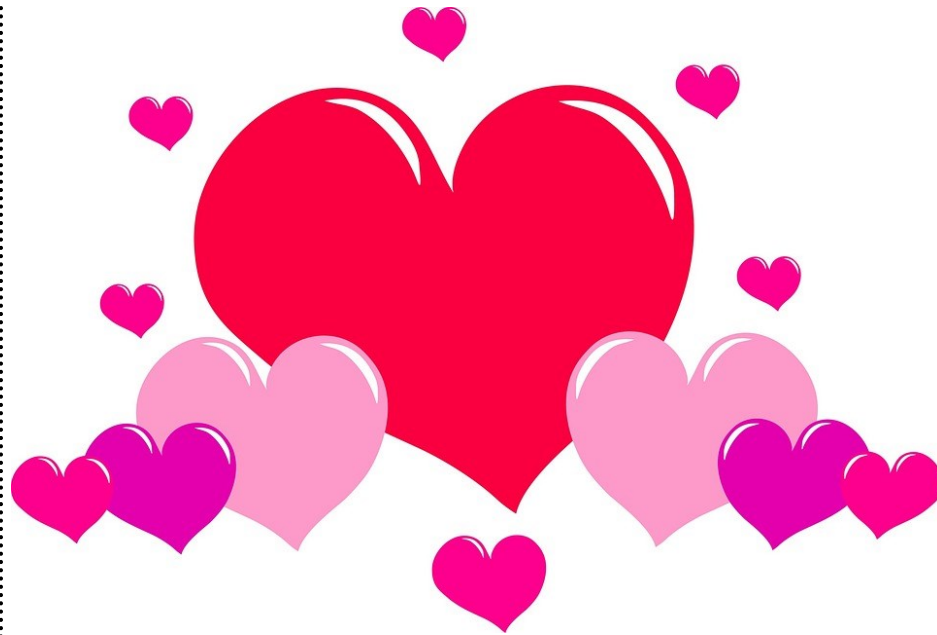


# THE PORTLIGHT

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



## You're Invited!

Please plan to attend the Adult Fellowship Valentine Brunch on Sunday, February 18.

Take your spouse, significant other, or yourself for a time of fellowship and good food right after church on the 18th (it'll probably be 11:30 or so by the time we all arrive). The Yorke Room is located at 7500 York Ave S in Edina.

Prices will be \$15 each for adults and \$5 for children (10 and under). Betty Belk will be taking reservations with payment in the Narthex starting Sunday, January 21. For further questions, contact Joell Anderson (952) 881-5510.

Adult Fellowship Brunch

February 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.

## BETTER THAN BREAKFAST WITH MOM

Two years ago, the United Methodist Church in Gilbert faced a tough future. Average worship attendance had declined to 11 people. They could only afford 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a pastor's time. And there was a real question about how much longer the church would remain open. Instead of giving up or cutting back on expenses even more, they chose to go all in. They made a commitment to seek a half-time pastor and to learn how to reach their community together. They were going to grow or die trying.



Two years later, after two different pastors and many attempts to reach the community, average worship attendance at Gilbert UMC has nearly doubled to 19. There is an active children's ministry and the church has a new reputation in town. As one city official commented, "I don't know what it is with your church. You are always doing something *for* the community. Other churches just want the community to help them." Talk to Pastor Mary Lou Sixberry, and she can share with you all the ways the church has sought to bless the Gilbert community. But it takes more than just a willingness to invest and a host of new outreach activities to change the future of a church. It also takes a change of perspective.



*The children of Gilbert UMC had an active part in decorating for this Christmas. Photos by Pastor Mary Lou Sixberry.*

Four young sisters from the neighborhood came to a picnic on the church lawn, and they asked about activities for children at the church. (At the time, there were no children's activities at the church.) The church responded by redeveloping a children's ministry and welcoming these children into the life of the church. The girls' mother allowed her children to come, but had no interest in participating in church herself. In fact, she sometimes actively discouraged the youngest from attending by offering to take her out for breakfast if she stayed home and didn't go to church with her sisters.

Here is where the change of perspective came in. The church leaders *didn't* complain about how parents these days don't support the church like they did in the good old days. Instead they realized that they needed a new perspective. It wasn't good enough to simply have activities for children. They had to connect with those children in such a deep way that the kids would choose to come to the church no matter how great the pull elsewhere. As one person said, "We learned we have to be better than breakfast with mom."

Even a church that has grown to 19 can't offer the kind of glitzy programs and activities that would compete with what others might offer. But it can offer relationships and purpose as followers of Christ. And these can be "better than breakfast with mom." The Gilbert church immediately sought ways to involve the children in the life of whole church. They hand out worship bulletins, light the candles, even go to the nursing home to minister there. And all the while they are surrounded by members of the church who go out of their way to love them and build relationships with them. Pastor Sixberry says, "It's like they moved into a church with a bunch of grandparents."

This year, on Christmas Eve, the girls were not the only ones in church. Mom joined them. And a whole bunch of "grandparents" rejoiced.



*Mark Miller is superintendent for the Minnesota Annual Conference's North Star District.*

February 2018



Feb 4 Madolyn & Joshua  
 Feb 11 Becca & Oliver  
 Feb 18 Olivia & Luke  
 Feb 25 Janea & Jeremiah

## Youth Group News

February 11 - 6:30 to 8:00 pm @Hillcrest UMC (9100 Russell Ave S)  
 Topic: Books of the Bible

February 24 - 1:00 to 4:00 pm @Mercy Vineyard Church (752 Harding St NE, Minneapolis MN 55413)

Ultimate Challenge Camp Reunion: There is no cost for the event we just want kids to come to re-connect, play games and have fun! There will be a flier with more information that will come closer to as well. If you have questions please don't hesitate to let me know.

~Melissa Kuyper

## February Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
Coffee & Treats	Carol Cox	Lynn Furda, Pat Ekstrom	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Ted & Mary Murphy	Linda Schesso, LaVonne Robinson	Jeff Chamberlain, Lynn Furda	Jocelyne & Josia Medzagoh
Ushers	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Linda Schesso, Beth Cameron	Bruce Benson, Terry Wells, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Pat Ekstrom, Jocelyne Medzagoh	Bruce Benson, Scott Swenson, Terry Wells, Beth Cameron
Welcomers	Carol Emdy	Claire & John Perry	Neil Anderson	Barb & Clint Andrus
Reader	Steve Soucy	Guy Moore	Jeff Carroll	Pat Ekstrom
Sound	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith	Nathan Peine
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury
Closer	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Wayne Andersen	Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	Sharon Beckler, Wayne Andersen	<p><b>Want to serve on Sunday mornings?</b>                      Let the office know and we'll put you in touch                      with the appropriate coordinator</p>		
Communion Servers	Laurette Lawson, Jocelyne Medzagoh Verne Witt Mary Nelson			



# Spiritual Growth

## AN ADVENT OF GRATITUDE



Throughout Advent, our Sunday School classes focused on gratitude. For 24 days, they recognized a daily blessing and talked with their families about things they often take for granted, for example, riding in a car, or having more than two days' worth of food in their kitchen pantry. For each blessing, they were encouraged to place some money in a jar for Heifer International. Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth. They are known for their donations of live animals to families in developing countries, thereby giving them a means to feed their family through the ongoing production of eggs from chickens, or milk from goats, or wool harvested from sheep.

After Advent and the Christmas break, the jars were collected and the donations totaled nearly \$600! The Sunday School students then talked about what kinds of animals they might like to donate through their collection (see picture to the right), and they decided on the following: a water buffalo \$250, a pig \$120, chicks \$20, sheep \$120, rabbits \$60, and bees \$30. They would really like to get ducks \$20 and a goat \$120 so their order will include every kind of animal the kids voted on. They need just \$140 more to get their complete order. If you'd like to chip in a few dollars to help the kids with the remaining animals on their wish list, please see Janene Haugen or Traci Darnell.



## SMALL GROUPS DURING LENT

This year Pastor Carol encourages everyone from church to sign up for a small group as we study Mike Slaughter's book *The Passionate Church*. This is a four-week study where Slaughter tells the story of how a struggling church found its identity through mission and action, and how any church can be the hands and feet of Christ. Cost is \$12 (Kindle book is \$9.99). Sign up for one of the following classes on the back of your Connection Card or by calling the church office:

- Mondays (Feb 12, Mar 5, 12, 19) 7 pm @ Hagerty's. This class is full.
- Tuesdays (Feb 27, Mar 6, 13, 20) 7 pm @ Smith's. This class has 2-4 openings.
- Wednesdays (Feb 28, Mar 7, 14, 21) 1 pm @ PAUMC. This class has unlimited openings.
- Wednesdays (Feb 28, Mar 7, 14, 21) 7 pm @ PAUMC. This class has unlimited openings.

Note: Pastor Carol will also lead a Tuesday afternoon or Thursday evening class if enough people request it.

## LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

**Ash Wednesday - February 14 at 6:30 pm**  
(sloppy joe dinner with free-will offering from 5-6pm)  
United Methodist Church of Peace  
6345 Xerxes Ave S, Richfield  
(Imposition of ashes on your forehead or hand)

**Maundy Thursday - March 29 at 7:00 pm**  
Portland Avenue United Methodist Church  
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington  
(Communion will be served)

**Good Friday - March 30 at 1:00 pm**  
United Methodist Church of Peace  
6345 Xerxes Ave S, Richfield  
(Short service with readings and scripture)

**Good Friday - March 30 at 7:00 pm**  
Hillcrest United Methodist Church  
9100 Russell Ave S, Bloomington  
(Tenebrae service of increasing darkness)

## VEAP DONATION DRIVE

March is MN Foodshare Month, and we've discovered that paper products such as toilet paper and diapers are very popular items at the VEAP food shelf. VEAP has a tremendous track record of stretching donation dollars to purchase large quantities of healthy food (much better prices through their suppliers than through our local grocery stores where we pay retail prices).

This fact, along with the awareness that people cannot use their SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) budget to purchase personal care items such as diapers and toilet paper, has led the Mission Outreach Team to encourage our congregation to collect paper products and financial contributions during the MN Foodshare Month drive. The official drive begins next month, so please begin thinking ahead about how you might like to participate.



## Congregational Care

### We celebrate YOU during FEBRUARY

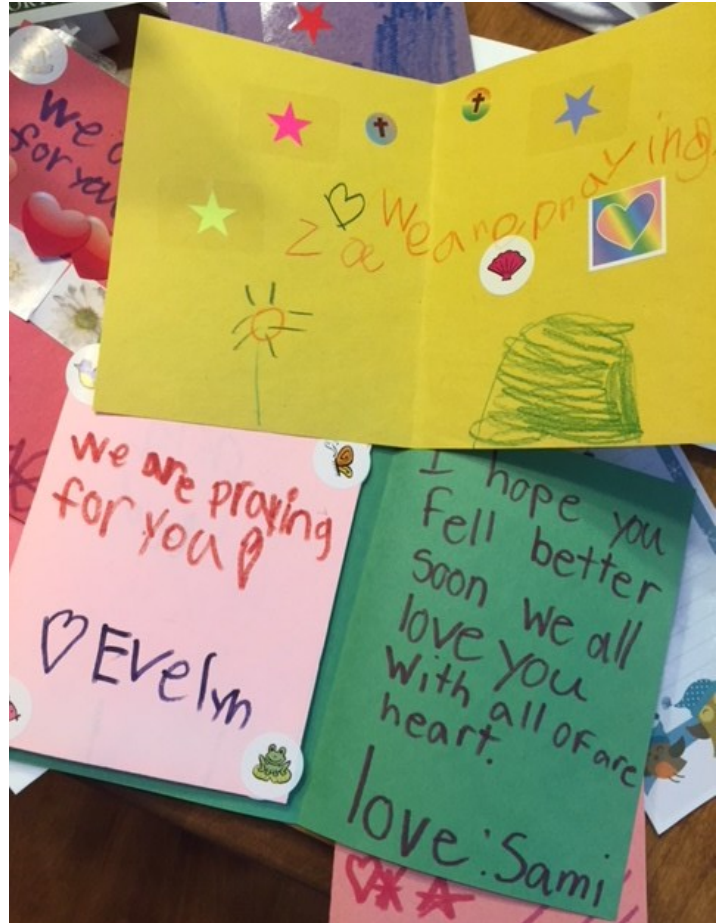
If you have a birthday during the month of February but your name isn't on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year.

- 05 - Trenton Olson
- 08 - Julie Johnson  
JoAnne Volden
- 09 - Audrey Bartels
- 10 - Samantha Bump
- 14 - Kathleen Cameron
- 19 - James Stinson
- 21 - Kay Livingston
- 28 - George Dalin



### GET WELL CARDS

Our Sunday School students have been busy crafting get well cards to send to congregation members who have been on our prayer list due to illness. Thank you to the Sunday School Teachers for working with our kids to teach them compassion; and thank you to the kids for making such cute cards to brighten the day of someone who hasn't been feeling their best.



### VEAP/FLOWER CHART

The 2018 VEAP/Flower Chart is posted on a bulletin board just outside the sanctuary. Thank you to Verne Witt for creating such a beautiful chart.

If you'd like to recognize an anniversary or birthday or another special day, make note of it on the chart. As the time arrives, you may place your payment, payable to PAUMC, in the offering plates with a note in the memo line indicating what it is for (i.e. VEAP food basket or flowers). Prices are \$15 for a VEAP food basket (100% of which is donated to VEAP food shelf) or \$17.50 for flowers (which are yours to take home after worship). If you'd like a plant instead of flowers, we encourage you to purchase one and bring it that day for the altar, so that you will have a plant to take home that you want.



# Congregational Care

## BINGO

Many thanks to the Congregational Care Team for hosting a fun afternoon of BINGO on Saturday, January 13. We played a variety of BINGO patterns and each winner selected a fun prize from an assortment items, including household items, puzzle books, theater box candy, socks and office supplies.





## THANK YOU

Thank you from the family of Larry Seldon. Your show of love and support through this difficult time has been so very appreciated. He will be missed by all.  
~Vicki Fischer and Family

Jennie, Lorianne, Linda and I spent a delightful afternoon yesterday playing BINGO at our church event!! Thank-you so much for making it possible for each of us to take home prizes... Your generosity and thoughtfulness was very much appreciated... I feel fortunate to have special friends in the congregation and a very caring, kind Pastor at The Port...



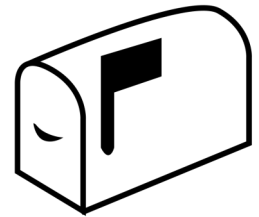
~Heather Anderson

## Address Updates

Chaz Brobst  
1317 5th St NE #309  
Jamestown, ND 58401

Neil and Kay Livingston  
York Gardens  
3451 Parklawn Ave #316  
Edina, MN 55435  
*(Delete Landline)*  
Neil's Cell Phone—952-835-8961  
Kay's Cell Phone—952-991-0254

Mary Rathbun  
Community Assisted Living  
13628 Pilot Knob Rd  
Apple Valley, MN 55124



## Trustees

### BOILER HICCUP

As we arrived to set up for worship on Sunday, December 31, we were surprised with a sanctuary that was chilly – the thermostat said 55 degrees...brrrr! Many thanks to our Trustees, who through their quick thinking, realized the boiler was low on water, triggering its safety feature of turning itself off. They restored the tank to its proper level of water, and by halfway through worship, we began feeling the warmth fill the sanctuary again.



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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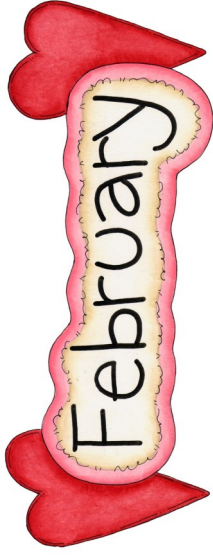
**Staff**

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) [carol.zaagsma@paumc.org](mailto:carol.zaagsma@paumc.org) (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)  
Britt Halaas (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)





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee/Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Confirmation	5	6	7 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10
11 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee/Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care	12 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group	13	14 Valentines Day/Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship @Church of Peace	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17
18 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee/Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:30 am Valentine Brunch @7500 York Ave S	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24
25 8:45am Handbells 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee/Fellowship 10:00am Worship	26	27 7:00pm Smith's Small Group	28 1:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group			