

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



## Holy Week Schedule

- ~ ***Palm Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 am***
- ~ ***Maundy Thursday Communion, April 13 at 7:00 pm***
- ~ ***Good Friday, April 14 at 7:00 pm***  
*at Hillcrest UMC (9100 Russell Ave S, Bloomington)*
- ~ ***Easter Sunrise Worship, April 16 at 8:00 am***
- ~ ***Easter Breakfast, April 16 from 8:45 to 9:30 am***
- ~ ***Easter Sunday Worship, April 16 at 10:00 am***

April 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*

*But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus..." (Matthew 28:5)*

Have you ever looked for Jesus...really *looked* for Jesus?

Perhaps it's an easy question for the early believers, as they could look for (and find) Jesus on the mountain, on the plain, in the wilderness, in the garden, outside the gate, in the cities, in the villages, in the boat, by the sea, on the sea, in the house, in the synagogues. People who looked for Jesus could find him in any number of different places.

In fact, the stories we've been reading on Sunday mornings during Lent are about people who went searching for Jesus: Satan found him in the wilderness, Nicodemus found him in the middle of the night, the woman found him at the well, the man born blind was found by Jesus as he "walked along," and Mary, Martha and Lazarus called for Jesus to come to Bethany.

Do you suppose the same could be true today – that we could look for and find Jesus? Where do you look for him?

At daybreak on that first Easter morning, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph went to see the tomb...they went, as the angel said, "looking for Jesus."

They knew where Jesus was buried, and they expected his body to be inside the secure tomb that had been sealed with a stone. The last thing they expected was for an angel to be there, sitting on the rolled-back stone, with Jesus' body gone! After all, how and why wouldn't they find what they were looking for? But the angel tells them that Jesus is going on ahead to Galilee; where they will see him there.

Now, we know the rest of the story, as it is told in the Bible, that is. Mark and Luke report the ascension of Jesus into heaven. And we are assured in Matthew of Jesus' promise that "I am with you always, to the end of the age."

So what does it mean to look for Jesus after the resurrection story? Where are you looking for Jesus today?

I hope you are looking for (well, not only that...for I also hope you are seeing) the Risen Christ in the places you go and in the people you meet.

I hope you see the Risen Christ here at The PORT, where you come for worship and fellowship. I hope you see the Risen Christ when working together with others in mission at VEAP, Feed My Starving Children, and elsewhere. I hope you see the Risen Christ in those you serve. And I hope you see the Risen Christ in yourself.

Here is an excerpt from Saint Teresa of Avila's poem, *Christ Has No Body*:

Christ has no body but yours –  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks –  
Compassion on this world

As Easter approaches and you go looking for the One who is "with us always, to the end of the age," look with such eyes of compassion...and I'm pretty sure you'll see the Risen Christ in those you meet, and they'll see the Risen Christ right back in you. Praise be to God!

With joy and compassion,

*Pastor Carol*



## April 2017



Apr. 2 Katelyn & Jeremiah  
 Apr. 9 Madolyn & Luke  
 Apr. 16 Rylie & Oliver  
 Apr. 23 Janea & Joshua  
 Apr. 30 Katelyn & Luke

## Maundy Thursday volunteers

We are hosting the combined Maundy Thursday Communion worship service with Hillcrest and Church of Peace UMCs. Since there wasn't room in the chart below to list volunteers for this additional service, we're adding a reminder here:

Ushers: Bruce Benson, Pat Ekstrom, Linda & Dave Schesso  
 Media: Barb Andrus      Sound: Tim Madsen  
 Communion Stewards: Linda Knopp, Denise Carroll  
 Communion Servers: Bea Batchelor, Helen Witt

## APRIL Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	April 2	April 9	April 16 (8 am)	April 16 (10 am)	April 23	April 30
Coffee & Treats	Linda Schesso	Kathy Soucy	Easter Brunch 8:45-9:30	Easter Brunch from 8:45-9:30	TBD	TBD
Greeters	Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Helen & Verne Witt	N/A	Josia & Jocelyne Medzagoh	Mike & Lori Moreland	Jeff Chamberlain & Lynn Furda
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Jocelyne Medzagoh, Mike & Lori Moreland	Guy Moore, Bob Deese, Rod & Peggy Bacheller	Bruce Benson, Steve & Kathy Soucy	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson, Bob Deese, Scott & Kathy Swenson	Guy Moore, Pat Ekstrom, Myron & Ginny Karki
Welcomers	Marilyn Anderson	Carol Emdy	N/A	Claire & John Perry	Neil Anderson	Barb & Clint Andrus
Reader	Steve Soucy	Joel Sponsel	N/A	Tim Hagerty	Rod Bacheller	Neil Anderson
Sound	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	TBD	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	TBD	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	N/A	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury	LaVonne Robinson
Closer	Floyd Ekstrom	Tom Wellman	N/A	Steve Knopp	Paul Richardson	Tom Wellman
Communion Stewards	Dan & Tracy Baker	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Want to serve on Sunday mornings?</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>				
Communion Servers	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt					

# Spiritual Growth

## Youth Group News

April brings us to one of our most favorite, yet tiring activities on April 1 SPRING LOCK IN!!! It is a fun filled night, jam packed with games, movies, snacks and staying up entirely way too late! The kids have a blast and have been looking forward to it for a while. Everyone will have some time to recover over Palm Sunday and Easter to spend time with family and to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior. We will come back together on April 23 to discuss our heaven and hell topic. We have already started preparing and planning for our Spring Spaghetti Dinner which will be held at Portland UMC this year. We will still have our delicious spaghetti, savory breadstick, salad and desserts for your enjoyment which you won't want to miss out on!

~Melissa Kuyper



## Youth Plant Sale

It's that time of year again to start thinking SPRING! And with Spring comes the annual Plant Sale to benefit the junior and senior high youth programs. We will be raising money to help send the youth to summer camp. Please take a look at the attached order form for all the annuals, perennials, patio pots, garden vegetables and herbs you'll need this summer!

Key dates to remember: Order forms are due back to Judy Richardson-Mahre by **Sunday April 23** and plants will be delivered on **Saturday May 13 by noon** just in time for Mother's Day.

Talk to Judy Richardson-Mahre [jembrm@charter.net](mailto:jembrm@charter.net) or (612) 202-6457 with any questions!

## Spaghetti Dinner



The Annual Spring Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the Youth is going to be at Portland Avenue UMC this year. Save the date! May 6 from 4:30 - 7:00 pm.

## Calling All Singers!

We're extending a special invitation to those of you who like to sing a little bit but can't commit to a whole year of choir rehearsals. Why not come and sing with us from now through "One Great Day of Music" on May 21?



During the next couple of months we'll be singing with a combined choir at the Maundy Thursday worship service we're hosting, and with the combined choir at Hillcrest UMC on Good Friday, and then the resurrection songs we so enjoy singing and hearing at our 10 am Easter Sunday worship here.

Then we'll be getting ready for "One Great Day of Music," which highlights our music ministries here at The PORT. For that, we'll be singing a great variety of music.

This year, the choir changed its rehearsal time from 1 1/2 hours to just one hour, from 7 - 8 pm on Wednesday evenings.

If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Larson at [peggy Larson@comcast.net](mailto:peggy Larson@comcast.net) or 651-699-2892. Otherwise, just come on Wednesday evenings to practice with us.



## Opportunity to Help Homeless Youth

Hello everyone! I want to let you know about a great opportunity to help out homeless youth in Minnesota.



I've been working with the Outreach Ministry and Avenues for Youth in Minneapolis to hold a donation drive at The PORT for homeless youth residing there. I will be collecting:

- Men's and Women's Underwear (sizes S, M, and L)
- Gift Cards worth \$5 to \$25 to grocery stores, superstores, and drugstores
- Children's Books and/or Learning Activities.

All donation items must be new. The donation drive will last from April 9 to April 30. Thank you for your support and generosity and God bless you!

~Jael Medzagoh

## UMCOR Sunday Update

The annual "One Great Hour of Sharing" special offering is now called UMCOR Sunday, to more clearly reflect what the offering supports. This special offering helps fund the administrative and organizational costs of UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which is known around the world for their quick response to natural disasters and humanitarian crises. Our contributions from The PORT for this year's UMCOR Sunday on March 26 totaled \$455. Thanks for your generosity!

## MN Foodshare Month

The PORT participated in MN Foodshare Month during March, collecting non-perishable donations for VEAP foodshelves. We've already taken 70 pounds of donations earlier this month, and our bin is overflowing again.



A big thank you to all who participated.

# Congregational Care

## We celebrate YOU during APRIL

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



- |                          |                      |                    |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 03 - Dorothy Chamberlain | 15 - Jarek Haugen    | 20 - Kasey Swenson |
| 04 - Martin Thames Jr.   | 16 - Katelyn Hagerty | 21 - Verne Witt    |
| 06 - Jeff Chamberlain    | 18 - Mike Cameron    | 22 - Sena Bruce    |
| 07 - Dave Schesso        | Bob Haugen           | 26 - Pat Ekstrom   |
| 08 - Scott Cameron       | Kelly Roach          |                    |

## Address Updates

Donna Livingston  
1925 Graham Avenue West #15  
St. Paul, MN 55116  
(651) 698-4745  
(note: no answering machine)

JoAnne Volden  
4128 Oakbrooke Trail  
Eagan, MN 55122

## Crafting Items Available

Our dear Nancy Slagg passed away in December and her family donated all of her craft supplies to the Port for the Bazaar. It is more than we can use or store so



the Bazaar workshop teams would like to offer you all a chance to look it and take anything you would like before it is offered for the Youth Garage Sale. There are also some non-crafting items that may be of interest.

We invite you to come to the Wesley Room on Sunday, April 2 and help yourself to what you might find useful.

## Finance

With an early preview of the March treasurer's report, which will reflect the finances of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017, we can see that the income is running pretty close to the amount estimated in the 2017 budget. For now, the actual bills that have been received are running slightly lower than the budgeted amount. This is all good news for our church because we need to make up a possible deficit predicted and approved by the church council for this year.

The Trustees have reported that there are up-coming bills that will be fairly large in connection with the trees that have been removed from our property in February

and a boiler repair in March. There is some money set aside for these types of incidents but the repairs could deplete the emergency fund early in the year.

If you do have the means and would like to make a contribution to the Trustee's Emergency Fund, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support. The finances you give make it possible for our church to fulfill its mission to be a safe harbor along life's journey.

Dave Smith  
PORT Finance Treasurer

## Trustees

### Blake Mahre Eagle Scout Project

Blake Mahre is working on planning and completing his Eagle Scout project to update the church landscaping. Phase 1 happened last Fall. Blake led 30 boys and scout parents in removing all of the old landscaping as well as moving the rock from the front/parking lot side of the church to the South Side along the Fellowship wall.

Now as Spring approaches, Blake is finalizing plans for the landscape installation which is currently planned for Saturday, May 20 from noon to 6:00 pm. There will be an informational meeting Sunday, April 2 so the congregation can see the plan and provide input.

**How can you help?** We will be fundraising to ensure we have money to cover the cost of plants, dirt, mulch and edging. We will be tracking our progress in raising the money identified in the budget so it will be visible every Sunday until the project is complete.

If you have any specific questions or input, come to the meeting on April 2 or talk to Blake directly. Thanks so much for your continued prayers and support of this project, our church and our youth!

### Save the Date: Spring Clean-Up

Come one, come all! Saturday, May 6, from 9am-noon.

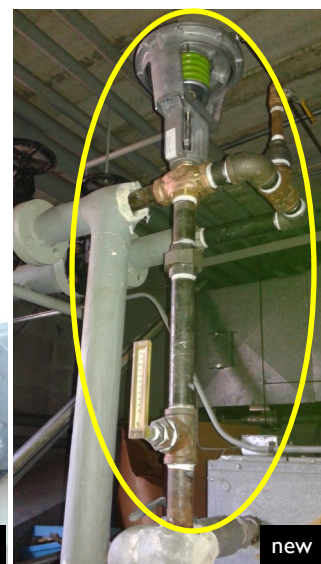
### Tree Removal

Two maple large trees were removed from the island near our passenger drop-off area by the Sanctuary entrance. As the trees were cut down, it was discovered that part of their trunks were hollow.



### Boiler Repair

A valve on our east wing boiler was recently replaced. This was an extensive job that required the pipefitter's labor for over 9 hours, but now this important part of the boiler should function well for quite a number of years.



## Navigating Senior Care Workshop

On Tuesday, April 18 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, the Human Services Division at Creekside Community Center (9801 Penn Ave S, Bloomington) is hosting a workshop, where you can come and ask questions to a panel of trusted experts who work in the field of Elder Law, Senior Realty, and Senior Living. The panel will be able to answer your questions with un-biased information and who is truly there to offer resources. The panel will include:

- Theresa Johnson, Attorney of Counsel with Elder Law Services, PLLC
- Maura Albrecht, ChFC - President/Client Advocate at Financial Wellness for You, LLC
- Lisa Dunn, Certified Senior Advisor

This workshop is free, but registration is required by Friday, April 14. Refreshments and snacks will be served. For more information and registration please contact: email [reservations@bloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:reservations@bloomingtonMN.gov) or call 952-563-4944.

## Ice Cream Social & BINGO

Come out for a free Ice Cream Social and BINGO event on Friday, April 7 from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm at Bloomington Civic Plaza (1800 W Old Shakopee Rd). Please register by Wednesday, April 5. To register, please contact Human Services at Creekside Community Center by calling 952-563-4944 or emailing [reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov).



## Gift of Love - Funeral Pre-Planning

Every year more and more people are planning ahead for their funeral services so their loved ones don't have to. Attend a funeral pre-planning discussion on Friday, April 21 from 10 am - 11 am at Creekside Community Center in Bloomington (9801 Penn Ave S, Bloomington). Refreshments will be provided.

If you are planning to attend, please register by emailing [reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:reservations@BloomingtonMN.gov) or calling 952-563-4944 by April 20.

## From the Desk of Rev. Daniel Johnson

Dear Portland Avenue United Methodist Church,

Offering voice from your sister congregations of the Minnesota Conference, thank you for paying 100% of your 2016 apportionment allocation! In the midst of your generous support of local church ministry and other designated mission, this truly is "a portion meant" for United Methodist work and witness that no one individual, no one church could accomplish alone.



In this time when so many issues, affiliations and perspectives create division and strife, we as United Methodists persistently unite to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We envision churches that are growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people and healing a broken world. Your apportionment contributions provide the leadership, systems, training and support for this vision to be accomplished in and through our local churches. Together we can be proud that the Twin Cities District led the Minnesota Conference in apportionment receipts totaling 88%! Together we are making a difference!

I know such commitment does not happen without setting clear priorities, cultivating strong stewardship and making challenging financial decisions. Thank you for your leadership! It truly is an aspiration to serve with you as a partner in Christ's ministry.

With joy and appreciation,

Rev. Daniel Johnson  
Twin Cities District Superintendent

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](mailto:carol.zaagsma@paumc.org) (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)  
Camille Kratochvil (Administrative Assistant) [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org)  
Peggy Larson (Music Director) [peggylarson@comcast.net](mailto:peggylarson@comcast.net)  
Dale Miller (Accompanist) [miller.daler@gmail.com](mailto:miller.daler@gmail.com)  
Judy Richardson-Mahre (SonRise Singers Director) [jembrm@charter.net](mailto:jembrm@charter.net)  
Mary Nelson (Handbells Director) [nelsonc2m@aol.com](mailto:nelsonc2m@aol.com)  
Paul Herrmann (Custodian) 612-916-3376

Church Office E-mail: [PAUMC@paumc.org](mailto:PAUMC@paumc.org)  
PAUMC Website: [www.paumc.org](http://www.paumc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-Avenue-United-Methodist-Church/109195009206962](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-Avenue-United-Methodist-Church/109195009206962)





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:15am Eagle Scout Project Presentation</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm Hagerty Small Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00pm Calm Parenting Support Group 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp 7:00pm Smith Small Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:30pm Small Group Study @ PAUMC 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Small Group Study @PAUMC</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p><b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00pm Hagerty Small Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Small Group Study @PAUMC</p>	<p>13</p> <p><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 7:00pm Maundy Thurs. Worship @ PAUMC</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 7:00pm Good Friday Worship @ Hilcrest UMC (9100 Russell Ave S)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:00pm Easter Break- fast Prep and Set- Up</p>
<p>16</p> <p><b>EASTER</b> 8:00am Sunrise Worship 8:45am-9:30am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Worship</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 6:30pm Caregivers Sup- port Group @ Apple- wood pointe (8341 Lyndale Ave S)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Evangelism &amp; Church Growth</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 7:00pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship</p>						