

THE PORTLIGHT

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



BINGO & Fellowship

Saturday, January 13 @ 2:00 pm

Come and play BINGO on Saturday, January 13, at 2:00 pm. The Congregational Care Team is hosting this event. There will be prizes! You are encouraged to bring a snack to share, your favorite beverage to drink, and to bring a friend who doesn't regularly come to The PORT.

January 2018

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*

Have you ever wanted to read the Bible in its entirety? While there are certainly some difficult passages and sections of the Bible that seem rather monotonous, it is a significant accomplishment to read the Bible all the way through, and I think everyone should do this at least once in their lifetime.



I'll confess that while I might encourage you to begin such a challenge as each new year approaches, I do not always complete the task myself every year. But in the years that I did finish a Bible-reading plan, I ended the year with a renewed love for the stories found there, and I might even describe the feeling as if I had regained an old friend.

I think 2018 is the year for me to once again read the entire Bible. Maybe you're feeling like trying the challenge as well. I've printed three different Bible-reading plans, all available for you in the narthex. One of the plans has you reading a little bit from the Old and New Testaments each day (this is the one I plan to try). Another divides the readings by genre (this has been my favorite plan in the past). The last will have you read through the New Testament within the year, giving you a couple days each week for reflection.

One of the best ways to stick with any Bible-reading plan is to offer encouragement to one another. So if you decide to give this a try, be sure to tell me, and I'll ask you from time to time how it's going. I invite you also to check in with me to see how it's going.

If you're not going to be at church December 31 but want to begin reading on January 1, let me know what plan you'd like to try and I will mail or email a copy of it to you. Our mission is to grow followers of Jesus who change the world, and one way to grow as a follower of Jesus is to engage in disciplined study, so I do hope you'll consider joining me in reading through the Bible this year.

Growing in my faith along with you,

Pastor Carol

All Church Conference

Our annual All Church Conference will be held Sunday, January 28, 2018, beginning at 11:15 am. A light lunch will be provided (free-will offering appreciated). At this meeting, 2017 year end reports and the 2018 budget will be presented for discussion and adoption. All are encouraged to attend as a way to be informed about the current and future health of The PORT.

Faith in the Family

New Year's Eve Tradition

On occasion, I will offer a summary of a faith practice you may wish to try at home with your family. This suggestion, designed for school ages and older, comes from Traci Smith as found in her book *Seamless Faith: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life*.

- 1) In January, place a large box or basket in a prominent location in the house. Label with the year on it.
- 2) Throughout the year, put significant items in the basket, such as ticket stubs, programs, church bulletins from important holidays, photo of a special day, etc. You may also use scraps of paper to write down or draw pictures of important memories as they happen during the year.

- 3) On New Year's Eve, take turns pulling items out of the basket and reflect upon where God was present in that particular day.
- 4) Concluded your New Year's Eve remembrance by holding hands and saying, "Thank you, God, for the many ways you were with us last year, in good times and in difficult ones. We are thankful for the many blessings of this year. Amen."

Note: It might be tempting to put only happy memories in the box, but consider also adding memories of more challenging times as well (evidence of hospital stays, bulletins from the death of a loved one, etc.). God is with us in good and difficult times, and it is valuable to remember both the good and the challenging times.

January 2018



Jan 7 Madolyn & Olivia
 Jan 14 Luke & Becca
 Jan 21 Joshua & Oliver
 Jan 28 Rylie & Katelyn

Youth Group News

This fall, Melissa Kuyper announced that this will be her last year as the youth leader of our joint youth program with Hillcrest UMC, effective after Ultimate Challenge Camp this summer. We give thanks for Melissa's faithful leadership since 2011, and we will miss her. And yet transitions such as this give a natural opportunity to reevaluate the needs and goals of a ministry, so **I invite all interested parents and youth to attend a conversation on Sunday, January 21, after worship.** We'll begin gathering feedback on what's been working well and what new ideas we might like to try so that we can develop a plan with which to move forward.

~Pastor Carol

January Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28
Coffee & Treats	The Erstads	Linda Schesso	Mary Nelson, Helen Witt	Marilyn Anderson
Greeters	Jeff & Denise Carroll	Laurette & Jacob Lawson	Bob & Barbara Deese	Verne & Helen Witt
Ushers	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Guy Moore, Scott Swenson, Linda Schesso, Pat Ekstrom	Bruce Benson, Bob Deese, Terry Wells, Jack Cornforth	Bruce Benson, Scott Swenson, Myron & Ginny Karki
Welcomers	Kathy Swenson	Helen Witt	Jeff Chamberlain	Marilyn Anderson
Reader	Bob Deese	Joel Sponsel	Mary Nelson	Gregory Christensen
Sound	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Megan Mahre
Media	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury
Closer	Jeff Carroll	Tom Wellman	Paul Richardson	Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	Darlene Wicks, Linda Schesso	<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	Jim & Marilyn Anderson, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			

Spiritual Growth

2017 Children's Christmas Program

This year the children presented "Footprints to the Manger" on Sunday, December 24 during worship at 10:00 am. The presentation incorporated scripture verses, some favorite Christmas Carols, and how some footprints in a recent snowfall led three friends closer and closer to the manger, where they found Jesus. Enjoy these pictures from the program.



Operation Christmas Child Recap



Many thanks to those who donated shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We delivered 36 shoeboxes filled with gifts to be distributed around the world. Evelyn's Girl Scout Troop even spent some of their cookie sale money to fill three shoeboxes to donate through The PORT.



Human Relations Day - January 14

The Social Principles of The United Methodist Church invite us to step out of our comfort zones and take care of the world we live in, just as Jesus cared for it.

The Human Relations Day special offering strengthens community outreach through programs like one in Central Russia that provides interactive training experiences for at-risk youth so that they can respond to social challenges such as drug trafficking and abuse, alcoholism, domestic violence and human trafficking.

A special offering envelope will be provided in your bulletin Sunday, January 14.

Campbell's Soup Label Program Ends

The Label's For Education program supported by Campbell's Soup, Swanson, Pepperidge Farm and other food companies has now ended. We have been collecting these labels for some time, and recently mailed off our last package to Red Bird United Methodist Mission in Kentucky for them to redeem the points that have accrued.



Our Labels For Education donation included 54 labels worth 5 points each, as well as 216 labels worth 1 point each, for a total of 486 points!

We continue to participate in other collection programs, including Box Tops (which we give to Valley View Elementary School), pop can tabs (which benefit Ronald McDonald House), cancelled postage stamps which helps "Tubfrim" based in Nesbyen, Norway, and empty pill bottles to be sent to medical clinics in developing countries.

We also have a recycling agreement for inkjet cartridges and small electronics (cell phones, tablets, laptops, mp3 players, digital cameras and GPS devices), which is a fundraiser for The PORT.

Please drop off donations in the designated containers near the welcome table in the north narthex (by the Sanctuary). Together we can make a big difference in the world both near and far.

Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during JANUARY

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



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|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 - Kumba Sheriff | 06 - Marilyn Anderson | 12 - Chaz Brobst | 24 - Peter Anderson |
| 02 - Don Anderson | Donna Livingston | Inge Lystad | 25 - Dale Miller |
| Kathy Soucy | 08 - Megan Mahre | 14 - Carol Cox | 26 - Gregory Christensen |
| 03 - Viola Mitchell | 09 - Mason Smith | Nancy Stinson | 27 - Daniel Wilson |
| 04 - Larry Seldon | 10 - Jael Medzagoh | 15 - Merlin Gilbertson | 28 - Traci Darnell |
| 05 - Jeanne Hansen | Olivia Smith | 19 - Neil Livingston | 31 - Linda Dicks |
| Emma Mahre | 11- Rod Bacheller | 22 - Alisa Smith | |

From the Mailbox

Thank You from Valley View Elementary School

Editor's Note: Some handcrafted hats, scarves and mittens remained after this year's Holiday Bazaar, so instead of taking them back home, the donor decided to give them to Valley View Elementary School for kids who might need them. Here is a thank you note from the school:



Dear Pastor Zaagsma,

On behalf of Valley View Staff and Students, we thank you for the warm, knitted gifts of hats and mittens. We know there are many places in need, so we are grateful that you chose us.

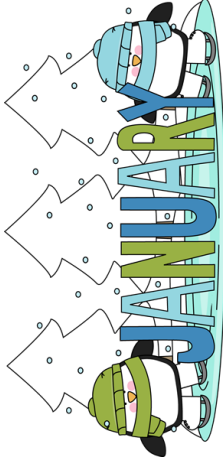
Warm regards,
Melissa Burns
Secretary

Thank You from the PAUMC Staff

A heartfelt thank you to the congregation for the cards and generous Christmas gifts to us this year. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

With gratitude,
Britt, Dale, Paul, Peggy, and Pastor Carol





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day	2	3 6:15pm Sonrise Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6
7 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:00am Confirmation	8	9 6:00pm Trustees	10 6:15pm Sonrise Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13 2:00pm Bingo
14 Human Relations Day 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach	15 Martin Luther King Jr Day Newsletter deadline	16	17 6:15pm Sonrise Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Meeting about Youth Group	22	23	24 6:15pm Sonrise Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	25	26	27
28 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am All Church Conference	29	30 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	31 6:15pm Sonrise Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			

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

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