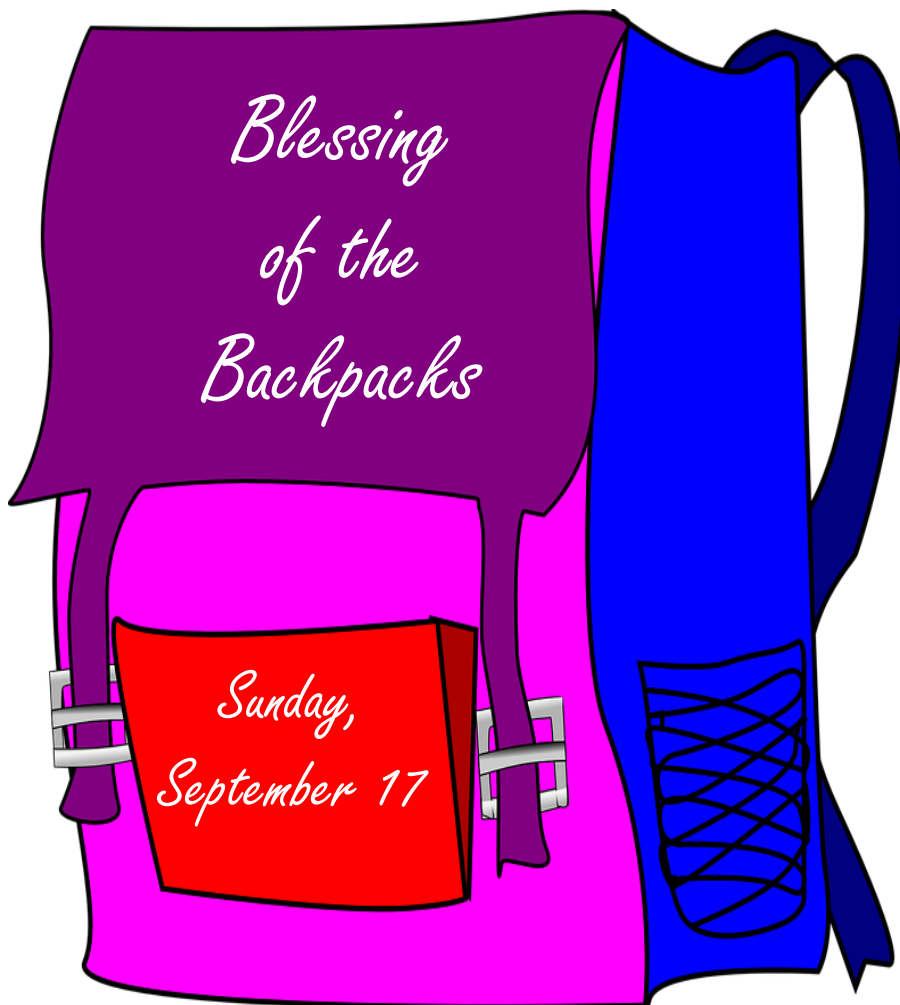


# THE PORTLIGHT

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



## Backpack Blessing

Bring your backpacks to worship Sunday, September 17 at 10:00 am for a blessing.

Many of you are no longer in school, so feel free to bring a bag or briefcase you take regularly to work...those are welcome, too. Whether you are a child or an adult, a blessing is always a joy to carry with you wherever you go.

September 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.

## Message from our Bishop *Rev. Bruce Ough*

*Dakotas-Minnesota Area Bishop Bruce R. Ough, in his role as president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, issued the following statement about recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia:*

My shock, dismay, and grief over the clashes between white supremacy advocates and counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, continue to grow. I grieve for the lives lost, and pray for the family of Heather Heyer, the families of the two state troopers killed while monitoring the Charlottesville demonstration from the air, and for the healing of all the injured. I am shocked by the blatant resurgence of white nationalism, neo-Nazism, and racially motivated domestic terrorism in the United States. I am dismayed (and frightened) by the animosity, division, extremism, and evil that is spiraling out of control in the U.S.

Let there be no excuses or political justification for the evil that was on full display in Charlottesville last Saturday. Nor let us forget that many such displays of white supremacy, racism, and hatred go unreported or under-reported in many places. White supremacist and neo-Nazi ideologies are abhorrent and entirely inconsistent with the Christian faith.

Jesus called his followers to “love your neighbor.” It is clear this key spiritual imperative means all neighbors without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. And, Paul taught that “enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, and factions” are among many works of the flesh that are antithetical to the kingdom of God. “By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5: 19-23). These works of the Spirit lead to peace-making and the kingdom of God.

The Social Principles of our United Methodist Church are a clarion call and powerful witness in times such as these. “We affirm that no identity or culture has more legitimacy than any other. We call the Church to challenge any hierarchy of cultures or identities” (Para. 161A, The Nurturing Community, page 110, 2016 Book of Discipline). And, from Para. 162A The Social Community, page 120: “Racism, manifested as sin, plagues and hinders our relationship with Christ, inasmuch as it is antithetical to the gospel itself ... Therefore, we recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons ... We commit as

the Church to move beyond symbolic expressions and representative models that do not challenge unjust systems of power and access.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. echoed a similar sentiment when he challenged the United States to transform the thin paper of the Declaration of Independence that affirms the self-evident truth “that all men are created equal, are endowed with certain inalienable rights” into thick action.

I pray that the shock, dismay, and grief of Charlottesville will be a turning point for the U.S. and even our global United Methodist Church. We share collective responsibility to turn our thin words into thick action. We share collective responsibility to break our silence. We share collective responsibility to restore health to the communities and relationship out of which extremism, hatred, and racism grow. We share collective responsibility, as followers of the Prince of Peace, to create non-violent communities where people with different political and religious views respect each other. We share responsibility to articulate the vision of the Beloved Community where no person feels endangered on account of their social, racial or cultural identity.

This collective responsibility begins by each of us examining our own hearts for the prejudice that contributes to attitudes of supremacy or hatred, or to violence, or silence or fear. Peacemaking and reconciliation always begins within.

This is the moment for The United Methodist Church and all peoples of faith to be bold in our witness against racism and white supremacy. The vision of the Beloved Community lies not behind us, but before us. I urge us to pray for the Holy Spirit to break through and work through The United Methodist Church to heal our broken world and make tangible, visible the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough  
President, Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church



September 2017



9/3 N/A  
 9/10 Rylie & Jeremiah  
 9/17 Janea & Oliver  
 9/24 Madolyn & Joshua

## Sunday School & Children's Church News

Your Sunday School teachers have been busy planning for your return to Sunday School on **Sunday, September 17**. Come at 8:45 am for a great time of learning about Jesus together. Here are the classes this year:

Pre-school (age 2-5): Dave and Ellen Smith  
 Grades K-2: Janene & Bob Haugen  
 Grades 3-5: Becky Rice & Traci Darnell  
 Grades 6-12: Beth Cameron  
 Substitutes: Barb Deese and Kathy Soucy

**Children's Church**, led by Robin Smith and Beth Cameron, will also begin September 17 during worship at 10:00 am (after the Children's Message) for children ages 4 thru 2nd grade.

## SEPTEMBER Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
Coffee & Treats	N/A	Congregational Care Team	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Ted & Mary Murphy	Karen & Mary Groth	Steve & Linda Knopp	Merlin & Linda Gilbertson
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Jack Cornforth, Dave & Linda Schesso	Guy Moore, Jack Cornforth, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Guy Moore, Kathy Soucy, Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson, Bob Deese, Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler
Welcomers	Paul Richardson	Lynn Livingston	Ginny Karki	Judy & Eric Richardson-Mahre
Reader	Joell Anderson	Tim Hagerty	Pat Ekstrom	Joel Sponsel
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen
Media	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury
Closer	Paul Richardson	Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman	Harvey Erstad
Communion Stewards	Karen Groth & Marilyn Anderson	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Want to serve on Sunday mornings?</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>		
Communion Servers	Jocelyne Medzagoh, Laurette Lawson, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			

# Spiritual Growth

## Hosting Coffee Hour

Many of us look forward to gathering in the Wesley Room before or after worship for a cup of coffee, a sweet treat and a chance to visit with our friends.

This year we will be organizing this time a bit differently. A member of the Congregational Care Team will oversee and confirm the schedule on a monthly basis. We will be asking our *weekly* hosts to do a little bit more than in the past.

Along with supplying the treats you will be asked to:

- \***Prepare** the coffee (if you are able). There is also lemonade that can be prepared.
- \***Set up** the coffee serving area with the cups, napkins etc. All of the supplies are located in the cabinets under our serving area.
- \***Set out** the tray(s) of cookies, crackers or whatever you have chosen to bring.
- \***Clean-up** consists of washing out the coffee pots, pitchers or whatever other dishes are used AND sweeping the floor and wiping the tables and counter-top in the Wesley Room.

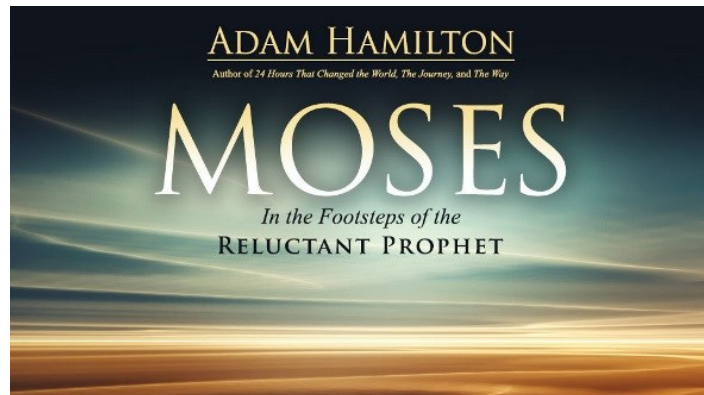
This may seem a bit overwhelming but it's pretty simple. Instead of doing this all on your own team up with friends, family or your Ministry Team.

The sign-up sheet for the first few months will be available later this month. Please take a minute to see if there may be a Sunday that will work for you or your family. There will also be a check-list posted in the Wesley Room that you can refer to on your selected Sunday.



This is an important part of The PORT's ministry and we definitely want it to continue with smooth sailing!

On behalf of the Congregational Care Team we want to say a big thank you for all of your help with this!



## Small Group Study This Fall

Our annual small group study for this fall will begin the week of October 8. 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.

Nancy Hagerty's group meets on Monday nights in her home, while Dave Smith's group meets at his home on Tuesday nights. Both of those groups are full. Pastor Carol's groups meet at church and are open to as many as would like to come. There are two opportunities for a group at church: Wednesday afternoon from 1-2 pm or Wednesday evenings from 6-7 pm. Wednesday classes will begin October 11. Cost is \$12, and scholarships are available. Please sign up at church on Sunday mornings or email Pastor Carol at [carol.zaagsma@paumc.org](mailto:carol.zaagsma@paumc.org).

We'd love to see a new small group emerge, and certainly have time to organize it, 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.



## VEAP School Supply Drive Update

Thank you to all who participated in the 2017 school supply drive. Through your generosity, more of our neighborhood kids will have the supplies they need to start the school year off on the right foot.



Here's what we donated this year: 72 glue sticks, 13 bottles glue, 12 packs markers, 25 packs crayons, 10 pencil boxes, 10 colored pencil sets, 18 packs erasers, 7 backpacks, 54 spiral notebooks, 18 scissors, 9 packs of notebook paper, 40 folders, 232 pens, 726 pencils, 9 rulers, and a few other miscellaneous items.

## Hurricane Harvey Support

UMCOR is the United Methodist response organization helping in areas Hurricane Harvey has devastated. Donate at church or on the UMCOR website [here](#).

## Used Jewelry Collection

Old jewelry cluttering up your dresser drawers? Why not donate it to the Walker Methodist Health Center Auxiliary for their next sale? One hundred percent of the proceeds are used for special needs of the Health Center residents.



The Mission Outreach Committee is sponsoring a collection of used jewelry September 17 and 24. Look for a specially marked box in the narthex for your donation. The jewelry donations are repaired and cleaned, priced and attractively displayed for sale twice a year at Walker. The next sale is November 3 and 4.

## Become a Breakfast Buddy at Valley View Elementary

We have an opportunity to reach out and make a difference in the lives of elementary school children right in our neighborhood through a new program called "Breakfast Buddies."

The focus of this new program is really simple: connect a child who can benefit from a one-on-one relationship with a positive adult role model who can inspire and motivate them to dream big and set goals for positive growth.

This will involve you as an adult "buddy" assigned to a Valley View Elementary student to have a conversation over a hot breakfast once a week (from 8:15-9:00 am) in the school library. Your commitment is for the school year.

Every child deserves a positive adult role model and someone who cares about them. You could be that person for a child at our neighborhood school.



The Breakfast Buddy Program will start the week of October 23, and there will be a training in late September/early October. Sign up on the back of your Connection Card, or see Pastor Carol with questions.

The PORT has been looking for ways to partner with Valley View Elementary School, and this is a perfect way to begin.

## Feed My Starving Children

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.



# Congregational Care

## We celebrate YOU during SEPTEMBER

If you have a birthday during the month of September but your name isn't on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year. There are a few August birthdays here because they were inadvertently left off last month's August birthday list.



Aug 25 - Joe Matton	Aug 28 - Ted Murphy	Sept 6 - Cash Minks	Sept 21 - Joy Plourde
Luke Rice	Aug 30 - Jim Anderson	Sept 8 - Joaquina Lawson	Sept 25 - Clara Haugen
Terry Wells	Annie Comee	Sept 15 - Robin Hanson	Georgina Wittstruck
Aug 26 - Lynn Livingston	Marcie Huser	Paul Schesso	Sept 27 - Jerry Janes
Cindy Quinn	Pastor Carol	Sept 18 - Oliver Darnell	Sept 28 - Barb Andrus
Aug 27 - Blessing Wilson	Sept 4 - Ardy Anderson	Sept 20 - Travis Runck	Sept 29 - Ronele Janes



**Saturday, September 30, 2017**

4:30 pm Pizza Dinner (cost \$3)

5:00 pm Movie (The Shack)  
followed by discussion

After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips spirals into a deep depression that causes him to question his innermost beliefs. Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to an abandoned shack in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa. Through this meeting,

Mack finds important truths that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.

Cost is \$3 for dinner (pizza provided; bring your own favorite beverage). If arriving at 5:00 pm for the movie and discussion, there is no cost.

RSVP (with payment if you're coming for pizza) at church on September 17 or 24.



## Lay Visitor Ministry

The PORT is beginning a Lay Visitor Ministry to help homebound folks, particularly those who can no longer attend worship or other activities regularly or at all here at the church, to know that the church still cares about them. Anyone in the church may participate, as long as you can travel to a location where a homebound member lives.



**Homebound  
MINISTRY**

The commitment is for one year of monthly visits with an assigned homebound member. The Congregational Care Team will review assignments each year and confirm whether current Lay Visitors and each homebound member wishes to continue.

Training will be required for new Lay Visitors, which will include topics such as "how to call and set up a visit" as well as tips for visitation (listening and communication skills).

Second Peter 1:7 in the Everyday Bible New Century Version tells us this: "To your service for God, add kindness for your brothers and sisters in Christ; and to this kindness, add love." Here is another opportunity to spread God's love.

Sign up to be a Lay Visitor on the back of your Connection Card during the month of September, or call Pat Ekstrom at (952) 884-6781 for more information

## 2017 Holiday Bazaar

Our 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holiday Bazaar is just two months away! This is the largest fundraising event for our church and its success is dependent on all of us! Now is the time to get your crafts or canning projects going or to start finding recipes for the bake sale. All of the goods we sell are 100% donated by our church family and friends.

- Are you creative or “crafty”? Consider making hand-crafted items to donate to the sale. This can be sewn, knitted or crocheted goods, painted woodcrafts for home, holiday decoration, or any other craft items. We’ve had hand-thrown pottery, fused glass, paintings, hand-made cards, floral arrangements and wreaths, children’s toys, outdoor decorations for holiday or gardens, pet toys/accessories, etc., etc.
- If you’re short on time or don’t have any ideas of what to make, consider attending one of our workshop groups that meets in our bazaar room here at church. There is a Thursday morning group that meets 9:30 am to 11:30 am and a Tuesday evening group that meets from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Projects are made assembly-line fashion and if you can handle a paint brush or a scissors, we can put you to work!



- We’re looking for canned jellies and jams and salsas!! They are all a big hit! If you can help, please do!!
- Our Silent Auction is looking for donated goods from merchants. If you have connections and can get us event tickets or admission tickets for local attractions, they would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Steve or Kathy Soucy with any questions or if you have a contact person they should reach out to.
- Another Silent Auction draw is our themed gift baskets. Consider purchasing goods to fill a gift basket around a particular theme, such as movie night, Italian dinner, coffee lovers, chocolate lovers, dogs or cats, etc. We’ll even provide the baskets, and they’ll be distributed on Sunday mornings later in September. Filled baskets need to be returned to church by the end of October, please.

Finally, we need lots of help with setting up for and working at the bazaar. Please consider working at least one shift, if not more. Our dates are Friday, November 10, from 9:00 am - 8:00 pm, and Saturday November 11, from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Set up and display will be that Wednesday and Thursday, November 8-9. Watch for more details soon!

Any questions can be directed to Lynn or Lori Livingston, Carol Cox, LaVonne Robinson for the bake sale, or Steve & Kathy Soucy for the Silent Auction. We’d greatly appreciate your prayers for another successful year. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Bits and Pieces

### Respectful Conversations

Several church pastors and Pastor Carol have been organizing a series of “Respectful Conversations” at various churches in Bloomington. A Respectful Conversation is not designed to change minds. Such a conversation is designed to soften hearts by using a guided process to discuss significant issues in a way that helps us understand each other better, even without agreeing.

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.

Those who went to the first Respectful Conversation in August said it was worthwhile. Here is a list of the remaining Respectful Conversations scheduled in this fall series, so mark your calendar and register to attend:

#### “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)



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)

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**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

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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)



# October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion	4 LABOR DAY	5 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	6 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	8	9
10 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach	11	12 6:00pm Trustees Mtg 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	13 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	14 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 LAITY SUNDAY 8:45am Education 8:45am Handbells 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	18	19 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	20 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	22	23
24 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	25	26 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	27 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	28 6:30am Men-Brkfst Grp 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	29	30 4:30 pm Pizza and Movie Night (The Shack - movie starts at 5 pm)