

# THE PORTLIGHT

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

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY GARAGE SALE



Friday, April 27 (9:00 am - 5:00 pm)  
Saturday, April 28 (8:00 am - 12:00 pm)

Bring in your household items, clothing and toys that are still in good condition. Donations will be accepted here at The PORT starting the week of April 23.

Help is needed for set-up, pricing, working the sale (cashiering and working tables), and cleaning up on Saturday. Please contact Janene Haugen (612) 940-4408 [janenehaugen@charter.net](mailto:janenehaugen@charter.net) or Beth Cameron (612) 558-4974 [beth.cameron@hines.com](mailto:beth.cameron@hines.com) to sign up.

2018 Garage Sale!

April 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

The PORT has many really great ministries. One of those ministries is our Small Groups, which meet a couple times a year, usually during Lent and again in the fall for a 4-6 week study.



This Lenten Season we studied *The Passionate Church*, by Mike Slaughter. The United Methodist Church has identified “Four Areas of Focus” for ministry, including 1) developing principled Christian leaders, 2) engaging in ministry with the poor, 3) creating new and renewed congregations, and 4) improving global health. These have been our denomination’s priorities over the last decade, and many struggling churches that have taken these areas of focus seriously have found a renewed identity through mission and action. This book gave several real-church examples to help inspire its readers.

Everyone was invited to participate in a small group, and we had a remarkable response with 50 participants signing up (about half our average weekly worshipping attendance). While stories about what it takes to renew a congregation can certainly be sobering, many of us also found inspiration among this book’s pages... inspiration that spurred helpful conversation in our small group meetings.

One of the ideas came when a participant said, “Let’s recognize all the people who signed up for the study as a witness to how many said ‘yes’ to the plea to be a part of this.” So on Palm Sunday, we did. It made quite an impression on me when half the congregation stood for a moment while I thanked you for participating.

Another good discussion ensued when we discussed how to develop principled Christian leaders. We talked about how important it is to develop kid’s talents in ways that align with the church. For example, if someone throws a football well, maybe they’d be good at leading youth group games. Of course, whenever we’re talking about developing new leaders, we have to be open-hearted enough to participate in new ways of doing things.

Enthusiasm also came as we discussed the chapter on renewed congregations. One person said, “We need to knock on doors in our neighborhood and say, ‘If you’re not churching, how about trying us out?’”

There were many ideas that came out of the different Small Groups led by Nancy Hagerty, Dave Smith and me. One idea I heard was to start a Community Knitting Group where we will have experienced crafters who knit and crochet work with 2-3 others to coach them as they practice their stitches. We could start with scarves or dishcloths, and advance to other projects; while encouraging participants to put their newly developed skills to use making winter accessories for Valley View Elementary school, or items to donate at our Annual Holiday Bazaar, or to make needed clothing for their families.

We also brainstormed ideas for how we can encourage Annual Holiday Bazaar guests to return again soon instead of waiting for the next year’s Bazaar. We might do that by having a Christmas ornament craft day for neighborhood kids a few weeks after the Bazaar; or maybe a kid’s Christmas store so they can pick out a gift for a parent or sibling. The Congregational Care Team is already testing those waters by planning BINGO on the Saturday after this year’s Bazaar. All Bazaar guests will receive an invitation in their shopping bag.

More ideas came out of my Small Group meetings than I can write about here. Of course, the first area of focus (developing principled Christian leaders) goes hand in hand with all these ideas...without leaders, these ideas will not come to fruition. So it’s important that as we grow in our faith here, that we also grow in our confidence, passion, commitment and desire to make a difference in the life of this church and the neighborhood we are here to be in ministry with. I am encouraged by the discussions we have had throughout this Lenten Season, and I hope the conversation (and faithful action) will continue into many seasons to come.

*Pastor Carol*

## New Member Class

We’re going to schedule a New Member Class in April, so if you’ve been interested in learning more about our ministries and what membership is all about here at The PORT, please see Pastor Carol. Then we’ll plan a

time to meet with others who are also interested in learning more. This is a great church to be a part of, so come and find out more about what it means to become a member.

April 2018



Apr. 1 Janea & Luke  
 Apr. 8 Katelyn & Becca  
 Apr. 15 Rylie & Madolyn  
 Apr. 22 Joshua & Olivia  
 Apr. 29 Jeremiah & Oliver

## Youth Group News

April 1 - Easter Breakfast Fundraiser at Portland Avenue UMC

April 21 - Spring Lock In at Hillcrest UMC

We are going to stay up way too late and eat too much junk food but laugh A LOT!

Arrive at 8:00 pm at the youth room entrance.

April 22 - Deadline for turning in order forms and payments for the Spring Plant Sale! Order forms available in sanctuary narthex.



## APRIL Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Coffee & Treats	Easter Breakfast	Marilyn Anderson	Linda Schesso	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Jeff Chamberlain, Lynn Furda	Melinda & Joe Matton	Clint & Barb Andrus	Dan & Alisa Smith	Terry & Sue Wells
Ushers	<b>8:00 AM—</b> Steve & Kathy Soucy, Scott Swenson, Linda Schesso <b>10:00 AM —</b> Guy Moore, Pat Ekstrom, Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson, Terry Wells, Steve & Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson, Linda Schesso, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Bruce Benson, Bob Deese, Mike & Lori Moreland	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Myron & Ginny Karki
Welcomers	Marilyn Anderson	Carol Emdy	Lynn Furda	Neil Anderson	Barb & Clint Andrus
Reader	Neil Anderson	Melinda Matton	Scott Rice	Mary Nelson	Ardy Anderson
Sound	Dave Smith	Megan Mahre	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Nathan Peine	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus
Nursery	Linda Knopp	Janet Rush	Denise Carroll	Linda Lounsbury	LaVonne Robinson
Closer	Floyd Ekstrom	Harvey Erstad	Steve Knopp	Paul Richardson	Harvey Erstad
Communion Stewards	Linda Schesso, Darlene Wicks				

**Want to serve on Sunday mornings?**

Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator

# Spiritual Growth

## Easter Sunday, April 1

**8:00 am** - Sunrise Service (enjoy contemporary music by our SonRise Singers, a brief message and Holy Communion).

**8:45-9:30 am** - Easter Breakfast! This is a youth fundraiser, so please give generously. The menu consists of egg bake, cut fruit, muffins and beverages. Bring your friends and family as the youth would love to have everyone join with them in feast and fellowship.

**10:00 am** - Traditional Worship with Communion (enjoy organ music, our Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, SonRise Singers, a special message for children, a brief sermon and Holy Communion).

## Palm Sunday Cantata

The combined choirs of Church of Peace and Portland Avenue United Methodist Churches presented "Praise the God of Resurrection" on Sunday, March 25. Thank you all for your hard work and the beautiful music.



# Mission Outreach

## Volunteer Opportunity at Walker Methodist Health Center Gift Shop

Wouldn't you love to be a part of enhancing someone's life and expand your own? Here's your opportunity to share your time and talents with residents and patients. Also, you'll have the opportunity to benefit from their wisdom and humor. You can help make the Gift Shop a great shopping experience by assisting shoppers, selling merchandise, and running the cash register.

The Gift Shop is operated by the Auxiliary to Walker Methodist Health Center and run by volunteers. Pro-

ceeds are used to support activities for residents and patients such as the summer concert series, an outing to a Twins game, and Valentine's Day entertainment.

Our goal is to have the Gift Shop open at least 4 – 6 hours a day Monday thru Friday and some hours on Weekends, when there are usually more visitors (potential customers). If you are even thinking a little about this opportunity or have questions, please contact me (Sue Wells 612-309-6625). I have been doing this for a few months now and have had a blast! You may also contact Cathy Schutt from Walker at 612-827-8342 or Mary Nelson at 612-839-2349.

~Sue Wells

## Feed My Starving Children



The PORT had two groups packing meals this month at the Feed My Starving Children warehouse in Eagan. The youth group volunteered on March 10, and the congregation volunteered on March 24. Between the two packing sessions, The PORT helped pack 449 boxes, which is 95,904 meals. This will feed 264 kids for a whole year! It is such a blessing to be able to come together and help those that are less fortunate than us.



# Celebrating 64 Years of Ministry



We celebrated our 64th Anniversary on Sunday, March 18, 2018, officially declaring it “Betty Belk Day” with a proclamation read and presented to Betty during worship. After worship, we enjoyed a potluck and a great time of fellowship.





## *A Proclamation*

Sixty-four years ago, on Sunday, March 14, 1954,  
Portland Avenue Methodist Church was legally organized  
under a Charter signed by forty-two members, one of whom was Betty Belk.

In 1968, the women of the church felt the need  
to reach out in Christian service to others, thus the PORT depot was born as a  
ministry to provide clothing, housewares and furnishings to people in need.  
This ministry began in the basement of the old parsonage under the leadership  
of Betty Belk, and eventually moved to the loft area of the first sanctuary.  
By the time the PORT closed in 1980, over 50,000 people had been served  
by over 200 volunteers who had given 19,000 hours in service.

We give thanks for the ways in which our sole remaining Charter Member  
continues to lead the way in participation in the ministries of this congregation.

Whether it be a small group study, a fellowship event,  
a local mission outreach project, or the annual Holiday Bazaar,  
Betty Belk is often one of the first to sign up.

So with tremendous gratitude, we celebrate the inspiration  
Betty Belk continues to bring to this church.

In recognition of countless hours of service and participation in our ministries,  
Portland Avenue United Methodist Church hereby proclaims this day,  
Sunday, March 18, 2018,  
as Betty Belk Day.

*Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

Rev. Carol Zaagsma

*March 18, 2018*

Date

# Congregational Care

## We celebrate YOU during APRIL

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



- |                          |                      |                   |                    |                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 03 - Dorothy Chamberlain | 08 - Scott Cameron   | 18 - Mike Cameron | 20 - Kasey Swenson | 22 - Sena Bruce  |
| 04 - Martin Thames Jr.   | 15 - Jarek Haugen    | Bob Haugen        | 21 - Verne Witt    | 26 - Pat Ekstrom |
| 06 - Jeff Chamberlain    | 16 - Katelyn Hagerty | Kelly Roach       |                    |                  |

## BINGO

Come and play BINGO on Saturday, April 21, 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.

## Day at the Arboretum

The Congregational Care Team is planning an outing and picnic at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on Saturday, June 23. Mark your calendar now!

More details are coming soon.



## Minnesota Twins Game

Join us for United Methodist Day at Target Field on July 30 at 7:10 pm.

Here's your chance to join family, friends, and other United Methodists across Minnesota for a night of big-league action and fun. More details are coming soon.



**In silence  
learn to give of yourself  
forgive others  
live with gratitude.**

**Then, you need not seek peace  
peace will find you.**

*Nan Merrill, Lumen Christi*

# From the Mailbox

## Thank You

What an honor you bestowed on me! I thank Pastor Carol and all who planned the 64th Anniversary Day "Betty Belk Day." Our church has always been so special and so caring and all of the members who have taken over the reins have done a great job and done so much to keep our church a special close knit church. And I congratulate all of the members who continue to make it so great.

In Christian Love,  
Betty Belk

## Address Update

Bob and Janene Haugen disconnected their landline. Their cell phone numbers are listed below:  
Bob: 612-750-1149  
Janene: 612-940-4408





## Never again: Listen to the children



I recently read the book, *Gen Z @ Work: How the Next Generation is Transforming the Workplace*. The co-authors are a father/son team, David and Jonah Stillman. David is a Millennial and his son, Jonah, a Gen Zer. Together they have formed a leadership training and consulting firm. Jonah was recently hired by the Minnesota Vikings to advise them on how to market the NFL and, more specifically, the Vikings to his generation. The Vikings are trying to figure out how to attract and fill U.S. Bank Stadium with younger fans.

Although *Gen Z @ Work* is written for a corporate leadership audience, it is filled with insights for anyone, including those of us in the church who desire to understand, work with, or reach this generation. By the way, Gen Zers are individuals born between 1995 and 2012 (6- to 23-year-olds), and this generation is 72.8 million strong within the U.S. population. While most of us are lamenting the failure of our congregations to reach the Millennial generation (larger than the Baby Boomer Generation), the Gen Zers have emerged on the scene. Go figure; the Millennials decided to have children—lots of children!

The students massacred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida on Ash Wednesday were all Gen Zers. All the students forever impacted by that senseless and, as we now know, likely preventable tragedy are Gen Zers. The students bearing witness in Tallahassee, Florida and Washington, D.C. and Minneapolis/St. Paul and in schools and cities all across this nation are Gen Zers.

David and Jonah Stillman identify seven key traits of Gen Zers. Three of these traits, in particular, have helped me understand the students' grief and response to their experience. The Gen Zers are REALISTIC. They grew up during the aftermath of 9/11, with terrorism part of everyday life, and they lived through a severe recession. They have "a very pragmatic mindset when it comes to planning and preparing for the future . . . As Gen Z sees it, if you're going to survive or even thrive, you'd better get real about what it is going to take" (pages 10-11). While politicians, commentators, and even their parents get tied into pretzels over the complexities of protecting the Second Amendment and also protecting their children (and others) from mass shootings, the Gen Zers are all about "getting real" and pragmatic.

Gen Z is also the DO-IT-YOURSELF (DIY) generation. They are "fiercely independent and will collide head-on with so many of the collaborative cultures that millennials have fought for . . . Seventy-one percent of Gen Z said they believe the phrase, 'If you want it done right, then do it yourself'" (page 12). I have been struck by the straight-shooting, "let's get it done, or we will do this without you" posture of the Parkland students who have confronted political leaders, NRA spokespersons, law enforcement officials, and even President Trump.

Gen Z suffers from an intense FEAR OF MISSING OUT (FOMO) on anything. "The good news is they will stay on top of all trends and competition. The bad news is that Gen Z will always worry that they aren't moving ahead fast enough and in the right direction" (page 11). Gen Zers will not miss out on their moment. They are tenacious. Have you not seen this in their response to the shooting and their campaign to curb gun violence? This generation is not likely to let go or fade in their determination, even if the news cycle and our political leaders move on.

Friends, it is time to listen to the children. We only need to look at our depleted Sunday schools and youth groups and our congregations that are "aging out" to see the consequence of ignoring the children or not having "ears to hear." When they say gun violence is out of control in our communities and country, we need to listen. When they say they are afraid to go to school, we need to listen. When they say "don't

## A Message from Our Bishop, cont.

arm our teachers—let them teach,” we need to listen. When they say they feel their lives are worth less than the political contributions of gun lobbyists, we need to listen. When they say “never again,” we need to listen.

I am so encouraged by what I have witnessed of Gen Z following Parkland. Their grief is authentic, yet mobilizing. Their resolve is inspiring, yet realistic. Their witness is articulate, yet without guile.

It is time to listen to the children. It is not about agreeing or arguing with their position about gun violence or gun control. It is about grappling with the reality that in this moment, and in the midst of their grief, they may be God’s voice calling us to remember and

live our Wesleyan rule of life: do no harm, do all the good you can, and strive in every way to ground your lives, your decisions, your witness in the love and will of God.

*Bishop Bruce R. Ough is resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Area of The United Methodist Church.*



## Bits and Pieces

### Jewelry Sale

Walker Methodist Health Center Auxiliary is having a Jewelry sale for three days this month! Don’t miss out!

The hours for the sale are on April 12 and 13 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and on April 14 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.



This event will be held at the Walker Methodist Health Center Chapel (3737 Bryant Ave S, Minneapolis).

You will find items such as bracelets, earrings (both clip and pierced), pendants, necklaces, brooches, rings, and so much more. These items are from around the world and presented by SERRV.

All proceeds for this event will help fund programs and activities for Walker Methodist Health Center Residents.

### Spring Salad Luncheon



The United Methodist Church of Peace (6345 Xerxes Ave S, Richfield) is hosting a Spring Salad Luncheon on Saturday, April 14, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Bring a salad to share and some friends with you to enjoy this special event.

The program is entitled “Forgive About It,” with guest speakers Ann Monikowski and Kathy Boyes, who say that “unforgiveness can lead to physical ailments, a hardened heart, and also bring toxic, negative thoughts into your mind. When we learn to forgive, we can be truly free.”

RSVP to the UMCOP office at (612) 866-0069. Tickets are \$10 and can be paid at the door.

### Minnesota Valley Women’s Chorale

Enjoy a 2018 Spring Concert presented by the Minnesota Valley Women’s Chorale at 7:30 pm on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, at Grace Lutheran Church (7800 150th St W, Apple Valley).

Buy tickets in advance at [MVWCSings.org](http://MVWCSings.org). Cost is \$10. This is a group Judy Richardson-Mahre and Megan Mahre sing in, so email Judy at [jembrm@charter.net](mailto:jembrm@charter.net) with any questions.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>EASTER</b> 8:00am Sunrise Worship 8:45am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Worship/ Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>4</b> 6:15pm SonRise Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 9:30am Bazaar Workshop 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>11</b> 6:15pm SonRise Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Evangelism & Church Growth Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>18</b> 6:15pm SonRise Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 2:00pm BINGO!
<b>22</b> 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop Garage Sale set-up	<b>25</b> 6:15pm SonRise Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal Garage Sale set-up	<b>26</b> 9:30am Bazaar Workshop 7:00pm Church Council Garage Sale set-up	<b>27</b> 9:00am - 5:00pm Garage Sale	<b>28</b> 8:00am - 12:00pm Garage Sale
<b>29</b> 8:45am Handbells Rehearsal 8:45am Education 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship	<b>30</b>					

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](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

---

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)