

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



## Outdoor Worship, Blessing of the Animals & BBQ

Leash up your pets and join us on July 30 at 10:00 am for our annual outdoor service, which will include a blessing of the animals, followed by a BBQ lunch of hotdogs and hamburgers (free-will offering appreciated).

If your child's "pet" is a stuffed animal, we will bless those as well. All pets are welcome, but please ensure their vaccinations are up to date and bring them leashed or contained for the safety and comfort of all. If your pet is easily frightened or doesn't like being around animals, please feel to bring a picture instead.

If it rains we'll move to Fellowship Hall.

July 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.

Outdoor Worship & BBQ

## Pastor's Message Rev. Carol Zaagsma



Blake Mahre and I attended Minnesota Annual Conference in St. Cloud from June 19-22. This is an annual gathering of laity and clergy around the state. We gather to celebrate accomplishments, worship, learn, and otherwise engage in business relative to our conference.

This year's theme was "Encounter the Spirit: Live Expectantly!" and our keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson, the General Secretary (like a CEO) of Discipleship Ministries. Rev. Dotson challenged us to clearly articulate our "why" as a congregation, teaching us that when we know our "why," then our "what" becomes more impactful.

And then he reminded us that our "why" is pretty clear: it is growing in relationship with Jesus Christ. Here at The PORT, we may say it in terms of our mission: "To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."

Dr. Dotson observed that many churches have lost passion for making disciples while building bridges to nowhere. We mistake activities for accomplishment. And as I heard him say this, I recognized that these challenging words are worthy of reflection within every church community I have ever been a part of.

This is not a unique message. I heard it again and again when I retraced the steps of John and Charles Wesley through England several years ago, as we were reminded that the church does not exist for itself or its members; it exists to serve with Christ in the world that God loves.

*The church does not exist for itself or its members; it exists to serve with Christ in the world that God loves.*

A church that has forgotten why they exist may be filled with people who are motivated mostly to care for one another...members may think the church has no business offering a voice in politics in ways that guide public policy toward social justice; prayer requests are often only for close family members; invitations to programs or events are rarely extended beyond members and constituents; and church members look only to receive benefits from membership rather than searching for ways to serve others.

*The church does not exist for itself or its members; it exists to serve with Christ in the world that God loves.*

Oh, but how often we need to be reminded of this. A church that exists to "serve with Christ in the world that God loves" remembers its call in the Great Commandment to *love God, neighbor, and self...* (Matthew 22:36-40) and in the Great Commission to *go therefore and make disciples of all nations...* (Matthew 28:19-20).

I'm convinced that at the root of it all is the love of Christ that we cultivate in our hearts. For a church filled with the love of Christ can't help but to share that with the world. After all, Christ was all about sharing the good news beyond conventional boundaries...to the outsiders...beyond the walls of the city gates...inviting all others into this unconditional love and life of discipleship.

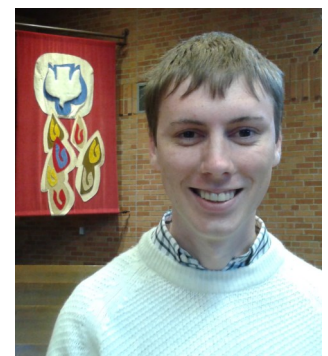
So, as the summer progresses, remember why we exist here at this church...to serve with Christ in the world that God loves. Cultivate that sort of love in your heart...and warmly welcome others to journey with you here into such a life of faith.

*Pastor Carol*

## Welcome to New Member

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Gregory T. Christensen, who comes to The PORT by way of transfer from Brookings Presbyterian Church in Brookings, OR. He was baptized at the United Methodist Church in Indio, CA, and from as long ago as he can remember, his family was always really involved in church.

Gregory's mantra is to "plant trees under whose shade you know you can't sit," and he sees the highest call to be in service to others. He currently works for the Department of Homeland Security; and a fun childhood story about him is this: His mom was a teacher, so he always had homework to do, whether it was assigned or not.



## Holy Baptism



Daniel Godwin Madje Wilson, son of Frederick and Gloria Wilson-Bahun, and little brother of Shiloh, was baptized on Pentecost Sunday, June 4. Godparents are Jocelyne Medzagoh and Ghislain Es-senam. Welcome to the family of Christ, Daniel!

## Celebrating our Graduates



Congratulations to our High School Graduates: Samantha Baker, Jarek Haugen, Scott Cameron, and Jordan Lawson.

## JULY Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Special Music	Steve Soucy	Richardson-Mahre Family	Peggy & Rocky	Katie Peine & Russ Cox	Peggy Larson
Greeters	Jeff Chamberlain & Lynn Furda	Lynn Livingston, Jodi Anders	Russ & Carol Cox	Harvey & Peggy Erstad	Dan & Tracy Baker
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Jocelyne Medzagoh, Mike & Lori Moreland	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Dave & Ellen Smith	Bruce Benson, Jack Cornforth, Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson, Verne Witt, Beth & Scott Cameron	Guy Moore, Pat Ekstrom, Scott & Kathy Swenson
Welcomers	Kathy Swenson	Helen Witt	Jeff Chamberlain	Marilyn Anderson	Carol Emdy
Reader	Pat Ekstrom	Linda Dicks	Russ Cox	Neil Anderson	Katelyn Hagerty
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Tim Madsen	Nathan Peine	Barb Andrus	Dave Smith	Dave Smith
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury	LaVonne Robinson
Closer	Floyd Ekstrom	Jeff Carroll	Paul Richardson	Steve Knopp	Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	Ellen & Dave Smith				
Communion Servers	Helen & Verne Witt, Bea Batchelor, Mary Nelson				

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

# Mission Outreach

## Special Offering for Peace With Justice

We will observe Peace With Justice Sunday on July 16.



The Peace with Justice offering enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. Through it, we have been able to spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities, United Methodists in Liberia are being taught the denomination's Social Principles, and Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad. If these are ministries you'd like to support, come prepared to participate in this special offering on July 16.

## News from VEAP

The Summer Youth Food Program is moving into high gear to accommodate the needs of families in the community. VEAP is seeing about a 10% increase in the number of households seeking food support during the months that children are not in school.

We continue several ways to support VEAP here. One is to bring non-perishable food items and place them in the bin by the Fellowship Hall entrance. Another is

to recognize a special milestone (birthday, anniversary, etc.) with a VEAP food basket on Sunday morning. To do this, sign up on the poster chart on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. Then write a check to PAUMC for \$15, include "VEAP food basket" in the memo, and place in the offering plate on a Sunday morning or mail to church.

When we keep the needs of our community in mind, we can do great things together to fulfill Jesus' command to "feed my sheep." (John 21:15-17)

## VEAP Block Party

You don't want to miss this free, family friendly, fun, community event, held Sunday, July 9, from 4-7 pm, in the VEAP parking lot at 9600 Aldrich Ave. S, Bloomington. Dance to the tunes of Dirt Road Dixie, munch on food from Tot Boss and El Jibarito food trucks, quench your thirst with a craft brew from Bent Brewstillery and finish it all off with some designer cotton candy from Cotton & Whim or free custard from Culvers. Have fun with giant lawn games resembling Jenga, Connect Four and bean bag toss. Come and celebrate community at the VEAP Block Party.

## Kick Start to School

Plans are being made for our second summer school program aimed at reducing "summer slide," which is a phenomenon where students begin the new school year at a lower academic level than where they left the previous school year. This year's dates are July 10-27, Mondays -Thursdays from 9 am-12:15 pm. This program is designed for students entering 1st thru 6th grade, so if you know of a student who might benefit from this program, which will focus on reading and math, please contact Pastor Carol at [carol.zaagsma@paumc.org](mailto:carol.zaagsma@paumc.org).

## Safety Camp w/the Potter's House

The Potter's House is sponsoring a summer camp along with Bloomington Police to help children learn about safety. This camp will be held July 25-28 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at 9615 Girard Avenue in Bloomington. Pick up a registration form on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.

## We celebrate YOU during JULY

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

- 01 - Koffi Bruce  
Nathania Bruce  
Nancy Hagerty  
Mason Roach
- 10 - Bea Batchelor
- 21 - Betty Belk
- 22 - Steven Johnson
- 25 - Linda Knopp
- 26 - Jocelyne Medzagoh
- 27 - Wayne Andersen  
Tim Madsen



## Ice Cream Sunday

Cool off on a summer Sunday with your friends at church when Congregational Care hosts Ice Cream Sunday after worship on July 2.



## Caregivers Support Group

If you are a caregiver and looking for support, consider attending our next meeting, Wed., July 5, at 6:30 pm, here at PAUMC. The group is open, so please attend as your schedule allows.

## Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who sent Dad (Ross Rash) a birthday card. He so enjoyed getting and reading them! It made his day and week very special. ~Kristen McReynolds

## From the Mailbox

### Address Updates

Maxine O'Connell  
103601 Lyndale Ave #108  
Bloomington, MN 55420

Dorothy Allen  
4200 40<sup>th</sup> Ave N, #406  
Robbinsdale, MN 55422  
(763) 537-9958

Clint & Barb Andrus  
Barb's cell: 612-619-5785  
Clint's cell: 612-619-7325  
(No more home phone number)

# HALLELUJAH



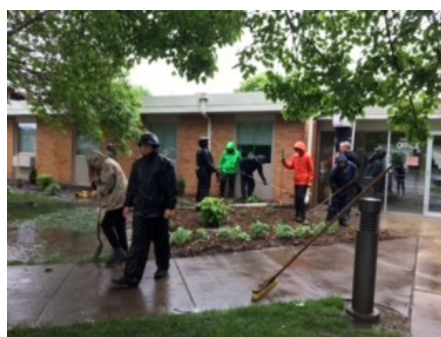
**Paul Richardson and Mary Nelson, with thanks to God,** are celebrating and formalizing their relationship with a service of commitment on Sunday, July 23 at Portland Avenue United Methodist Church, 8000 Portland Ave South, Bloomington, Minnesota at 11 am, immediately after the 10 am worship service.

Following the service a reception with light refreshments and an opportunity to visit will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

# Trustees

## Eagle Scout Project Update

Blake Mahre and a group of Boy Scouts came on a very rainy Saturday morning, May 20, to complete his Eagle Scout landscaping project. They planted plants and then spread the mulch, and came back later in the week to install the edging.



Blake began his project with a presentation to the Board of Trustees in September 2016. He organized a crew to tear out the overgrown bushes in October 2016, presented a landscaping design to the congregation in April 2017, began a fundraising campaign in the Spring of 2017, and organized another crew to plant the perennials and new bushes in May. A big thank you to the congregation for your support, and to Blake for bringing a new look to the grounds on the west side of the building.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00am Worship/ Communion <b>ICE CREAM SUNDAY!</b>	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 6:30pm Caregiver's Support Group	6 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp	7	8
9 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach	10 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School	11 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School 6:00pm Trustees 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	12 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School	13 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School	14	15 Newsletter Deadline
16 10:00am Worship	17 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School	18 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	19 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School	20 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School	21	22
23 10:00am Worship 11:00am Paul Richardson & Mary Nelson Ceremony and Reception	24 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School	25 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	26 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School	27 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9am - 12:15pm Kick Start to School 7:00pm Church Council	28	29
30 10:00am Outdoor Worship, Blessing of the Ani- mals, and BBQ						

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](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)