

THE PORTLIGHT

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



Holiday Bazaar Dates:

Friday, Nov. 8, 9am-8pm

and

Saturday, Nov. 9, 9am-3pm

- ◇ Gifts and Decorations
- ◇ Silent Auction ◇ Bake Sale
- ◇ Lunch, Dinner & Treats ◇ Free Popcorn



2019 Annual Holiday Bazaar

November 2019

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

*"Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."
(1 Peter 2:4-5 NRSV)*

The Bible is full of different images to try to explain how the church works and what it is about. Here in 1 Peter, we read verses that were written to the early church as a reminder to carry on as Christ's body, the church: "...like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood." And within these verses is encouragement to let God shape each of us as faithful disciples living the way of Jesus.

Author Taylor S. Brown notes that the "living stones" Peter refers to here aren't simply rocks you find on the ground. They are cut stones, hewn to precise dimensions for the construction of a building. Of course, this implies that each one is critical for the building to stand.

First, Peter speaks about Christ as *the* Living Stone. But then, when Christians come to Christ and are incorporated into His body, the Church, they begin to be formed into living stones themselves...to be a holy priesthood.

We don't use the phrase "holy priesthood" very often today; but it is a biblical concept that we do hear about every Sunday. In its simplest form, it means that all believers, lay and clergy alike, are to represent Christ to one another.

St. Teresa of Avila may have said it best when she wrote the following:

"Christ has no Body"

Christ has no body but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which
he looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he
walks to do good. Yours are the hands
through which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

What this means is that the church today *is* the Body of Christ, and you and I together, with a whole lot of other people around the world, make up the body. As the Body of Christ for the here and now, we are supposed to be the ones who make sure others know of Christ's love for them.

Our Church Council is taking this to heart as they recently engaged in a brainstorming exercise with me to identify three top priorities for our congregation to focus on next year. We came up with 21 ideas, but narrowed it down to these three to focus on in 2020:

- 1) To support a mission outreach project for each month of the year, with everybody in the congregation participating in at least one per quarter. It will take everyone's participation to reach this goal., and we're excited about what a difference we can make.
- 2) To work through the Reconciling Congregation process; which is an intentional process to consider stating that we are inclusive of all persons, particularly the LGBTQIA community.
- 3) To reconcile our budget so that it is balanced again. A few years ago, we looked at the financial projections over the coming decade. This analysis revealed that we would hit the mark where income is lower than expenses within a few years. That time has come, so we're going to take a more serious look at our income and our expenses so that we can present a balanced budget again in 2021.

These three goals will bring us to deeper living as faithful stewards of our call to Christ's Body. They are worthwhile, challenging, and yet also attainable...that is, if we all work together to reach them.

Christ has entrusted us with the task of being *His* Body for this time and place...living stones, built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood. So let's rise up together so that we don't let Him down.

Journeying together
with you as Christ's Body,

Pastor Carol



November 2019



Nov. 3 Evelyn & Oliver
 Nov. 10 Katelyn & Luke
 Nov. 17 Rylie & Josh
 Nov. 24 Janea & Oliver

Youth Group News

Nov. 3 - 11:00 to 1:00 pm Confirmation for grades 8-9

Nov. 10 - 6:00 to 8:00 pm Youth Group
 w/Pastor Carol & Dan Baker

Nov. 16 or 17 - Movie with Beth Cameron,
 time & date TBD



NOVEMBER Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Coffee & Treats	Pat Ekstrom, Lynn Furda	Volunteer Needed	Kathy Swenson	Marilyn Anderson
Greeters	Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Steve & Linda Knopp	Volunteer Needed	Melinda & Joe Matton
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Linda Schesso, Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler	Scott Swenson, Terry Wells, Myron & Ginny Karki	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Bob Deese, Beth Cameron	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Scott Swenson, Jocelyne Medzagoh
Welcomers	Jeff Chamberlain	Judy & Eric Richardson-Mahre	Ginny Karki	LaVonne Robinson
Reader	Steve Soucy	Neil Anderson	Scott Rice	Pat Ekstrom
Sound	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus
Closer	Wayne Andersen	Floyd Ekstrom	Scott Swenson	Harvey Erstad
Counters	Russ Cox, Darlene Wicks	Russ Cox, Steve Soucy	Dave Smith, Steve Soucy	Dave Smith, Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	LaVonne Robinson, Peggy Erstad	<p>Want to serve on Sunday mornings? Let the office know and we'll put you in touch with the appropriate coordinator</p>		
Communion Servers	Jim & Marilyn Anderson			

Spiritual Growth

2019 Holiday Garden

Poinsettia orders must be placed by Sunday, November 3 to participate in this year's holiday garden. Price is \$10 per poinsettia. Please complete the order forms available at the Welcome Desk or otherwise contact Ellen Smith at (952) 884-8609. This year, the poinsettias will be delivered and placed in the sanctuary mid-December for all to enjoy. You may take your poinsettia plant home after Christmas Eve candlelight worship at 4:30 on December 24.

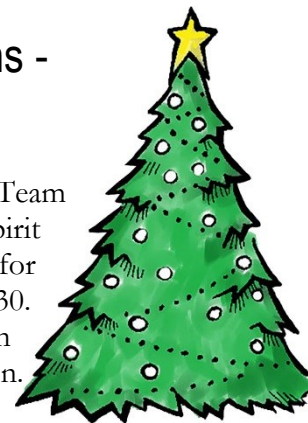


Veterans Sunday - November 10

This is a day of recognizing the past and present military service from those in our congregation. Please contact the church office at (952) 888-6070 or email paumc@paumc.org by November 5 to add any new names of veterans, years of service, branch of military, and where served so that we can honor you in the bulletin insert.

Hanging of the Greens - November 30

Join the Congregational Care Team in bringing a festive holiday spirit to The PORT as we decorate for Christmas on Saturday, Nov. 30. We'll start at 9:30 am, and plan to be finished well before noon.



All Saints Sunday - November 3

This is a day of honoring the current Saints in our lives, as well as remembering those from our congregation who died in the last year. During Holy Communion, you will also have an opportunity to light a small candle in memory of a loved one.

Youth Group Pumpkin Carving

The Youth Group gathered with Beth Cameron on Sunday, October 27, to carve pumpkins. Great fun was had by all!

Operation Christmas Child

Please note that after a period of discernment, the Mission Outreach Team has decided not to collect shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse, which organizes this project, moved the distribution center from the Twin Cities to Chicago this year, which makes getting our shoeboxes there more difficult. We will continue to look for local ways to bless our neighbors during the holidays, such as the Give a Little Gift Program described below.

Feed My Starving Children

Join others from The PORT as we pack meals at Feed My Starving Children (990 Lone Oak Rd #136, Eagan) on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9:00-11:00 am. See Steve Soucy to sign up to help.



Give a Little Gift Donation Drive

Help us collect new, unwrapped items to create a personalized gift bag for every Walker Methodist Health Center resident this holiday season!

The Give a Little Gift Program is a holiday giving program on behalf of Walker Methodist Health Center. During the month of December, every single resident (long term and short term) will receive a PERSONALIZED gift bag filled with items that the staff who work with them feel the resident will enjoy.

The PAUMC Mission Outreach Team is coordinating a donation drive during the month of November to support this ministry. We are looking for fun things that will fit into gift bags for the residents. They get everything they NEED from the health center and we want them to have things they WANT or things they can enjoy. Monetary donations are also accepted, as they enable staff to go out and buy very specific items for residents.

Once all the items are collected, the bags are "pre-stuffed" with items that every single resident will receive. This usually includes: a new pair of socks, a bottle of lotion, a pack of Kleenex and a gift certificate for the gift shop. The remaining donations are on display for staff to "shop" for items to fill each resident's bag with items they will most enjoy. The items staff will put in the bag will include candy and 4 other items.

At each floor holiday party or during another designated time, the gift bags are distributed to each resident. For many of them, without this gift, they would not get a present during the holiday season. It is so meaningful for them, not only to receive the gift bag, but to receive such personal and well thought out gifts.

Please consider donating items or giving a monetary donation to this great cause! We will be collecting donations until Sunday, November 24.

Donation ideas:

- Monetary donations (please make checks out to Walker Methodist Foundation)
- Socks (men's and women's)
- Pocket Kleenex
- Chapstick
- Lotion
- Small packages of cookies and crackers
- Candies and chocolate
- Sugar-free candy
- Knickknacks (items for residents' rooms)
- Small stuffed animals
- Religious items
- Jewelry
- Men's and Women's watches
- Slippers
- Decorative scarves
- Hats, mittens, scarves
- DVDs
- CDs



Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during NOVEMBER

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

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 03 - Carl Darnell | 09 - Bruce Benson | 18 - Sue Wells |
| Joyce Faircloth | Kathy Swenson | 22 - Todd Rasmussen |
| Jordan Lawson | 10 - Nathan Peine | 27 - Mary Lou Johnson |
| 06 - John Lounsbury | 13 - Mary Nelson | 29 - Joan Whitehead |
| | | 30 - Dave Smith |



BINGO! - December 7

Our Congregational Care Team will be hosting BINGO on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 1:30-3:00 pm.

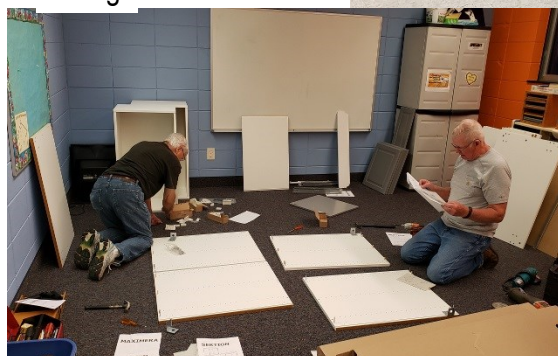


Arrive at 1:15 pm to get settled in before the games start at 1:30 pm. Please bring a snack to share. Beverages and prizes will be provided. There is no cost to play. All are welcome, so invite a neighbor to come with you!

Trustees

New Cabinets in Education Wing

The pre-school Sunday School Room now has a new set of cabinets thanks to a group of Trustees who put them together, hooked up the sink, and put the cabinets into place.



Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420



GIVE+
Electronic Giving Options



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 am
Sunday School (9:00 am) and Coffee Fellowship (9:30 am) September - May

Staff

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) carol.zaagsma@paumc.org (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)

Kathryn Quam (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org

Open Position (Youth Director)

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

NOVEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 All Saints Sunday 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:00am Confirmation 11:15am Mission Outreach</p>	<p>4 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group</p>	<p>5 Election Day 2:00pm Smith Small Group 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing</p>	<p>6 12-6:00pm Bazaar Setup 1:00pm Small Group Study @ PAUMC 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Small Group Study @PAUMC</p>	<p>7 10-6:00pm Bazaar Setup and Bake Sale Drop-off</p>	<p>8 9:00am-8:00pm Holiday Bazaar</p>	<p>9 9:00am-3:00pm Holiday Bazaar</p>
<p>10 Veterans Sunday 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:00am Bazaar Cleanup 6:00-8:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group</p>	<p>12 2:00pm Smith Small Group 6:00pm Trustees</p>	<p>13 1:00pm Small Group Study @ PAUMC 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Small Group Study @PAUMC</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>16 (Youth Group Movie Nov. 16 or 17)</p>
<p>17 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am All Church Conf. to set Pastor's 2020 Salary</p>	<p>18 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group</p>	<p>19 2:00pm Smith Small Group</p>	<p>20 1:00pm Small Group Study @ PAUMC 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Small Group Study @PAUMC</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9:00-11:00am Feed My Starving Children</p>
<p>24 Stewardship Sunday 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship</p>	<p>25 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group</p>	<p>26 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group</p>	<p>27 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:30am Hanging of the Greens</p>