

THE PORTLIGHT

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

Support our Youth
at the
Fall Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser



Saturday, October 14, 2017
7:30-10:45 am

Hillcrest UMC (9100 Russell Ave S, Bloomington)

Now that we are back into the swing of things, October brings us our favorite fundraiser, the pancake breakfast! On a crisp fall morning there aren't many things better than warm buttermilk pancakes hot off the griddle with some sausage and syrup. Yum!

Please come and join us in our free will donation annual pancake breakfast. All of your financial support goes directly to the youth to support activities during the year and most importantly Ultimate Challenge camp in the summer. It's what we work and look forward to all year!

Pancake Breakfast

October 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*

You will always know what is important to me or The PORT, or just what is on my mind by reading this page of the newsletter. This month, I am going to share news and an invitation about something that is also very important to our United Methodist world-wide denomination in these times.

The 2016 General Conference called upon the Council of Bishops to guide The United Methodist Church in finding a “way forward” through the four-decade-long divide we have had on the matter of homosexuality. As a result, the Council formed a Commission on a Way Forward to assist the bishops with this task. The Commission will make its final report to the Council of Bishops in May, 2018, and the Council, in turn, will make its recommendation to a called session of the General Conference in February, 2019. I am part of the Minnesota delegation that will be attending and voting at this gathering.

This Fall (September – November), Bishop Bruce Ough will be hosting 15 regional conversations across the Dakotas-Minnesota Area regarding the Commission’s work. He is eager to (1) keep you informed about their deliberations and progress and, more significantly (2) gather your thoughts about a way forward. He is interested, among other things, to dialogue about how you see The United Methodist Church remaining united in the presence of significant cultural, regional and theological differences.

I encouraged you to pre-register for the regional gathering you would like to attend. Your pre-registration will assist the host congregations to prepare appropriate meeting space and hospitality. You can register for any regional gathering that is convenient for you. Each gathering will last approximately 2 hours.

A complete listing of all meeting dates, times and locations can be found below and on the registration site. I put in bold type the meetings closest to Bloomington, while leaving the whole list here for you to see the scope intended and reach planned for these meetings.

If you have any questions, please contact me, our Twin Cities District Superintendent (Rev. Dan Johnson 612-230-6145 or dan.johnson@minnesotaumc.org) or Sheilah Kyburz in the Area office (612-870-4007 or sheilah.kyburz@dkmnareumc.org).

- Pierre SD, First UMC (117 N Central), Sat. Sept. 23, 1-3 p.m.
- Rapid City SD, Rapid City Canyon Lake UMC (3500 Canyon Lake Dr.), Sun. Sept. 24, 2:30-4:30 p.m. (Mountain Time Zone)
- Minot ND, Vincent UMC (1024 Second St. SE), Sat. Sept. 30, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Bismarck ND, Legacy UMC (4600 Durango Dr.), Sun. Oct. 1, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- St. Cloud MN, First UMC of the St. Cloud Region in Sartell (1107 Pine Cone Rd.), Sun. Oct. 8, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- **Bloomington MN, Normandale Hylands UMC (9920 Normandale Blvd. S), Sat. Oct. 21, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**
- Sioux Falls SD, Sioux Falls Sunnycrest UMC (4801 W 41st St.), Sun. Oct. 22, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- Mitchell SD, Mitchell First UMC (310 N Rowley St.), Mon. Oct. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Mankato MN, Belgrade Avenue UMC (325 Sherman St.), Tues. Oct. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Eagan MN, Advent UMC (3945 Lexington Ave. S), Wed. Oct. 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
- Rochester MN, Evangel UMC (2645 North Broadway), Thurs. Oct. 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Watertown SD, Cornerstone UMC (1350 11th St NE), Sat. Oct. 28, 9-11 a.m.
- Fargo ND, Calvary UMC (4575 45th Street S), Sun. Oct. 29, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- Alexandria MN, Alexandria UMC (2210 6th Ave. E), Mon. Oct. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Roseville MN, Centennial UMC (1524 W County Rd. C2), Thurs. Nov. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Bishop Ough said he is more interested in hearing from laity about this than he is from clergy, so please know that he very much wants you to come to one of these conversations. There is no cost to attend. Register online at <https://mnumc-reg.brtapp.com/Bishop71>.

Looking for A Way Forward along with many others,

Pastor Carol



October 2017



Oct. 1 Rylie & Oliver
 Oct. 8 Katelyn & Jeremiah
 Oct. 15 Madolyn & Luke
 Oct. 22 Janea & Joshua
 Oct. 29 Katelyn & Oliver

Youth Group News

October 8 - 6:30 to 8:00 pm at Hillcrest UMC (9100 Russell Ave S)
 Topic: Brainstorm topic ideas for the year.

October 14 - 7:30 to 10:45 am at Hillcrest UMC (9100 Russell Ave S)
 Fall Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. Free-will donation.
 Proceeds support youth activities throughout the year
 and scholarships to Ultimate Challenge Camp.
 (Youth arrive at 7:00 am for set-up).

October Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Oct. 1	Oct. 8	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29
Coffee & Treats	Beth Cameron	Lynn Livingston and Kathy Soucy	TBD	TBD	TBD
Greeters	Merlin & Linda Gilbertson	Wayne Andersen & Sharon Beckler	Myron & Ginny Karki	Marlus Jackson	Mary Lou Johnson & Ardy Anderson
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Kathy Soucy, Linda & Dave Schesso	Steve Soucy, Terry Wells, Mike & Lori Moreland	Bruce Benson, Scott Swenson, Myron & Ginny Karki	Linda & Dave Schesso, Bob Deese, Jack Cornforth	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Myron & Ginny Karki
Welcomers	Marilyn Anderson	Carol Emdy	Claire & John Perry	Neil Anderson	Barb & Clint Andrus
Reader	Melinda Matton	Guy Moore	Ardy Anderson	Jeff Carroll	Pat Ekstrom
Sound	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Dave Smith	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury	LaVonne Robinson
Closer	Paul Richardson	Steve Knopp	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman
Communion Stewards	Dan & Tracy Baker	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; margin: 0;">Want to serve on Sunday mornings?</p> <p style="font-size: 1.1em; margin: 0;">Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p> </div>			
Communion Servers	Carol Emdy, JoAnne Volden, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt				

Spiritual Growth

New Bibles

A set of new bibles, specifically geared toward youth students, has been purchased and dedicated and is now in use by the Junior High/High School Sunday School Class.



Small Group Study This Fall

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, and the Ten Commandments. There is still room in Pastor Carol's classes here at The PORT on Wednesdays at 1pm or 6pm, starting October 11. Sign up at church on Sunday, or call 952-888-6070 x222 or email Pastor Carol at carol.zaagsma@paumc.org to register. Cost is \$12.

Mission Outreach

World Communion Sunday Offering

One of the six special United Methodist offerings will be received Sunday, October 1, for World Communion Sunday. This offering supports national and international student scholarships.

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. Steve Soucy will be signing up volunteers starting October 1.

UMCOR Disaster Relief

Thanks to many generous donors here at The PORT, we sent \$2,925 to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in September for domestic disaster recovery in the United States and its territories (which includes Puerto Rico). Every penny donated to designated projects such as this go directly to the areas affected; none goes for administrative support (donations for administrative support are received through the special UMCOR Sunday offering in the Spring). Of course, those projects most immediately addressed are areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

There is still time to donate to UMCOR's relief efforts. The goal for domestic disaster relief has now been met, so we're going to designate all of our UMCOR donations received in October for international disaster relief, which will aid areas such as Sierra Leone as they

recover from massive mudslides; East Africa as they experience prolonged drought; the Caribbean Islands as they recover from Hurricane Irma; and Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico, as they recover from a powerful earthquake in September that damaged homes, hospitals and infrastructure. There is much greater ground to cover in international disaster recovery, so let's continue to support UMCOR with our donations this month to help beyond our borders.

Holiday Giving Program

It is already that time of year when Walker Methodist Health Center is starting to plan their annual Give a Little Gift Program. Every resident will receive a 9x8x5 Christmas bag containing uniform donations of candy, socks, pocket size Kleenex, and a \$3.00 coupon from the Walker Auxiliary for Marge's Gift Shop. To that, Walker staff will add other donations appropriate to the needs of the individual resident.

Help us collect new, unwrapped items to fill these bags. October 8, 15, and 22 a box in the narthex area will accept your donations. Suggested items include: chocolates, ChapStick, DVD or CDs, sugar free candy, cookies and crackers, gloves and scarves, socks, pocket Kleenex, small stuffed animals, slippers, jewelry.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Walker Methodist Auxiliary and the Walker Methodist Health Center.

~Mary Nelson

We celebrate YOU during OCTOBER

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



03 - Lynn Furda	16 - Emilia Runck	19 - Jakob Rasmussen	26 - Marlus Jackson
07 - Tim Hagerty	Steve Soucy	20 - Joanne Sanftner	27 - Samantha Hanson
10 - Peggy Bacheller	17 - Janea Medzagoh	24 - Jerry Solheim	31 - Barb Wittstruck
11 - Jeff Avery	18 - Fran Carpenter	Gloria Wilson-Bahun	
Ginny Karki			

Thursday Morning Men's Breakfast

After many years of meeting early Thursday mornings, the Men's Breakfast Group has decided to come to an end. I want to offer a word of great thanks to Joell Anderson for coordinating this group. He mentioned that this all began when Joell and many others involved in the group were working. They would meet Thursday mornings for a brief devotional, toast & coffee, and fellowship, and then go on their way to work. The amazing thing is that Joell retired 27 years ago... meaning this group has been getting together for many decades! As membership in the group declined over those decades, there aren't enough participants to continue meeting. Thank you to Joell for his dedication and devotion in leading this ministry over the years. "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matt 25:23)

~Pastor Carol

Coffee Fellowship

The tradition of offering coffee and treats on Sunday mornings is well underway with this program year. We're planning the schedule now thru the end of this year. A sign up sheet is in the Wesley Room.

If you feel like you would like to sign up for some Sunday but couldn't "go it alone," invite 1-2 friends to partner with you - twice the fun, half the work. Homemade or store-bought goodies are graciously received—whatever you can offer will be a treat for all before worship. Set up by 9:30am, and then stay a little after church to clean up around 11:10am.



Thank you to all who support this ministry of gracious hospitality by hosting on a Sunday.

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 starts with a dinner, so pre-registration is required on the MN Council of Churches website at 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 to participate. The host church provides the meal.

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

"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)

Trustees

Door Repair

After answering an alarm call at 4:00am and discovering the exterior glass doors near the sanctuary had not been completely closed the night before, Steve Knopp worked one afternoon to clean the latches and oil the moving parts so that the doors would close more securely. Thank you, Steve, for checking out the building in the middle of the night and then working to improve the function of our exterior doors!

Office Window Air Conditioner

One morning Pastor Carol discovered that a critter of some sort had been busy the night before, pulling apart the foam insulation between the window air conditioning unit and the wall of the church office.

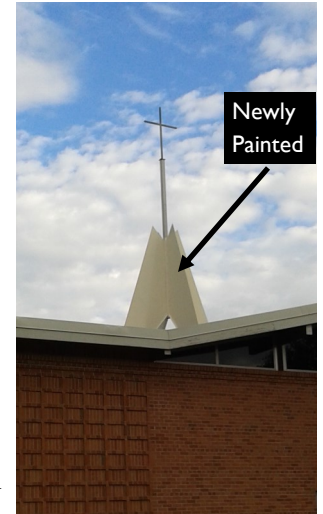


Thank you to Tom Wellman for answering the call immediately to come and resolve this problem. He removed the foam on the left side, and the pot holders on the right that had been used to plug the gap between the wall and the air conditioner, and installed a wood panel on the inside and metal strips on the outside to seal it. Hopefully this will deter any unwanted pests from entering the building as temperatures get colder outside.



Spire Painting

On the hottest day of the Fall, Don Anderson and Floyd Ekstrom climbed up on the roof of the sanctuary to prep the spire for painting. They scraped the peeling paint off and primed it with a rust-inhibiting primer, and let that cure for a couple of weeks.



Then they returned on a much more comfortable Fall day, cleaned the spire to finish the preparation, and painted it anew. Take a look up toward the sky the next time you come to church. You'll surely notice the difference!



Coat Rack Overhaul

Paul Richardson is working on constructing a Welcome Desk, using wood from broken pews so it fits into the décor of our narthex. Part of the project involved dismantling the storage closet outside the sacristy in order to utilize some of those wood panels, too. After removing the closet, the free-standing coat racks were moved further north to create a more open coat storage area.



43 Years and Going Strong! November 10 & 11, 2017

The Holiday Bazaar is our single largest church fundraiser of the year and a tradition that reaches out to all of the families involved at The PORT as well as hundreds of people in our community.

As the countdown continues to this year's Bazaar, following are ways everyone here at The PORT can jump in to be a part of this great event:

- **Pray** gratitude for those who are already baking, creating, canning, sewing, and constructing products to be sold; pray encouragement for the Bazaar Committee leaders; and pray that God's Spirit will be felt by all who will volunteer and come to The PORT for the Bazaar.
- **Participate** in our "world famous" Bake Sale. Over the years we have acquired quite a following of folks who come just to buy our pies, cookies and canned goods. Consider baking and sharing one of your family's favorites with us. Or are you a canner? People love jams, jellies, salsas and sauces, and dare we say pickles? They make great gifts as well as additions to holiday gatherings. Please drop off canned bake sale donations on Thursday or Friday, Nov. 9 – 10.
- **Donate** products to sell at the Bazaar. We only sell newly-handmade holiday décor and gifts, needlework and wood products. These items are always popular, but please remember that they must be handmade. We do not sell pre-made or purchased retail products at the Bazaar. Think about what talent or hobby you could put to work for the church. Please plan to bring at least one sample item by Monday, Nov. 6 at 6:30pm for preview by the pricing committee. Include cost of the materials and a suggested selling price, as well as the quantity to be donated.
- **Assemble** a Silent Auction Basket. This is where you could donate a collector's item in mint condition, a service from your business, a gift card from a favorite restaurant or retailer, or a gift basket filled with **newly-purchased** items that relate to a theme (like all things chocolate, spa, hobby, theme party, or all about a particular sport. Be creative!). Who do you like to do business with? Ask them if they would like to contribute to the Silent Auction. Baskets are now

available for you to take, fill up, and return by October 29. Please no later, as they must be numbered and wrapped for presentation at the auction.

- **Volunteer** to help with pricing or set-up during the week of the Bazaar. We will need help during the day setting up tables and putting out product. Then consider working at the event itself! We promise you will have a great time and will feel good helping the church. A sign-up sheet will be available in the coming weeks.

If you have questions or ideas you want to talk about, please contact the following:

Lynn, Lori or Donna Livingston – Bazaar Coordinators. They can also answer questions about the Tuesday evening Bazaar Workshop.

Carol Cox – Coordinator of the Thursday morning Bazaar Workshop Group.

LaVonne Robinson and Betty Belk – Coordinators of the Bake Sale.

Steve and Kathy Soucy – Coordinators of the Silent Auction and Gift Baskets.

Timeline:

October 29- Bring Silent Auction and Gift Basket Donations to church.

November 6, 7- Pricing sale items from 6:30-8:30pm. Anyone interested in helping with this big project is welcome.

November 8- Set-up from 12-8pm.

November 9- Bring perishable food donations between 10am – 6pm; or volunteer to display and set out items during that same timeframe.

November 10 & 11- Bring your neighbors and friends to the Bazaar on Friday from 9am – 8pm, or Saturday from 9am – 3pm.

November 12- Cleanup Fellowship Hall from 11:30am until done.



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

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org
PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org
www.facebook.com/pages/Portland-Avenue-United-Methodist-Church/109195009206962



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45 am Education 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship/ Communion	2	3 6:30 pm Bazaar Workshop	4 6:15 pm SonRise Rehl 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 9:30 am Bazaar Workshop	6	7
8 8:45 am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45 am Education 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship	9 7:00 pm Hagerty Small Group	10 6:30 pm Bazaar Workshop 7:00 pm Smith Small Group	11 1:00 pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:00 pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:15 pm SonRise Rehl 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 9:30 am Bazaar Workshop	13	14 7:30-10:45 am Pan- cake Breakfast (9100 Russell Ave S) 9:00-11:00 am Feed My Starving Chil- dren (990 Lone Oak Rd, Eagan)
15 8:45 am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45 am Education 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship	16 7:00 pm Hagerty Small Group	17 6:30 pm Bazaar Workshop 7:00 pm Smith Small Group	18 1:00 pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:00 pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:15 pm SonRise Rehl 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 9:30 am Bazaar Workshop	20	21
22 8:45 am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45 am Education 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship	23 7:00 pm Hagerty Small Group	24 6:30 pm Bazaar Workshop 7:00 pm Smith Small Group	25 1:00 pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:00 pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:15 pm SonRise Rehl 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	26 9:30 am Bazaar Workshop 7:00 pm Church Council	27	28
29 8:45 am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45 am Education 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship	30 6:30 pm Bazaar Work- shop (rescheduled from Tuesday) 7:00 pm Hagerty Small Group	31 6:30 pm NO Bazaar Workshop 7:00 pm Smith Small Group				