

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



Congratulations! to all of our graduates within the PORT family, as well as many others within our extended church family. Join us on Sunday June 4 to recognize those who have graduated from high school, college, or a trade school.

*“For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”.*  
*Joshua 1:9*



**Congratulations!**

June 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

The well-known theme song for the Lion King sums up a recent week in my life:

It's the Circle of Life  
And it moves us all  
Through despair and hope  
Through faith and love  
Till we find our place  
On the path unwinding  
In the Circle  
The Circle of Life.

In the span of a week and a half, our congregation was involved in three funerals for loved ones. One of those funerals was for a woman I never met: Beverly Griffith, the wife of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church's first full-time pastor. They were appointed here from 1955-1958. Every funeral reinforces that death is a natural part of life, yet with the recognition that Beverly was part of the life of this church in such a critical moment, her death feels just a little different – as part of the Circle of Life, yet with a certain chapter of it coming to a more complete ending.

While preparing for these funerals, I was also packing for a quick trip to Missouri. My oldest nephew graduated from high school on May 11. Graduation is one of those days 18 years in the making, yet it comes so

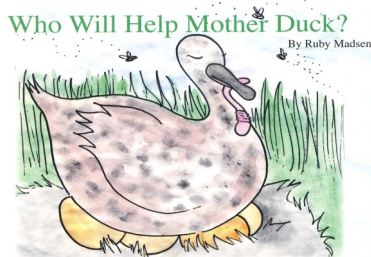


quickly. Attending his graduation, which was from the same high school I graduated from, brought forth those teenage memories in me as well. Rites of passage such as high school graduation are part of the Circle of Life.

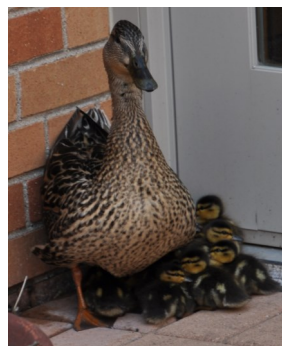
As I returned back to the office, Camille came to my office door and asked if I wanted to see something kind of cute...and then took me to the memorial garden window to point out momma duck and 11 babies!

We were prepared for a brood to seek a safe harbor here at The PORT.

Momma ducks have been nesting at our place for years...to the point Ruby Madsen wrote a children's book about it! The Circle of Life comes around again.



Since the duck family was discovered on Tuesday morning, I knew there would be some helpful hands coming that evening for Bazaar Workshop, so I recruited a few crafters to meet a little early that evening to carry forth our rescue plan.



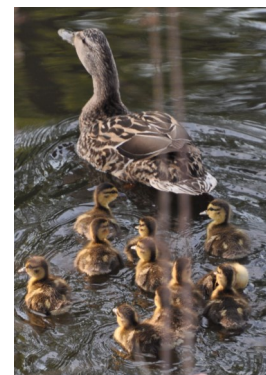
Thankfully, we arrived to find momma duck and ducklings huddled in a corner of the path, over by the patio door entrance from the north narthex.

We took the large kennel that had been placed in the garden for shelter, and slowly closed in on the momma duck and her ducklings. Working together, we coaxed her into the kennel and shut the door (much more difficult to do than it is to describe here).

Her babies did not follow her into the kennel. So we scooped them into a cardboard box...well, 10 of them. The 11<sup>th</sup> began running around the garden, so that was another site to see. That little one on the run was finally captured, too.

We loaded everyone up in my vehicle, and drove over to Smith Park, carried the kennel and box closer to the water, and let 'em go.

They waddled down to the water and swam away - a natural continuation in the Circle of Life.



As the song says, the Circle of Life moves us all...we go through despair, but we also find hope and faith and love. The Circle of Life is not just a cute Disney story – it's also the framework of our faith...and Christ is ever inviting us to live it together with him and one another.



Journeying in faith with you,

*Pastor Carol*

## Youth Group News



June brings us to the close of our year for now. We will meet one last time to have dinner together with our two seniors before they leave us.

Jarek Haugen is graduating from Lakeville North High School and will be enlisting into the Marines and will head out in June to sunny San Diego, CA for boot camp. After he graduates from boot camp, he will transition to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri where he will go for his military police specialty training. He will start college fall of 2018. Criminal Justice is the current plan. Scott Cameron is graduating from Bloomington Kennedy and in the fall will be attending the University Wisconsin- Madison where he will major in Neuroscience. After graduation he wants to enroll in medical school to become a Neurologist. Both of these young men have extreme potential to succeed in their careers and they will be missed greatly. We want to say a HUGE thank you to Mike Slobodnik for his time and dedication with us for the spaghetti dinner. We couldn't have done it without you! Ultimate Challenge Camp is coming up quickly, July 16-22<sup>nd</sup> and we couldn't be more excited. This is what we wait and work for all year!

~Melissa Kuyper

## JUNE Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
Special Music	Judy Richardson-Mahre	ARA Trio (Russ Cox & Friends)	TBD	TBD
Greeters	Dave & Linda Schesso	Todd & Julie Rasmussen	Eric & Judy Richardson-Mahre	Lynn Livingston, Mary Lou Johnson
Ushers	Guy Moore, Jim Anderson, Dave & Ellen Smith	Wayne Andersen & Sharon Beckler, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Bruce Benson, Guy Moore, Beth & Scott Cameron	Guy Moore, Bob Deese, Scott & Kathy Swenson
Welcomers	Eric & Judy Richardson-Mahre	LaVonne Robinson	Jean & Guy Moore	Kathy & Steve Soucy
Reader	Pat Ekstrom	Melinda Matton	Bob Deese	George Dalin
Sound	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Dave Smith
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury
Closer	Floyd Ekstrom	Paul Richardson	Jeff Carroll	Harvey Erstad
Communion Stewards	Ellen & Dave Smith	<p><b>Want to serve on Sunday mornings?</b>  <b>Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</b></p>		
Communion Servers	Merlin & Linda Gilbertson, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			



# Spiritual Growth

## One Great Day of Music

We enjoyed uplifting music from all our choirs, as well as vocal solos carrying meaningful messages of faith, at this year's One Great Day of Music on May 21. Thank you to all our musicians for a beautiful worship service.



# Mission Outreach

## Passion Project on Homelessness

Hello everyone! I wanted to thank you all for your generous donations and for helping me with my Passion Project. Avenues for Youth was able to receive all of the donations, which will make a huge difference for the homeless youth there.



Here's what we collected: 44 gift cards, 31 children's activities, 78 men's underwear, 127 women's underwear, 7 men's shirts, 5 women's shirts, 26 pairs of socks, and 11 travel toothbrush kits.

So thank you again for participating in my donation drive. May God bless you all!

~Jael Medzagoh

## We celebrate YOU during JUNE

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



02- Blaine Daniels	06 - Clint Andrus	16 - Jeremiah Carroll	22 - Mackenzie Roach
Mark Wicks	07 - Paul Swenson	Blake Mahre	24 - Ann Benson
03 - Dianne Madsen	08 - Peggy Erstad	Dan Smith	25 - Les Castro
Julie Rasmussen	Guy Moore	18 - Bryan Darnell	29 - Heather Anderson
04 - David Swenson	09 - Joshua Rice	19 - Harvey Erstad	30 - Jeff Carroll
		21 - Denise Carroll	
		Alina Haugen	

## From the Mailbox

### Graduate Open House Invitations



An open invitation has been extended for church friends to help celebrate our high school graduates at their open houses.

- **Samantha Baker's Open House**  
June 10 from 4:00-8:00 pm  
8301 Elliot Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420
- **Scott Cameron's Open House**  
June 9 from 6:00-9:00 pm  
9220 Columbus Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420  
Bloomington, MN 55420
- **Jarek Haugen's Open House**  
June 3 from 12:00-3:00 pm  
17710 Hickory Court, Lakeville, MN 55044

Thank you for all your cards and prayers for Chuck while he was in the hospital. Also thanks to Pastor Carol for her visits and prayers. It's really appreciated to have such a caring church family. Thanks to everyone.  
- Karen Groth

Thank you for the cards, good wishes, and prayers for my health. I hope you had a happy Easter. I will be happy when I can come back to church. I miss you friends.  
- Regina Robinson

### Birthday Cards For Ross Rash



Long-time PAUMC member Ross Rash (now living in Kansas) is having a birthday on June 5. His daughter, Kristin McReynolds, has asked for members who knew her father to send cards. Ross' address is:

**Ross Rash**  
708 Tweed R12  
Winfield, KS 67156

### Thank You Notes



Thank you for all the cards, messages, and visits from the Port people during my hip surgery and recovery. It is great to be back.

-Dale Miller

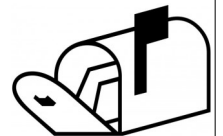
### Address Updates

**Dick and Annie Comee**  
11111 River Hills Drive Apt #217  
Burnsville, MN 55337

**Larry Seldon**  
Meadow Woods  
1301 E. 100 St. Room #314  
Bloomington, MN 55425

**Martin & Jody Thames**  
(612) 345-7204 (new home phone)

**Mary Nelson**  
9906 4th Avenue S.  
Bloomington, MN 55420  
(612) 839-2349 cell





# Trustees

## Spring Clean Up

A big thank you to all who came to spruce up our building and grounds on May 6.



## Bits and Pieces

### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Book 'Em Used! Book Sale



The Bloomington Crime Prevention Association is hosting their 25th annual Book 'Em Used! Book sale from June 3rd - June 17th at 1150 W 78th St. in Richfield (next to Best Buy and Petsmart in the Shoppes at Lyndale complex).

Most books are only \$1 or \$2. Cash or check only, no debit or credit cards accepted. Proceeds from the sale fund crime prevention programs in Bloomington. Sale hours are Monday through Friday 11:00 am - 8:00 pm; & Saturday and Sunday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm.

### Medalist Concert Band Schedule

Enjoy some music outdoors this summer as the Bloomington Medalist Concert Band plays their summer schedule around the Twin Cities. Pastor Carol plays trumpet with this group, so grab a friend and come for an enjoyable and free evening of music.

- Wed, June 14 @ 7 pm - Como Park Pavilion  
1360 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul
- Mon, July 3 @ 8 pm - Bloomington SummerFete  
Normandale Lake Bandshell  
5901 W 84th St, Bloomington
- Mon July 10 @ 7:30 pm - Lake Harriet Bandshell  
4135 W Lake Harriet Pkwy, Minneapolis
- Wed, July 12 @ 7 pm - Becketwood Senior Living  
4300 W River Pkwy, Minneapolis
- Tues, July 18 @ 7 pm - Normandale Lake  
5901 W 84th St, Bloomington
- Wed, Aug 2 @ 7 pm - Centennial Lakes Amphitheater  
7499 France Ave S, Edina



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	2	3
4 Graduation Sunday 10:00am Worship/ Communion	5	6 6:00pm Calm Parenting Support Group 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	7	8 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	9	10
11 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care Meeting	12	13 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	14	15 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp  Newsletter Deadline	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY 10:00am Worship	19	20 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	21	22 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	23	24
25 10:00am Worship	26	27 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	28	29 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	30	

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 September

**Staff**

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) [carol.zaagsma@paumc.org](mailto:carol.zaagsma@paumc.org) (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)  
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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)  
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