

THE PORTLIGHT

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



Participate in a Gratitude Garden here at church.
Order a plant, designate how it represents your gratitude,
and take your plant home after worship September 18.
More information and an order form is found on page 11.
Order forms are due September 11.

Fall Gratitude Garden

September 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*

This year's birthday brings me into a new decade of life. If I'm very lucky, it might be that I've lived half my life and still have half yet to go. Sure enough, statisticians have predicted such a thing – females born the year I was born have a 17.7% chance of living to 100. Of course, this statistic also reveals that 82.3% don't reach centenarian status, so the odds are what they are. Time will tell about this matter for me.

I was enjoying a pre-birthday evening out with friends not long ago. One of them asked me what I've learned in life thus far. A few thoughts crossed my mind, but what rose to the top is this: I've learned not to care so much about what other people think.

Not in the way of not caring what other people think about faith, family, sports, automobiles, music, or even politics, as I do care about hearing those perspectives from other people. I think it's more along the lines of not caring what other people think *about me*.

Oh sure, from time to time this struggle still surfaces – I want to wear something to an event that will make me fit in...or play my trumpet with few errors so other people will think I'm good...I mow the lawn as often as I do because I care what the neighbors will think if I don't...and of course I care about how people perceive me doing my job.

But I still maintain that I've learned not to care so much - or at least to *care less* - what other people think about me.

I noticed this perspective coming on not that long ago, and it seems to be building momentum. I suppose it could be a bad thing if it's taken to the extremes, but so far I kind of like it. It's making me more courageous in the way of taking greater risks...adventuresome sorts of risks...the kinds of risks that throw caution to the wind when the greatest concern is *what other people will think*.

This is a very minor example, mind you, but my living room has needed a new coat of paint since I moved in a couple years ago. I have lived my whole life in *neutral* houses. Well, one house had a very bold burnt orange paint in the laundry room...but for the most part, the question has been white or off-white. The most adventuresome paint I've ever purchased was a very light tan. But I've got my sights set on an accent wall, which is basically a wall that is a different color than the other walls in a room. A gallon of paint came home with me the other day – a deep, dark blue. It used to be I would

make a neutral decision because I cared about whoever was going to move in after me and what they thought of me based on the color scheme in the house, but no more. It's liberating to care less about what other people think.

Perhaps even more important than this, though, is the second half of my answer to my friend's question: I've learned not to try so hard to force people into being how I think they ought to be. I would say that there have been a number of times when I've felt embarrassed or upset about what somebody else said or did when I was with them. It was as if I was projecting my thoughts about what should be said or done, and expecting them to perform accordingly. But when I began freeing myself from living under the ideals of others, I realized I needed to stop placing those ideals on other people, too. The result of that is a much more enjoyable time for everyone, I think. And from a faith-based perspective, these lessons I've learned in life more closely align with the idea that God created and gifted us each as unique and diverse people. We are not all meant to do or say things that everyone else expects.

Paul writes, "I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has a particular gift from God, one having one kind and another a different kind." (1 Cor. 7:7)

Perhaps it's natural inclination for someone to wish (and want to mold others) into people like they are. In terms of church, that plays out in wanting everyone else to like the same hymns you like, or wear certain types of clothes to church that you deem appropriate, or behave (or raise children) in certain ways that you are most comfortable with.

It seems to me if God wanted or expected conformity in all these things, we would have been created with much more uniformity. But instead, in several places the Bible refers to such differing gifts and the diversity that comes as a result. In my first half-century of life, I've come to accept the ways in which I march to the beat of my own drum, as well as appreciate the ways others do the same. And most of all, I've come to see this as a gift from God to be celebrated rather than controlled. Maybe you see evidence of this, too.

Shalom,

Pastor Carol





September 2016

- Sept 4 N/A
- Sept 11 Rylie & Joshua
- Sept 18 Katelyn & Jeremiah
- Sept 25 Oliver & Janea

Sunday School and Children's Church

September 11 marks the beginning of Sunday School (8:45 am) and Children's Church (during worship). We are looking forward to a new year!



Stay Tuned for Youth Group Updates - Coming Soon!



September Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
Coffee & Treats	N/A	Congregational Care Team	Carol Cox	Marilyn Anderson
Greeters	Chaz Brobst, Ardy Anderson	Dan & Tracy Baker	Robin & Matt Hanson	Paul & Kasey Swenson
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Guy Moore	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Scott	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Steve &	Bruce Benson, Pat Ekstrom, Myron
Welcomers	Barb & Bob Deese	Paul Richardson	Jeanne Hansen	Lynn Livingston
Reader	Joell Anderson	Ardy Anderson	Rod Bacheller	Melinda Matton
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen
Media	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen
Nursery		TBD	TBD	TBD
Closer	Jeff Carroll	<p>Want to serve on Sunday mornings? Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>		
Communion Stewards	Charles & Karen Groth			
Communion Servers	Dan & Tracy Baker, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			

Spiritual Growth



Outdoor Worship & BBQ

110 humans, along with 12 dogs, gathered Sunday, July 31 on the southwest lawn for Outdoor Worship and a Blessing of the Animals. We heard the story of Noah's Ark, enjoyed Paul Richardson & Megan Mahre sang "Lean on Me," and Peggy Larson and her sister, Mary Kaye Robertson, sing "Bless the Beasts and the Children" as well as the light-hearted "All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir." After the message, each furry pet received an individual blessing. Following worship, a time of fellowship continued with lunch consisting of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, beans, chips, coleslaw and cookies. Many said as they went home, "That was a really great morning."



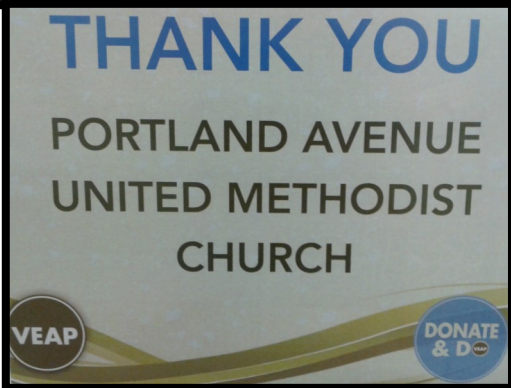
Spiritual Growth



Mission Outreach

VEAP Back to School Supply Drive

People of The PORT showed tremendous generosity and great commitment to students in our community through the VEAP Back to School Drive. With many people doing their part, we donated 13 backpacks, 37 packs of crayons, 15 bottles of glue and 81 glue sticks, a box filled with spiral and composition notebooks, filler paper and pocket folders, 36 scissors, 17 packs of colored pencils, 16 packs of markers, and many, many other items.



Feed My Starving Children Volunteer Opportunity

We'll be volunteering again at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan on Saturday, September 17. We have space for 40 volunteers. Steve Soucy is organizing the event so look for him in the Narthex to sign up or give him a call at 612-869-2087. Our time slot is from 9:00 am - 11:00 am so expect to arrive by 8:45 that morning. Please remember to leave your jewelry at home since you cannot wear it while working in the warehouse.

If you have any other questions about what it's like to volunteer with Feed My Starving Children, contact Steve and he should be able to answer them for you.



The PORT Pacers Kick-Off Party

Plan now to attend The PORT Pacers Kick-Off Party **following worship on Sunday, September 25**. The party will start in the Fellowship Hall and you'll have the opportunity to experience one of the three different walking routes available here as part of The PORT Pacers Walking Program.

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.

New Address Directories

Stay in touch with your friends from Portland Avenue UMC with a new address directory. One has been printed for every family, plus a few extras, so be sure to pick yours up at church. Those that have not been picked up will be mailed later this month.

Address Correction

Joell Anderson's email is jga9300@centurylink.net.

"Let's Talk About Memory Loss" Presentation

Do you find yourself at a loss for words with friends who have memory loss? Do you worry when you forget things? If so, plan now to attend this presentation entitled "Let's Talk About Memory Loss: Why Are We So Afraid?" at Portland Avenue UMC on **Thursday, September 15, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**.

This presentation will address the fear surrounding Alzheimer's disease and ways we can improve the lives for those it touches. Her presentation will focus on how our society views memory loss and present some strategies for coping with a diagnosis. You will also learn ways in which individuals and communities can support friends and families who have memory loss.

Patty Crawford is celebrating her 40th year of service with Augustana Care. Her experiences started in a nursing home in rural Minnesota. In the span of her career

she has seen the development of assisted living, senior housing and community based services. She is presently the center manager of Augustana Open Circle Adult Day Center in Apple Valley.

Patty holds undergraduate degrees in English and History along with a Master of Arts in Leadership from Augsburg College. She has had the opportunity to present her work at state and national conferences.

Patty is a popular public speaker on subjects of ageism, elderspeak, and dementia. She uses research, experience and humor to make her presentations engaging for the audience. Plan now to attend, and encourage family members and neighbors to come with you.

CalmParenting™
University


Stop Defiance, Disrespect & Yelling

Calm Parenting University

Come learn 40 practical, real life strategies to stop power struggles over homework, video games, bedtime, sibling fights and more. You'll watch four laugh-out-loud DVDs, feel understood and supported. This program is perfect for families with kids ages 2-22. Taught by Judy and Eric Richardson-Mahre, this four-week class is offered on **Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:00 pm October 4, 11, 18 and 25**.

Watch a video clip and register at <http://conta.cc/2byZViO>. Enjoy a reduction in the standard registration fee by **signing up before September 27**.

Photo Directory This Fall

 We're going to put together a new photo directory here at The PORT. Professional photographers from LifeTouch will be here **November 1-5**.

More details will follow for signing up for a photography session. While a purchase is not required, rest assured that any printed photographs you do order will arrive in time for Christmas.

Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during September

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

4 - Ardy Anderson	21 - Joy Plourde
6 - Cash Minks	25 - Clara Haugen
8 - Joaquina Lawson	Georgina Wittstruck
15 - Robin Hanson	27 - Jerry Janes
Paul Schesso	28 - Barb Andrus
18 - Oliver Darnell	29 - Ronele Janes
20 - Travis Runck	



Coffee and Fellowship is Coming Back

The tradition of offering coffee and treats on Sunday mornings will begin again September 11. Thank you to those who have volunteered for this ministry of gracious hospitality in the past. We're planning the schedule now thru the end of this year. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex at the church.

If you would like to sign up for some Sunday but couldn't "go it alone," invite 1-2 friends to partner with you - twice the fun, half the work. Homemade or store-bought goodies are graciously received—whatever you can offer will be a treat for all before worship.

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

Bits and Pieces

Free CPR and First Aid Training

Get trained and save a life. This free class can teach you easy steps that anyone can learn to make a difference between life and death. Register by September 1 for this class on September 7 from 9:30 am - 10:30 am at Creekside Community Center (9801 Penn Ave S.) Register by phone 952-563-4944 or email reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov.

Flu Shot Clinics at Creekside

Flu season will be here before you know it, but you can be prepared. Co-Sponsored by Bloomington Public Health, these clinics are open to all at no cost. No appointments are necessary, but please bring your insurance card or let them know if you do not have insurance. Children under 18 must have a parent or guardian with them.

- Tuesday, September 27 10:45 am - 12:45 pm
- Wednesday, October 12, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
- Thursday, October 27, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
- Monday, October 31, 10:15 am - 11:45 am

All clinics will take place at Creekside Community Center at 9801 Penn Avenue S in Bloomington. Contact humanservices@BloomingtonMN.gov with any questions or call 952-563-4944.

DIY Project at Home Depot

Join in for an instructor lead bird feeder project at Home Depot in Bloomington (400 W 79th St.) on Friday, September 23 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Home Depot's leading horticulturist will also demonstrate how to turn your summer planters into holiday planters. Lunch and supplies are provided. Please register by September 9 by calling Creekside at 952-563-4944 or emailing human-services@BloomingtonMN.gov.



Rummage Sale at Epworth UMC

Epworth UMC (3207 37th Avenue S, Minneapolis) will be having a rummage sale. Come and hunt for bargains Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Coffee and bars will also be for sale.



2016 Holiday Bazaar

Our 42nd Annual Holiday Bazaar is just two months away! This is the largest fundraising event for our church and its success is dependent on all of us! Now is the time to get your crafts or canning projects going or to start finding recipes for the bake sale. All of the goods we sell are 100% donated by our church family and friends.



- Are you creative or “crafty”? Consider making hand-crafted items to donate to the sale. This can be sewn, knitted or crocheted goods, painted woodcrafts for home, holiday decoration, or any other craft items. We’ve had hand-thrown pottery, fused glass, paintings, hand-made cards, floral arrangements and wreaths, children’s toys, outdoor decorations for holiday or gardens, pet toys/accessories, etc., etc.
- If you’re short on time or don’t have any ideas of what to make, consider attending one of our workshop groups that meets in our bazaar room here at church. There is a Thursday morning group that meets 9:30 am to 11:30 am and a Tuesday evening group that meets from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Projects are made assembly-line fashion and if you can handle a paint brush or a scissors, we can put you to work!
- We’re looking for canned jellies and jams and salsas!! They are all a big hit! If you can help, please do!!
- Our Silent Auction is looking for donated goods from merchants. If you have connections and can get us event tickets or admission tickets for local attractions, they would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Steve or Kathy Soucy with any questions or if you have a contact person they should reach out to.
- Another Silent Auction draw is our themed gift baskets. Consider purchasing goods to fill a gift basket around a particular theme, such as movie night, Italian dinner, coffee lovers, chocolate lovers, dogs or cats, etc. We’ll even provide the baskets, and they’ll be distributed after church later in September. Filled baskets need to be returned to church by the end of October, please.

Finally, we need lots of help with setting up for and working at the bazaar. Please consider working at least one shift, if not more. Our dates are Friday, November 11, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, and Saturday November 12, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Set up and display will be that Wednesday and Thursday, November 9-10. Watch for more details soon!

Any questions can be directed to Lynn or Lori Livingston, Carol Cox, LaVonne Robinson for the bake sale, or Steve & Kathy Soucy for the Silent Auction. We’d greatly appreciate your prayers for another successful year. Thank you in advance for your support!

Update on Roof Issues

This summer we have been experiencing problems with roof leaks affecting the Wesley room. The roof over this wing has served us well for over 20 years, but has reached a point where replacement is necessary. The cost for a high quality, built-up replacement roof will be approximately \$43,500 and the Trustees have a commitment of \$25,000 from the Bazaar committee, \$10,115 from the Capital fund, and up to \$10,000 from the Facilities Maintenance fund to cover this expense. Work is scheduled to start in September.



September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 10:00am Worship/ Communion	5 LABOR DAY	6 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	7 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	9 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	10
11 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach Mtg	12 6:30pm Tai Chi	13 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp 7:00pm Trustees	14 6:00pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 6:30pm "Let's Talk About Memory Loss" Presentation	16	17 8:45am Volunteering FMSC-Eagan
18 8:45am Education 8:45am Handbells 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship / Gratitude Garden	19 6:30pm Tai Chi 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group	20 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	21 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	23	24
25 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am PORT Pacers Kick-Off Party	26 6:30pm Tai Chi 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group	27 10:30am Conversation About Funeral Planning 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp 6:30pm Evangelism & Church Growth	28 6:00pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 7:00pm Conversation About Funeral Planning	30	

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. You may take your plants home after worship that day.

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 (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)

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 (8:45) and Coffee Fellowship (9:30) will resume September 11

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

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