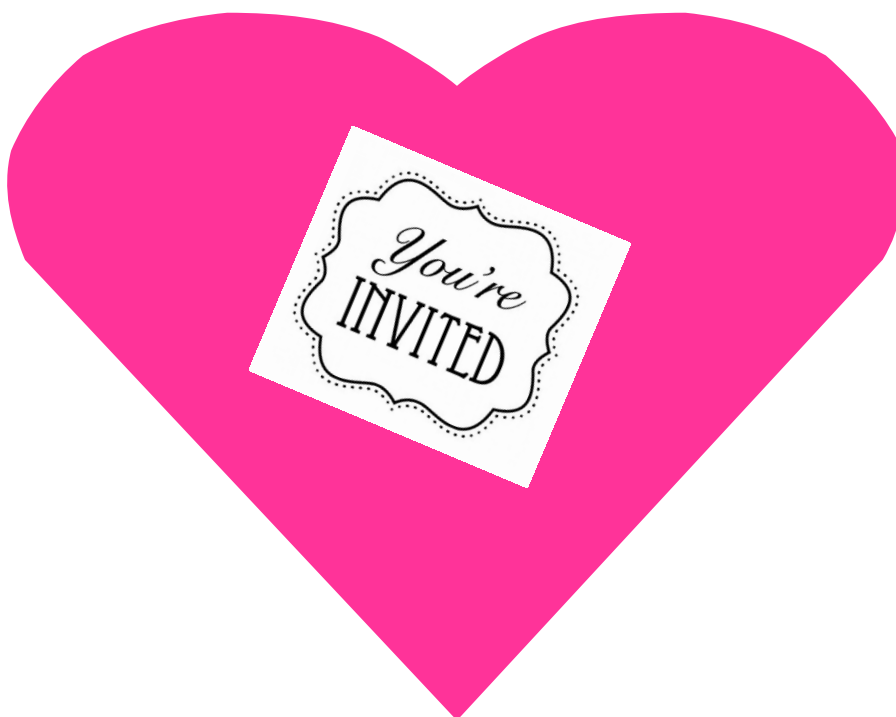


THE PORTLIGHT

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



ADULT FELLOWSHIP VALENTINE BRUNCH

Please plan to attend a Brunch at the Yorke Room on Sunday, February 12. Take your wife, significant other, or yourself for a time of fellowship and good food right after church on the 12th. The Yorke Room is located in the 7500 York Cooperative at 7500 York Ave S in Edina.

Prices will be \$15 each for adults and \$5 for children (10 and under). Betty Belk will be taking reservations with payment in the Narthex starting Sunday, January 15. For further questions, contact Joell Anderson (952) 881-5510.

February 2017

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.

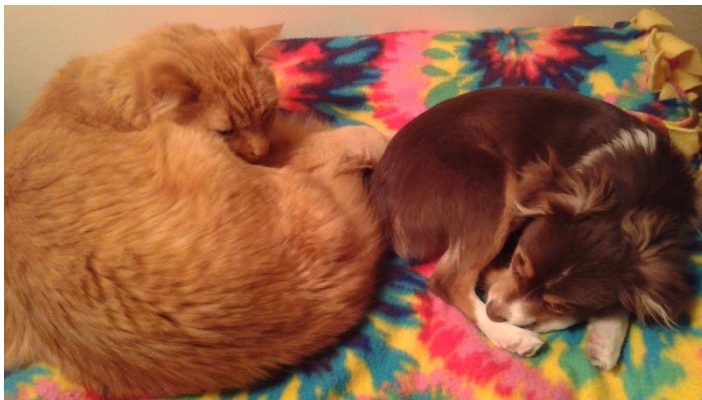
Pastor's Message *Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

Let me introduce myself: my name is Bailey. I am a Toy Australian Shepherd. I am almost 6 months old, weigh a little over 5 pounds, and I live at Pastor Carol's house.



Most days I get up, eat breakfast, and begin wrestling with my big brother, CJ. He's a cat.

The rest of the day, I go back and forth between playing and sleeping. My big brother taught me how to take really good naps, as you can see!



But my favorite days are when Pastor Carol says, "Do you want to go to work?" Then she sets out my carrying kennel, I hop in, and away we go to her office. This doesn't happen every day, but I really like the days when I can go to work with her. That's because I can see Camille, the Administrative Assistant in the office, and Paul Herrmann, the Custodian, and anyone else who stops by the church that day. I love meeting new people!

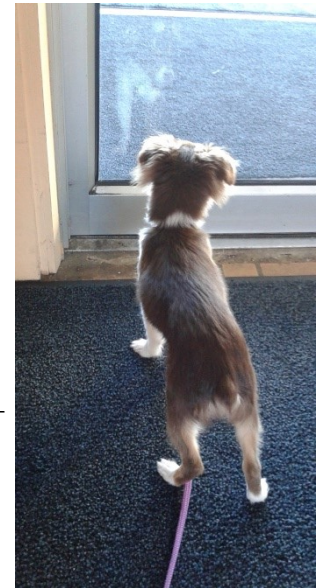
That's why I'm writing to you in the newsletter. You see, I am one of the best PORT Pacers here at church. A PORT Pacer is someone who participates in the walking program here at The PORT. When I get to come to work on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 11:00 am, Pastor Carol puts me on my leash, and we walk one of the several routes available throughout the building. My favorite route is the one where I walk all the way around the building...up the stairs in the education wing...and then back down the other stairs, and around the building again. I'm working on the command "heel," so walking in the PORT Pacer program helps me practice.

I'd love for you to come walk with me. The PORT Pacer program is open to everyone, and now that the holidays have passed, maybe you'd like to come on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays at 11:00 am to walk, too.

Pastor Carol keeps me close when we're walking, so I shouldn't get in your way, but I will be very happy to see you and will let you pet me while I probably give you a kiss. That's because I'm very friendly to everyone.

Hope to see you soon! I'll be watching for you at the door.

Bailey 



The Congregational Care Team established The PORT Pacer walking program last fall. Three different walking routes were mapped out and measured: a loop around the fellowship hall is 0.03 miles; a loop around the first floor only (no stairs!) is 0.1 miles; and a loop that includes stairs in the education wing is 0.11 miles. This program is perfect to invite a friend or neighbor to, as it is open to everyone.

We encourage you to come at 11:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a little exercise walking around the building. It would be wonderful if additional fellowship grew out of this—perhaps going to lunch with friends you just walked with, or walk a few loops and then play a game of cards. The building is open and you are welcome to come and use it. If you can't come on Tuesdays and Thursdays, you are welcome to come walk anytime during office hours (Tue, Wed, Thur from 9 am - 3 pm) or before a meeting or choir practice, or even after worship on Sunday.

Let's keep walking!

Pastor Carol



February 2017



- Feb. 5 Katelyn & Oliver
- Feb. 12 Rylie & Luke
- Feb. 19 Janea & Joshua
- Feb. 26 Madolyn & Jeremiah

Youth Group News



February 5th - Bowling

February 19th Meeting (6:30-8 @ Hillcrest UMC) - Topic: Prayer

February brings to us one of our discussion topics; prayer. This is something many people, young and old, struggle with. The goal is to help teach the youth how to pray. Prayer is different for everyone and there can be a common misconception that everyone has to pray the same or similarly. Not the case! One of our UC camp counselors, Alex Wieber, her greatest spiritual gift is prayer. She's pretty amazing at it! She has graciously agreed to come join us on Feb 19th to help teach and guide us on how to pray and how we can create our own way of praying. The most important part of prayer is having that personal time and connection with God. ~Melissa Kuyper

February Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Coffee & Treats	Regina Robinson	Marilyn Anderson & Carol Cox	JoAnne Louisiana	Betty Belk & Pat Ekstrom
Greeters	Paul & Kasey Swenson	Jeff Chamberlain & Lynn Furda	Melinda & Joe Matton	Clint & Barb Andrus
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Beth Cameron, Myron & Ginny Karki	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Dave & Linda Schesso	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson, Steve Soucy, Rod & Peggy Bacheller
Welcomers	Carol Emdy	John & Claire Perry	Neil Anderson	Clint & Barb Andrus
Reader	Steve Soucy	Ted Murphy	Neil Anderson	Melinda Matton
Sound	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury
Closer	Steve Knopp	Tom Wellman	Harvey Erstad	Steve Knopp
Communion Stewards	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler			
Communion Servers	Carol Emdy, JoAnne Volden, Verne Witt, Linda Dicks			

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

Spiritual Growth

Baptism

Amelia Lynn Swenson, daughter of Paul and Kasey Swenson, and little sister of Isabelle, was baptized Sunday, January 15. Amelia is the granddaughter of Scott and Kathy Swenson, and great-granddaughter of Paul Richardson. Welcome to the family of Christ, Amelia!



Mission Outreach

Feed My Starving Children

We have 50 spots reserved to help pack meals at a mobile packing site (15125 Cedar Ave, Apple Valley - the former Rainbow Foods) on Saturday, February 11, from 2:30-4:30 pm. Children as young as 5 years old can help when accompanied by an adult, so enlist the help of every generation! See Steve Soucy to reserve your spot.

Collection Programs at The PORT

We are all accustomed to recycling items in our homes. Here at church, we have opportunity to participate in some common programs for the good of our community and beyond. Collection bins can be found in the sanctuary narthex on a table near the memorial garden patio door.



“Labels for Education” are found on the UPC codes of Campbell’s soups and Swanson’s chicken broth labels.

These are sent to the United Methodist Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, which is in one of the most poverty-stricken communities in the United States, and redeemed by them for their school. This program is being discontinued nation-wide, so we will send our last collection this summer.

We also have a collection container for General Mills “Box Tops for Education” from cereals and other packaged food and paper items. These box tops are given to Valley View Elementary School so they can redeem them for cash (earning up to \$20,000 per year).



And you can also collect cancelled postage stamps for “Tubfrim,” which is based in Nesbyen, Norway. The organization was founded by their postmaster in 1928, with the goal being to collect stamps and sell them to

collectors, with the proceeds being used to wipe out tuberculosis amongst Norwegian children. The program has expanded to help handicapped children and youth. So just tear or cut off the cancelled postage stamps from the mail you receive, and bring them here to church.

Aluminum pop can tabs can also be dropped off here at church, and will be picked up by Emma M. for school. Have you accumulated extra empty pill bottles with lids? There is a separate collection box for these. Mark Wicks will give them to a friend for distribution by medical clinics in developing countries. Please remove any labels before dropping off your pill bottles, so that your personal information remains private.

Lastly, we have a recycling agreement for inkjet cartridges and small electronics (cell phones, tablets, iPads, laptops, mp3 players, handheld electronic games, GPS devices, video cameras, and digital cameras – even broken ones!). Take these old, unwanted items that are cluttering your home office and turn them into income for our church. The collection box is typically on the floor underneath the table holding the other collection items.



We are no longer collecting milk bottle caps or eyeglasses. Kemps ended their “Nickels for Schools” program in 2012, and prescription eyeglasses can be recycled at nearly every optometrist office when you pick up your new prescription (look for display boxes placed there by the Lions Club).

Please note: it is very helpful for you to sort your donations into the appropriate containers. That has to be done before they can be sent to where they will ultimately go, so if you do that as you drop them off, it helps keep the collection bin organized and ensures your donations will be processed and sent to the proper place.

We celebrate YOU during FEBRUARY

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



02 - Dorothy Stavros
05 - Trenton Olson
08 - Julie Johnson
JoAnne Volden

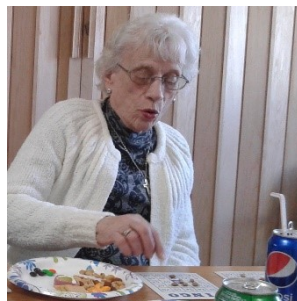
09 - Audrey Bartels
10 - Samantha Bump
14 - Kathleen Cameron
19 - Jim Stinson

21 - Kay Livingston
28 - Jodi Anders
George Dalin
John Lystad



BINGO!

Many thanks to the Congregational Care Team for hosting a fun afternoon of BINGO on Saturday, January 14. We played a variety of BINGO patterns and each winner selected a fun prize from an assortment items, including hand lotion, socks, puzzles, and theater box candy.



Trustees

New Rugs in Entryways

New industrial grade rugs have been purchased and placed in the north and south narthex. A five-year service contract for rug service just ended, and these new rugs can be vacuumed and spot cleaned as needed here.

Office Safe Installed

A floor safe has been purchased and installed in the office. It is rated for fire and water resistance, so will be ideal for retaining historic documents such as our membership books, blueprints for our building, and other items we are responsible for retaining.



Bits and Pieces

Free Tax Preparation Assistance



Help in preparing your tax return is available at Creekside Community Center (9801 Penn Ave S, Bloomington).

Prepare + Prosper is for individuals earning less than \$35,000 per year, or families earning less than \$55,000 per year. Served on

a lottery system based on those present at time of sign-in, here are the dates they are open:

- Saturdays, Jan. 21-April 15 (8:15 am sign-in time)
- Tues. & Thurs., Jan. 24-April 13 (5:15 pm sign-in time)

AARP Tax-Aide is for middle to low income families and individuals. They serve on a first-come, first-served basis. They are open Mondays and Tuesdays, Feb. 6 - April 17, starting at 9:00 am.

White Elephant Sale

The Walker Methodist Health Center Auxiliary will be hosting their White Elephant Sale on Thursday & Friday, March 23rd - 24th from 8 am - 5 pm, and Saturday, March 25th from 8 am - 3 pm, at the Walker Methodist Health Center Chapel (3737 Bryant Ave S, Minneapolis).



Items expected to be at the sale are: Glassware, Antiques, Tools, Home Décor, China, Household Goods, Frames, Books, and MORE! All proceeds will go towards the maintenance of the Walker Methodist Health Center Bus.

Medalist Concert



Pastor Carol is playing with the Medalist Concert Band Sunday, March 5, at 4:00 pm at Schneider Theater (1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington). The program is full of selections by movie soundtrack composer, John Williams. Tickets may be purchased online (\$14 adults, \$12 seniors & students) by following the link at www.medalistband.com or by calling 952-563-8575. Hurry - tickets are selling fast!

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 11:00am PORT Pacers	3	4
5 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion	6	7 11:00am PORT Pacers 6:00pm Calm Parenting Support Group	8 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 11:00am PORT Pacers	10	11 2:30-4:30pm Feed My Starving Children (15125 Cedar Ave, Apple Valley)
12 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care Meeting 11:30am Adult Fellowship Valentine Brunch (7500 York Ave)	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 11:00am PORT Pacers	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	16 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 11:00am PORT Pacers	17	18
19 8:45am Education 8:45am Handbells 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	20 PRESIDENT'S DAY	21 11:00am PORT Pacers	22 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 11:00am PORT Pacers	24	25
26 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	27	28 11:00am PORT Pacers				

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 am) and Coffee Fellowship (9:30 am)

Staff

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) carol.zaagsma@paumc.org (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)
Camille Kratochvil (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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