (up to 10\$) to buy SNAP eligible food from market vendors. Get Market Bucks every time you use your EBT card at participating markets all over Minnesota. Need help finding your farmers market? Call the MN Food HelpLine at 1-888-711-1151 or visit z.umn.edu/farmersmarkets online.

4th Annual School Supply Give Away

Another opportunity for families in need of school supplies will be at Unity South Church (7950 1st Ave South, Bloomington) Saturday, August 13. K-12 students need to bring a parent or guardian and their school supply list. This event is first come, first served from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm or until supplies run out.

Sweetwater Revival Concert & BBQ

Saturday, August 20 at Hillcrest UMC (9100 Russell Ave S, Bloomington) you are invited to an uplifting and encouraging event. The ministry of Sweetwater Revival has been nominated nine times for Female Group of the Year, featured on Gospel Music Television and is currently played on radio stations worldwide.

There will be a BBQ starting at noon with the concert following at 2:00 pm. Both are free so bring a friend and enjoy a meal and some music.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30pm Tai Chi	2 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	3	4 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	5	6
7 9:15am Bazaar Mtg 10:00am Worship/ Communion	8 6:30pm Tai Chi 7:00pm Church Council	9 PRIMARY ELECTIONS 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	10	11 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	12	13
14 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care Mtg	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	17 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group (8341 Lyndale)	18 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	19	20
21 10:00am Worship	22	23 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	24	25 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	26	27
28 10:00am Worship	29	30 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	31			

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

Paul Herrmann (Custodian) 612-916-3376

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org

PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org

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

Gratitude Garden

Participate in a Gratitude Garden this Fall at The PORT. On Sunday, September 18, we'll display our Gratitude Garden full of mums, kale, and patio pots during worship, while celebrating what we're grateful for with a listing in a bulletin insert.

Simply complete the order form below, make note of what or who you are grateful for, enclose your payment, and place in the offering plate, or return to the office, or give to Judy Richardson-Mahre. **Remember, order forms and payment are due September 11.**



Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously." Of course, we hear this encouragement throughout scripture, too.

So cultivate the habit of being grateful by contemplating who or what you are grateful for. This could be someone in the past or a current loved one or friend, or a situation out of which you've grown, or something in your life that has brought you joy. Then turn in your order form. Proceeds will be divided between youth scholarships and our commitment to the Minnesota Annual Conference 7-year congregational development plan called Reach•Renew•Rejoice.

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



2016 Fall Mum Sale



Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

9" Garden Mum-\$10.00	Qty.	Total Price
Coral/Salmon		
Orange/Bronze		
Pink/Lavender		
Purple		
Red		
White		
Yellow		
8" Kale-\$7.00	Qty.	Total Price
Standard Red		
Standard White		
Upright Redbor		
10" Patio Pot-\$15.00	Qty.	Total Price
Purple Fountain Grass		
12" Patio Pot-\$25.00	Qty.	Total Price
Mixed		
Gift Cards	Qty.	Total Price
\$25.00		
\$50.00		
\$100.00		
TOTAL		

Payment Information: (check all that apply)

Check (Payable to PAUMC)

Cash

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard

Credit Card #: _____

Name on Card: _____

Phone # _____ Zip Code _____

Expiration Date: _____

***credit card will be processed by Pahl's Market, Inc

Total Credit Card Charge: \$ _____

Due: Order forms and payment are due on: September 11, 2016.

Order pick up date is: Sunday, September 18, 2016, after worship.

Pick up Location: Portland Avenue UMC (8000 Portland Ave S).

If you have any questions please contact:

Judy Richardson-Mahre, jembrm@charter.net, 612-202-6457

Leann Olsen in church office, paumc@paumc.org, 952-888-6070

Note for the Gratitude Garden bulletin insert:

Given in (circle one) honor of/ memory of/ gratitude for _____

Thank you for your order! (return with payment to office, or offering plate, or Judy Richardson-Mahre by 9/11/16)