

# THE PORTLIGHT

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

## VEAP Back To School Drive

It's time to get ready to go back to school! Every year many children go back to school without the needed supplies to help them succeed at school. We will be collecting back to school items now thru August 13. The items VEAP is requesting are:

- Backpacks
- Crayons (24 count)
- Spiral Notebooks
- Glue Sticks
- Wide and College
- Pencil Box/Pouch
- Earbuds
- Highlighters
- Two Pocket Folders
- Rulers
- #2 Pencils
- Erasers (large pink)
- Pens (blue, black, red Ink)
- Glue Bottles
- Markers (basic colors)
- Scissors
- Colored Pencils (12 count)

All items must be new.  
Thanks for helping our neighbors in need!



School Supply Drive

August 2017

### Our Mission

*"To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."*

### Our Vision

*"To be a safe harbor along life's journey."*

The **P**  **ORT**  
A safe harbor along life's journey.

One of my favorite parts of pre-marital counseling is working through the skills of good communication with an engaged couple. There are two parts to healthy communication, and it takes both parties to practice these skills in order to communicate well.

The first skill is assertiveness, which is the ability to express your feelings and ask for what you want in the relationship. Assertiveness as a technique is often misunderstood. It is not the same as being aggressive or dominating. Instead, it is finding your voice and speaking it when there is something that should be said for the good of the relationship.

The second skill is active listening, which is the ability to let your partner know you understand them by restating their message. It isn't just a verbatim repeating back what you heard, but it involves actively listening without interruption and then letting the other person know you clearly understood them by restating what you heard them say.

I can't tell you how many times I see poor communication skills in play...at restaurants, in the checkout line, on TV sitcoms, and even here at church. Too often one person will shut down and quit asking for something they need, because all too many times their words fell on ears that were not listening. Or the assertive speech turns to aggressive demands. Or the person listening completely changes the subject without acknowledging they heard something important that begs for more conversation.

In today's polarized political climate, and with the dominance of social media, it is also common place for two persons of opposite political leanings to completely shut down, not even trying to have a conversation, or for the conversation to be built of name-calling and mud-slinging without any substantive content.

This lack of healthy conversation is one thing that grieves me.

It is a concern that several other Bloomington pastors share. We have been working together with the Minnesota Council of Churches to create a series of Respectful Conversations this fall at various Bloomington churches.

A Respectful Conversation is not designed to change minds. Such a conversation is designed to soften hearts.

Conversations about significant issues can sometimes be emotional. When we talk about them with a posture of picking a side and fighting it out, we often leave feeling worse about our friends and perhaps even ourselves. There is another way to talk about these issues! And we have an opportunity to learn and practice how we can discuss significant issues without disliking each other more, but instead by understanding each other better.

The first Respectful Conversation in our fall series is coming up soon:

**“How Immigration is Changing our Community”**  
**Monday, August 7, 2017 from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm**  
**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**  
**8400 France Ave S, Bloomington, MN**

The evening will start with a dinner, so pre-registration is required on the MN Council of Churches website at [www.bit.ly/RegisterRCP](http://www.bit.ly/RegisterRCP). You may call Pastor Carol in the office if you wish to register but do not have internet access. There is no cost for participants. The host church is providing the meal.

I plan to attend, so hope to see you there!

Here is a list of the remaining Respectful Conversations scheduled in this fall series, so mark your calendar:

“Our Muslim Neighbors”  
Monday, September 11, 2017 from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
Atonement Lutheran Church (601 E. 98th St)

“Human Sexuality”  
Monday, October 2, 2017 from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
Transfiguration Lutheran Church (11000 France Ave)

“Church and Politics”  
Monday, November 6, 2017 from 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
MN Valley Unitarian Universalist (10715 Zenith Ave)

Why not come to learn and practice your healthy communication skills while talking about relevant and meaningful current event topics of today?

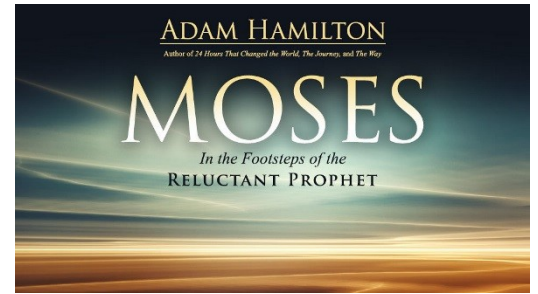


Learning with you,

*Pastor Carol*

## Small Group Study This Fall

Dates for our fall small group study haven't been finalized yet, but the topic has already been determined. We're excited to study one of Adam Hamilton's newest books: *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet*. This six-week study, which includes a weekly video presentation, will cover Moses' birth, the Exodus, the Ten Commandments, and issue a challenge about how we each can turn our reluctance into boldness.



We'd love to see a new small group emerge, so please pray about whether God is calling you to be more involved at The PORT by leading and hosting a small group at your place (or at church). A leader guide will help prepare you to lead the discussion. If leading a small group sounds like something you're ready to try, please talk with one of our current small group leaders: Dave Smith, Nancy Hagerty, or Pastor Carol.

## AUGUST Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
<b>Special Music</b>	Sonrise Singers	Peggy Larson, w/ Diana K, Pam G, Mary Kaye R	Richardson-Mahre Family	Katie Peine
<b>Greeters</b>	Verne & Helen Witt	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Bob & Janene Haugen	Lynn Furda & Jeff Chamberlain
<b>Ushers</b>	Bruce Benson, Paul Richardson, Steve & Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson, Myron & Ginny Karki	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Mike & Lori Moreland	Bruce Benson, Pat Ekstrom, Scott & Kathy Swenson
<b>Welcomers</b>	Claire & John Perry	Neil Anderson	Barb & Clint Andrus	Barb & Bob Deese
<b>Reader</b>	Paul Richardson	Pat Ekstrom	Helen Witt	Judy Richardson-Mahre
<b>Sound</b>	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith
<b>Media</b>	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
<b>Nursery</b>	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury
<b>Closer</b>	Jeff Carroll	Jeff Carroll	Floyd Ekstrom	Steve Knopp
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Linda Knopp, Denise Carroll	<p><b>Ready to serve on Sunday mornings?</b> Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator.</p>		
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Kathy Soucy, Lynn Livingston, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			

# Mission Outreach

## Gift Shop Volunteers Needed



Walker Health Center is looking for volunteers to work in the Gift Shop. It is hoped that enough volunteers can be recruited to keep the shop open 10-4 pm seven days a week. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who enjoys helping people and has some experience using a computer.

Clients include residents of the Health Center, their families and friends, and employees. Residents are particularly grateful for the chance to shop for their needs and socialize with others.

Shifts run 10-1 or 1-4 and training is provided for new volunteers. Contact Cathy Schutt (612-827-8342) if you might be interested or see Mary Nelson (612-839-2349) for further information. This activity is sponsored by the Walker Auxiliary.

## Feed My Starving Children

Three-year-old Chimi's father left shortly after he was born. The family was devastated and struggled to feed little Chimi. "There was a time where he was so frail we thought he would not make it," Chimi's mom, Carmen, said. "All we had was faith. The program from Feed My Starving Children came right on time for us."



You can help feed children like Chimi. The PORT will be sending a group of 38 to pack meals on Saturday, October 14, 2017, from 9-11 am. Mark your calendar now! Steve Soucy will be signing up volunteers as the time draws near.

## Peace with Justice Offering Update

Peace with Justice Sunday was celebrated on July 16. This special offering supports United Methodist ministries that advocate for peace and justice around the world. Thank you to all who participated. The PORT received \$129.75 to add to the donations of all other United Methodist Churches. Together we can do great things.

## The PORT's Kick Start to School

This year we had nine neighborhood graduates from our elementary school program called the Kick Start to School. Designed to reduce "summer slide," the primary focus was on reading, spelling and math. In the middle of each morning, a snack was served before the students went outside for recess. Each day, the program concluded with lunch provided by Bloomington Public Schools. Thank you to Steve Soucy for bringing the school lunches, serving them, and cleaning up after each day. Thank you also to LaVonne Robinson and JoAnne Volden for supplying home baked cookies, which the children loved! The graduates are already looking forward to coming back again next summer.



## We celebrate YOU during AUGUST

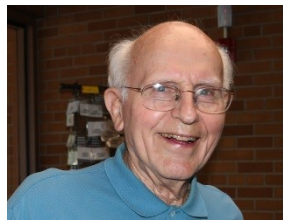
If you have a birthday during the month of August but your name isn't on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year.

- 01 - Darlene Solheim
- 02 - Isabelle Swenson
- 06 - Barb Deese
- 08 - Jean Moore
- 09 - Carol Emdy
- 10 - John Perry
- 11 - Floyd Ekstrom
- 13 - Becky Rice
- 14 - Dick Comee  
Ethan Runck  
Helen Witt
- 16 - Joell Anderson
- 18 - Scott Rice
- 19 - Wendell Carroll
- 22 - Elizabeth Cottier  
Paul Richardson
- 25 - Joe Matton



## Ice Cream Sunday

The Congregational Care Team hosted Ice Cream Sunday on July 2. Everyone enjoyed the cool treats on a warm summer day.



## Celebration

Paul Richardson and Mary Nelson formalized their relationship with a service of commitment on July 23. With family, friends, and many from The PORT present, it was a good time of worship and fellowship. Congratulations to Paul and Mary!



## From the Mailbox

### Address Updates

Bruce and Ann Benson  
2010 Charlton Ridge  
West St Paul, MN 55118  
(612) 866-9641 (same phone)

(Correction from July newsletter)  
Maxine O'Connell  
10601 Lyndale Ave S #108  
Bloomington, MN 55420  
(952) 831-1882 (same phone)

Jim and JoAnn Louisiana  
9850 Lyndale Avenue S #317  
Bloomington, MN 55420  
(952) 888-4073 (new)

Jeff Chamberlain  
(612) 963-8366  
(new cell phone #)



### Thank you

We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support from our church family. We feel so blessed! Thank you for the lovely cards and many expressions of best wishes.



~Paul Richardson & Mary Nelson

# SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

## Administrative Assistant Opening

Our Administrative Assistant, Camille Kratochvil gave her notice, effective July 13. We wish her the best as she pursues her goals in real estate full-time.

Resumes are now being accepted for the open position, and can be submitted through indeed.com, or via regular mail.

## New Office Hours

With the transition in office staff, SPRC and the Church Council was able to reevaluate our staffing needs. As a result, the church office hours will be from 9 am - 1 pm, starting August 1. Of course, Pastor Carol is available beyond that by appointment. Any questions may be addressed to Pastor Carol or members of the Staff Parish Relations Team Sub-committee: Bob Deese, Nancy Hagerty, or Ted Murphy.

## Bits and Pieces

### Fare For All

Fare For All is a cooperative food buying program offering up to 40% savings on brand-name products.

Fare For All provides packages of fresh fruits and vegetables as well as frozen meat items. Pay with cash, credit or EBT.

Packages are as follows:

- Produce Package (\$10) Typically includes five varieties of fresh vegetables and two varieties of fresh fruits.
- Mini Meat Pack (\$11) A minimum of four assorted meat items (3-5 lbs). Does not include pork.
- Combo Pack (\$20) Save an extra \$1 by combining the produce and mini meat packs.
- Mega Meat Pack (\$25) Typically includes 7-9 meat items.

The next distribution date is Wednesday, August 16 from 11 am - 1 pm at Creekside Community Center (9801 Penn Ave S, Bloomington, MN). There are no qualifications or income restrictions, and it is first come, first served.



**FARE FOR ALL**  
*Food that makes cents*

### Artistry: Dimensional Paintings

Human Services is partnering with Artistry to bring workshops to Creekside Community Center. Using tag board, watercolor paper and foam core, students will create layered painted images with a foreground, mid-ground and background. Brush handling, color mixing, blending, stamping and basic relief techniques will be covered.

This class will be held Friday, August 18 from 1 - 3 pm, at Creekside Community Center (9801 Penn Ave S, Bloomington, MN). Cost is \$15, and space is limited so registration is required by August 11 (call 952-563-4944).





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:00pm Calm Parenting Support Group 6:30pm NO Bazaar Wkshp	2	3 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	4	5
6 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion	7 6:00pm Respectful Conversation on Immigration @ St. Stephen's Lutheran (8400 France)	8 7am-8pm Primary Election 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	9 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	10 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	11	12
13 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship / Ice Cream Sunday! 11:15am Congregational Care Meeting	14	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	16	17 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	18	19
20 8:45am Education 8:45am Handbells 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	21	22 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	23	24 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	25	26
27 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	28	29 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	30	31 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp		

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)  
Open Position (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)