

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



## 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Potluck

**WHEN**—Sunday, March 18, 2018

**WHERE**—The PORT

**TIME**—11:00 am

Break out that tater tot hotdish recipe and get ready! We are having a potluck to celebrate our church turning 64! It will be held after worship on March 18!

Please bring a main dish or salad. The Congregational Care Team will provide the beverages and dessert.

March 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

Amid the sea of green clothing, shamrock shakes, dyed rivers, and festive parades, we don't often hear stories of the Saint behind the holiday we recognize on March 17, so I thought I'd offer you a little information this month about Patrick, the Apostle to Ireland.

We celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17 because that is the day he died, in the year 461. But did you know that he wasn't even Irish? Patrick grew up along the western coast of Roman Britain. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish raiders, stolen from his home, and taken to Ireland as a slave. There he was sold to a local king, who had him herd livestock on the remote mountains in the north. Valued about as much as the animals he tended, Patrick later wrote, "I was chastened exceedingly and humbled every day in hunger and nakedness."

Despite the challenging circumstances, Patrick remembered who he was and where he came from, and he clung fast to his faith as a Christian. As he tended the flocks, he kept reciting the prayers he learned as a child, all while dreaming of his escape.

Eventually, after six years of captivity, an opportunity arose, and he took it - taking a risky journey two hundred miles to the sea, where he found a place on a boat sailing back home.

His family thought he had died. Once back home, he was no longer a teenager, but now a young man who had endured a terrible ordeal, and grown much deeper in his faith. Through his faith, he was convinced that

both his sufferings and his deliverance had been ordained for some divine purpose.

Later he studied for the priesthood, during which time he had a series of dreams in which Irish voices, the voices of those responsible for his captivity, cried out to him, "We beseech thee to come and walk once more among us." At first his superiors resisted the idea of his return to Ireland, as it would be a very dangerous mission. But once Patrick was consecrated bishop, he did return to the island he had escaped before, and was there from the year 432 until his death.

I think it's amazing to see the role of reconciliation in his life and through his ministry. Not only did he forgive, but he returned to teach his oppressors the message of the Gospel. He personally baptized tens of thousands of people and ordained hundreds of new priests to help spread the faith. As Robert Ellsberg writes in *All Saints: Daily Reflections on Saints, Prophets, and Witnesses for Our Time*, "it should be remembered that St. Patrick was himself the victim of Irish injustice before he ever became the symbol of Irish pride."

Perhaps in addition to celebrating with green clothing, shamrock shakes, dyed rivers and festive parades, this year we might work a little harder to honor St. Patrick by also working toward reconciliation, forgiveness, and justice so needed in our world today.

Pastor Carol



## Youth Fundraiser



Start planning your flower and vegetable gardens, and patio pots for your doorstep and deck - the Spring Plant Sale is just around the corner!

Many annuals, perennials, and vegetables, along with patio pots are available from Pahl's Garden Center. Order forms will be available soon in the narthex, or call the church office to have one sent to you. Order forms with payment are due Sunday, April 22, 2018.

This is a fundraiser for youth group expenses and scholarships for Ultimate Challenge Camp this summer, so please support their efforts through your purchases and/or donations.

Plants will be available for pickup Saturday, May 12, at 11:00 am.

March 2018



Mar 4 Katelyn & Rylie  
 Mar 11 Olivia & Madolyn  
 Mar 18 Becca & Jeremiah  
 Mar 25 Joshua & Oliver

## Youth Group News

March 10—Feed My Starving Children from 2:00pm - 4:00pm.  
 (990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121)  
 23 open slots, so enough room to bring a friend

March 24-25—Spring Lock-in @Hillcrest UMC.  
 (9100 Russell Ave S, Bloomington) Youth Room entrance.  
 Arrive at 8:00pm. Games, movies, snacks, etc.

## MARCH Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25
Coffee & Treats	Laurette Lawson, Jocelyne Medzagoh	Volunteer Needed	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Mark & Darlene Wicks	Robin & Matthew Hanson	James & JoAnn Louisiana	Dan & Alisa Smith
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Scott Swenson, Terry Wells, Beth Cameron	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Terry Wells, Pat Ekstrom	Bruce Benson, Gregory Christensen, Jack Cornforth, Bob Deese
Welcomers	Barb & Bob Deese	Paul Richardson	Lynn Livingston	Ginny Karki
Reader	Tim Hagerty	Joel Sponsel	Gregory Christensen	Nathan Peine
Sound	Dave Smith	Megan Mahre	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus
Nursery	Mary Lou Johnson	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lousbury
Closer	Harvey Erstad	Floyd Ekstrom	Jeff Carroll	Paul Richardson
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	Carol Emdy, JoAnne Volden, Mary Nelson, Verne Witt			

# Spiritual Growth

## Palm Sunday Cantata



Psalm 30:4

On Sunday, March 25 (Palm Sunday) the Portland Avenue UMC Sanctuary Choir and the Sanctuary Choir of UMC Church of Peace of Richfield will present the cantata "Praise the God of Resurrection" at 3:30 PM at The Port.

This is a beautiful cantata with works by four of today's best church music arrangers and composers: Mark Hayes, Joseph Martin, Lloyd Larson and Ruth Elaine Shram. You have heard many of their works in the repertoire of our SonRise and Sanctuary choirs. The cantata sings of Jesus life and of the events of Holy week and Easter. It is a lovely collection of melodies with several different atmospheres and messages.

We will be accompanied by a small orchestra, led by our wonderful pianist Dale Miller. Linda Dicks will be the reader. The cantata will be co-directed by Christopher Jackson of UMCOP and Peggy Larson of The Port.

Please come to the performance of this fine work, enthusiastically sung by the two choirs of UMCOP and The Port. We so enjoy collaborating and bringing together our joy of making music into one event. Please support us and bring your friends!! Coffee and bars will be served after the cantata.

Don't forget! 3:30, March 25 at The Port!! It will be a joyous event!

PS - volunteers are needed for serving the bars and coffee. Please let us know if you can help.

~Peggy Larson

## CAMP MINNESOTA 2018



An amazing experience awaits campers of ALL AGES this summer at Minnesota United Methodist Camps. Whether it's a day camp for first

time campers, a two-night camp for those ready for a bit more, or a week-long camp for campers who are ready for adventure, there's something for everyone at camp! The 2018 Camping Brochures are now available in the literature racks at both entrances at church. You may also find more information and/or register for a camp at [www.campminnesota.org](http://www.campminnesota.org).

## Holy Week Schedule

### **Palm Sunday Choir Cantata - March 25 at 3:30 pm**

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church  
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington

### **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)

### **Easter - April 1**

Sunrise Service - 8:00 am  
Traditional Worship - 10:00 am  
Breakfast in-between the two services  
Portland Avenue United Methodist Church  
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington

## Garage Sale

This year's Children, Youth and Family Ministries Garage Sale is scheduled for April 27 and 28.

Details will be available as the time approaches, but for now, consider gathering treasures from your spring cleaning projects and seasonal closet changeovers for this great event. Our storage room for donations is a bit full right now since we didn't have a sale last year, so please hold on to your donations until drop-off dates are announced in April.

*Mark Your Calendar*

## Easter Garden

It is time to order plants for our Easter Garden. The deadline to order, with payment, is March 4. Payment Plants may be taken home after the traditional worship service at 10:00 AM on Easter Sunday.

Easter Lilies - \$7.75

Tulips (Red, Purple or Yellow) - \$7.25

Mums (Purple, Yellow or White) - \$7.75

Hydrangeas (Pink) - \$15.00



Thank you for making our Easter Garden Spectacular!

Please see Ellen Smith to place your order or call her at (952) 884-8609. For your convenience, you can cut out the following order form and return it to the church office with payment to place your order.

### Easter Plant Order Form

Return this order form with payment to Ellen Smith or the church office by Sunday, March 4.

Plants may be picked up Easter Sunday after worship at 10:00 am.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Lilies @ \$7.75**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Red Tulips @ \$7.25**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Purple Tulips @ \$7.25**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Yellow Tulips @ \$7.25**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Purple Mums @ \$7.75**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Yellow Mums @ \$7.75**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **White Mums @ \$7.75**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Pink Hydrangea @ \$15.00**

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Or**

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Mission Outreach

## March is MN Food Share Month!

This year VEAP's goal is to raise \$150,000 and 100,000 pounds of food. VEAP has been given a \$25,000 match to help with this goal. Won't you help? As the article in the February newsletter noted, we have decided to focus on diapers, wipes, and cash donations for our food drive. VEAP clients are unable to use WIC monies for these essential items and for a family with young children they are very necessary.



VEAP has a greater buying power with their money than we do as individual consumers, so we are encouraging cash donations. If you prefer to shop for diapers, wipes, or food, we will gladly accept those items. Look for the shopping cart in the narthex on Sunday mornings to place your items in. You can write a check to PAUMC and designate VEAP on the memo line. Let's help VEAP reach it's goal this year. As always, thanks for your generous support of this ministry.

~Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair

## Feed My Starving Children

Mark your calendar - we're heading to Feed My Starving Children (990 Lone Oak Road, Eagan) on Saturday, March 24, from 9am-11am. Watch for more details from Steve Soucy.



## UMCOR Sunday—March 11

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need – today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do; it's something "we" do. So please consider supporting this tremendous ministry on Sunday, March 11. Special



offering envelopes will be included in your worship bulletin that morning.

**News from Walker Auxiliary** *Editor's note: We supported Walker Health Center's "Give a Little Gift" program last October. Here is an update on the impact of our gifts; as well as some additional needs and volunteer opportunities if you're interested. Reprinted with permission.*

### Give a Little Gift 2017

The gift bags that were presented to residents for this year's Give a Little Gift Campaign were again very well received. Residents were so thankful and joyous over what they received in their personalized bag. All residents also received a \$12 gift card for the Gift Shop.



Over 270 bags were given away.

Thank you for your donations!

### Looking for a way to Give Back? Give Back with your time!

Here are examples of opportunities:

Outings! Help push wheelchairs on different outings, to lunch, to the zoo, shopping!

One to one visitor: get paired up with residents who need a good friend to talk to.

Gift Shop! Work with other Auxiliary Volunteers, help residents shop and spend time with residents in the gift shop!

Special Events: Help escort residents to the Chapel for fun events.

Nail Painting: Help the ladies look beautiful!

Activities: work with a Therapeutic Recreation Staff doing exciting activities!

Contact Cathy Schutt 612-827-8342 or [cschutt@walkermethodist.org](mailto:cschutt@walkermethodist.org)

## We celebrate YOU during MARCH

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



04 - Judy Richardson-Mahre	16 - LaVonne Robinson
05 - Katherine Minks	17 - Lori Livingston
06 - Jeni Cox	18 - Myron Karki
11 - Robert Bump	19 - Elijah Peine
Xavier Cottier	24 - Linda Gilbertson

27 - Matthew Hanson
28 - Ellen Smith
30 - Rebecca Carroll

## Address Updates

Linda Schesso  
New cell phone number:  
(952) 212-0466

Terry and Sue Wells  
Disconnected their landline.  
Their cell phone numbers:  
Terry—612-309-6624  
Sue—612-309-6625

## Adult Fellowship Valentine Brunch

A fun time was had by all who attended this year's Adult Fellowship Valentine Brunch on February 18. Thank you to Joell Anderson and Betty Belk for working together to organize this event.



*Rev. Susan Nienaber is district superintendent for the Minnesota Annual Conference's Big Waters District.*



## A Recipe for Vitality

On a beautiful fall Sunday last October, surrounded by gently rolling farmland, the time had come during the worship service for the faithful to share the joys and concerns of their lives. As expected, there were several prayers lifted up for the ill and those who were struggling. And then, a long-term member spoke up. "I am just so thankful to be here today and for this church and for all of you. And, I'm so happy that there are two pews filled with four generations of my family." She said this through a few tears of joy, and I was struck that I don't hear that kind of deep gratitude often enough for the gift of a congregation.

This is a typical Sunday at Graham UMC, located 5 miles east of the little town of Rice in central Minnesota. GPS won't exactly get you there, but when you arrive you won't want to leave, for this is a very vital congregation. After worship, thirty kids will spill out onto the church's baseball diamond or start climbing on the playground equipment while adults enjoy the brunch that is served most Sundays. It feels so idyllic. Every time I visit I can't help but think of the 1980s movie *Field of Dreams*. When actor Kevin Costner is asked if the baseball diamond in his cornfield is heaven he says, "No, it's Iowa!" If someone asked me if this was heaven, I would smile and say, "No, it's just Graham United Methodist Church!"

About a year ago, Rev. Ric Koehn saw a posting that this church needed a new pastor and was interested. Ric had retired from ministry but realized he wasn't really ready for retirement. When he saw that this was a small, quarter-time pastoral position, he thought it would be the perfect way to stay busy in retirement, ministering to what he thought would be a small group of elderly folks. He was so surprised to learn how large and how vital this congregation was with only a quarter-time pastoral position.

### The recipe for vitality

How does a rural church miles from the nearest town, at a time when there is such decline in traditional congregations across the United States, maintain such vitality? I believe there are several factors that are contributing to their health:

1. **This church has a heart for children and youth.** Adults of all ages step up to care for and teach the kids through Sunday School, youth group, and Vacation Bible School (which can reach 50-75 kids from the community each summer). For example, the church ended 2017 with a nice surplus of funds. At a recent board meeting, Pastor Ric encouraged them to set aside funds so that 10-20 kids could go to camp next summer and to also use some of the money for the youth group. There was very little discussion; it was a no-brainer for this church.
2. **Older adults communicate to the younger generations that they are the future of the church,** and they are encouraged to lead. The older adults promise to support and help them, but they don't micromanage or tell the younger generation that they have to "do things the way things have always been done."
3. **There is an openness to change.** Members have encouraged Pastor Ric to make changes to the worship service—especially if it will be more meaningful to the younger adults, children, and youth.
4. **Younger adults with children have made a promise to one another to raise their children together in the faith.** They are determined to make this a reality for their children and they have formed a fellowship group that they call "Friends for Life." These families are just as busy as young families in the big cities with school and sports activities, but you don't hear folks at Graham complain that young families these days are too busy for church.
5. **They are planning their first mission trip for adults** so that all ages have opportunities to serve and grow in their faith.
6. **The church is a strongly lay led congregation.** The pastor doesn't have to pull teeth to get things done. He trusts that if there is something





that needs to be done, like the annual financial audit, someone is making sure that others are submitting the necessary paperwork. People step up, and they recognize God is calling some of them to specialized lay ministries. There are now four trained lay ministers who handle key areas of programming.

7. **Hospitality is a genuine strength** and not something that they pay lip service to. There is warmth and authenticity. It would be easy for a church with so many generations of families to become clan-like but not at Graham. They continually draw new people and no one feels like an outsider. For example, the first Wednesday of the month is a meal for the community. Nearly 150 people show up each month and are embraced. Vacation Bible School and the monthly meal are two of their feeder systems to reach new people and make an impact in the community.



8. **They deal well with conflict.** They handle issues with grace and extreme care for one another. No one likes to deal with disputes, but they don't back down, and they don't do things that will damage their mission and vitality as a congregation.



I was recently talking to some members of a church that has been through a season of conflict. When they shared with me their belief that it is not possible for churches these days to reach younger generations I shared with them the story of Graham. When I shared the part where the older members of Graham have been willing to let go of the reins and let the younger generation

lead, one member of the conflicted church said, "Oh, that could never happen here! We have folks that will never let go of control." I felt very sad to hear this. Granted, it is much harder for a congregation that has lost all of its younger folks to change dramatically enough to rebuild and reach new generations. Many do wonder whether it is even possible. I am convinced that a turnaround is possible and can happen in many of our long-established churches now, if we have enough courage to make those major changes and to live deeply into the mission.

## Bits and Pieces

### Multi-Vendor Sale

Come to the Walker Methodist Health Center Chapel (3737 Bryant Ave S, Minneapolis) on March 23 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm for a Multi-Vendor sale! This one day only sale will support the maintenance of the Health Center Bus. Plus it will support lots of local vendors for Mary Kay, Tastefully Simple, Thirty-One, and Wild Prairie Tea Cups and Bird Feeders!

### Musical Production - Oliver!

The Lake Harriet Players of Lake Harriet UMC (4901 Chowen Ave S, Minneapolis) proudly present the musical Oliver! Friday, March 9 & 16 at 7:00 pm; Saturday,

March 10 & 17 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm; and Sunday, March 11 & 18 at 2:00 pm. Eventbrite reservations are encouraged. Admission is "pay what you can," and seating is on a first come, first served basis, with the house opening 30 minutes prior to the show.



### Musical Production - Annie

Aldersgate UMC's Theatre of the Spirit proudly presents the musical Annie March 9, 10, 16, 17 at 7:00 pm, and Sundays, March 11 & 18 at 2:00 pm. Address is 3801 Wooddale Ave, St. Louis Park. Seating is on a first come first served basis. Tickets are not required, but donations are gladly accepted.



# Minnesota Annual Conference

of the United Methodist Church

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, *Resident Bishop*  
Rev. Dan Johnson, *District Superintendent*

February 8, 2018

Dear Portland Avenue United Methodist Church,

In unison with your sister congregations of the Minnesota Conference, thank you for paying 100% of your 2017 apportionment allocation! You generously support congregational ministries, local and global missions and this denominational giving is truly, “a portion meant” for United Methodist work and witness that no one individual; no one church could accomplish alone.

Dynamics in our world today foster fear, deepen division, undermine understanding and hamper hope. Yet as United Methodists, we faithfully strive to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world—disciples that are growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people and healing a broken world. Your apportionment contributions provide the leadership, systems, training and support for this vision to bear fruit in and through our local churches. Together we can be proud that the Twin Cities District led the Minnesota Conference in remitting 92% of our apportioned commitment. This reflects an increase of 4% over last year! Together we are making a difference!

I know such dedication does not happen without setting clear priorities, cultivating strong stewardship and making challenging financial decisions. Thank you for your leadership! Thank you for the impactful ministry in which you are engaged! It is an inspiration to serve with you as a partner in offering Christ’s light and love.

With joy and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan".

Rev. Daniel Johnson  
Twin Cities District Superintendent

# MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group	2	3
4 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:15am Confirmation	5 7:00pm Hagerty's Small Group	6 1:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 2:00pm Smith's Small Group	7 1:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl 7:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group	8 9:30am Bazaar Workshop 7:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group	9	10
11 Daylight Savings Time UMCOR Sunday 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach	12 7:00pm Hagerty's Small Group	13 1:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 2:00pm Smith's Small Group 6:00pm Trustees	14 1:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl 7:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:30am Bazaar Workshop 7:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:00am Anniversary Potluck	19 7:00pm Hagerty's Small Group	20 Spring begins 1:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 2:00pm Smith's Small Group 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	21 1:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl 7:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group	22 9:30am Bazaar Workshop 7:00pm Pastor Carol's Small Group	23	24 9:00am Feed my Starving Children (in Eagan)
25 Palm Sunday 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship 3:30pm Combined Choir Cantata	26	27 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	28 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehl	29 Maundy Thursday 9:30am Bazaar Workshop 7:00pm Maundy Thursday worship @ PAUMC	30 Good Friday 1:00pm Good Friday @ Church of Peace 7:00pm Good Friday worship @ Hillcrest UMC	31

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)