

THE PORTLIGHT

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



VALENTINE'S BRUNCH

Sunday, February 16, 2020
After Worship



Join your friends at church for this time of fellowship with a catered meal consisting of roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, garden salad with dressings, assorted rolls & butter, dessert bars, coffee and ice water.

Cost is \$12 per adult; \$6 for children.

Please see Joell Anderson to RSVP with payment.

February 2020

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

Special church days have always been among my favorites. Of course, Christmas and Easter are right up there as they bookend Jesus' life and death and resurrection. But Pentecost when we celebrate the Holy Spirit's arrival and the birthday of the Church, All Saints Day when we recognize those who have gone before us into that great cloud of witnesses, and Holy Week worship services that remind us of all that Christ went through in his final days have been significant days for my faith.

One of these important days is nearly here: Ash Wednesday. This year it is on Wednesday, February 26, and we will be hosting worship at Portland Avenue UMC starting at 7:00 pm. We will be hosting this worship service jointly with Hillcrest UMC, as Church of Peace UMC in Richfield has opted to conduct all three Lenten services on their own this year.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, which is a time of reflection and self-analysis intended to bring about renewal, growth and transformation. It is customary to focus on simpler living, prayer, and fasting.

The Ash Wednesday worship service draws us to remember our need for repentance (turning) and our reliance on the forgiveness of God as proclaimed by Jesus Christ, as we mark the sign of a cross on our forehead while hearing the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you will return." It is no easier to say these words than it is to hear them. But they are true. And they encourage us to reflect on this fact of life.

Grow deeper in your faith this year by attending this special worship service. I pray it will be a meaningful time of reflection for you as we begin the holy season of Lent.

Pastor Carol



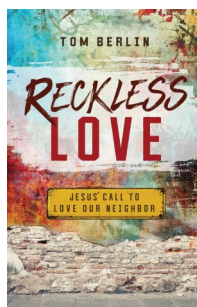
Ash Wednesday Worship
Wednesday, February 26 @ 7:00 pm
Portland Avenue UMC

Spiritual Growth

Lenten Small Group Study

Small groups will be starting up again soon for Lent, and there are a few opportunities for you to join in.

The whole Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church has been invited to participate in a conference-wide Lenten video study that features some of our District Superintendents from both the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences as we reflect on the book *Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor* by Rev. Tom Berlin, senior pastor of Floris United Methodist Church in Herndon, Virginia.



In his exploration of Jesus' teaching and travels with his disciples, Berlin suggests that Jesus teaches us how to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength by showing us how to love our neighbor.

His book contends that maybe we have it a little backwards. As Christians, we strive to follow Jesus' teaching

to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength which, in turn, we hope will help us better love our family, friends, leaders...and our neighbors. But what if we turned that around and put the emphasis on loving our family, friends, leaders, and yes, our neighbors? Might we then find that becoming a better neighbor leads us into the deep and loving relationship we're striving to have with God?

In *Reckless Love*, we will consider how to follow the Greatest Commandment and learn how our love for the people around us can completely renew our faith and give us a new experience of loving God. Sign up on the back of your Connection Card on Sunday, or call the church office at (952) 888-6070 to sign up. Cost is \$11 for the book. You may purchase a book without signing up for a class if you wish to read on your own.

Open classes:

- Wednesdays (1:00 pm at PAUMC) starting March 4.
- Wednesdays (7:00 pm at PAUMC) starting March 4.
- Online class - comment on your own time. Requires email address and internet access.

February 2020



Feb. 2 Rylie & Katelyn
 Feb. 9 Oliver & Josh
 Feb. 16 Evelyn & Luke
 Feb. 23 Janea & Oliver

Youth Group News

February 2 - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Confirmation for grades 8-9.
 February 9 - 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Meet with Pastor Carol & Dan Baker for class (topic TBD) and fellowship.
 February 23 - 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Meet with Pastor Carol & Dan Baker for class (topic TBD) and fellowship.

FEBRUARY Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Coffee & Treats	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	Jocelyne & Josia Medzagoh	Tim & Dianne Madsen	Dave & Ellen Smith	Jim & Marilyn Anderson
Ushers	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Bruce Benson, Jim Anderson	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Myron & Ginny Karki	Pat Ekstrom, Beth Cameron, Mike & Lori Moreland	Bruce Benson, Terry Wells, Laurette & Jacob Lawson
Welcomers	Kathy Swenson	Lynn Livingston	Jeff Chamberlain	Judy & Eric Richardson-Mahre
Reader	Neil Anderson	Scott Rice	Melinda Matton	Katelyn Hagerty
Sound	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus
Closer	Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman	Steve Knopp	Floyd Ekstrom
Counters	Tom Wellman, Darlene Wicks	Tom Wellman, Darlene Wicks	Russ Cox, Steve Soucy	Russ Cox, Steve Soucy
Communion Stewards	Sharon Beckler, Wayne Andersen	<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	Laurette Lawson, Jocelyne Medzagoh			

Mission Outreach

January Mission Project Recap

Thank you to all who participated in the “Tissues for Teachers” donation drive of boxed tissues and Clorox wipes.



We collected 148 boxes of tissues and 62 canisters of wipes, all of which will bless the students, teachers and staff at Valley View Elementary School.



Human Relations Day Offering

We recognized Human Relations Day on January 19 with one of six annual United Methodist special offerings. This particular offering supports ministries related to children’s after school programming, gang intervention, homelessness and housing, older adults, parenting and substance abuse. The PORT received \$268 in support of these efforts. Thank you for your generosity!

BINGO at Meadow Woods

Dave and Ellen Smith’s Small Group is hosting BINGO at Meadow Woods Assisted Living (1301 E 100th St, Bloomington) on Saturday, February 1, from 9:20 am - 10:45 am. They play BINGO for 45 minutes and then pass out treats and beverages to the residents while visiting with them. Thank you for reaching out to our neighbors with care and joy!



Letters to Legislators

Plan now to stay for a short while after worship on Sunday, February 23, as our Mission Outreach Team hosts a letter-writing project to reach out to our legislators urging support of childhood nutrition funding. More than 820 million people in the world were hungry in 2018; while in the United States, 1 in 7 children live in food-insecure homes.

We will provide letter-writing supplies, address labels for legislators in our area, and even a sample letter you can use to write your letter(s). Here is a sample letter from the “Bread for the World” organization if you don’t want to wait and would like to do this at home:

[Date]
Dear Senator _____, or Dear Representative _____,

I urge you to make strong investments in nutrition programs for the most vulnerable in the U.S. and abroad, especially mothers and children.

Federal nutrition programs help U.S. families lead healthy lives. Congress should increase funding for the Summer EBT program so more children can access nutritious food during the summer months—the hungriest time of the year for children.

I also urge you to support legislation that strengthens U.S. leadership on global nutrition and increases funding for global nutrition programs. Too many children globally are malnourished and suffer from stunting. Stunting affects physical and cognitive development.

My faith calls me to stand alongside women and children around the world. Our government should provide leadership toward a well-nourished world.

Sincerely,
[your name]
[your address]
[city, state, zip code]

Dinner at Cornerstone Shelter

The Mission Outreach Team is coordinating dinner for the residents at Cornerstone Shelter (1000 E. 80th St, Bloomington, MN) on Tuesday, March 10, from 4:30-7:00 pm. Cornerstone requires background checks on all volunteers, so if you’d like to help serve that evening, please see Larry Stalberger to fill out the necessary form, which is due March 3.

2020 - A Year of Monthly Missions

We have always been a generous church, reaching out to make a big difference in our neighborhood and beyond; but there have been some gaps in our mission outreach calendar. In light of this, the Mission Outreach Team, with approval by the Church Council, established a goal to have a different mission focus each month this year. We now have a 2020 outline with various projects throughout the year, and we invite you to participate in as many as you can.

Since our mission at The PORT is to grow followers of Jesus who change the world, and one of our gospel imperatives is to heal a broken world, we created a goal for everyone from The PORT to participate in at least one project each quarter. This will be our way of all working together to bring healing where it is needed in our world. You may report your participation on your Connection Cards on Sunday mornings.

Here is our tentative outline for the year:

January - Tissues for Teachers (including Clorox wipes) donation drive for Valley View Elementary.

February - BINGO at Meadow Woods February 1

and a letters to legislators in support of childhood nutrition programs after worship February 23.

March - Serve dinner at Cornerstone Shelter March 10, and support Minnesota Foodshare Month (bring paper product donations for VEAP food shelf).

April - Feed My Starving Children April 18.

May - We're looking into helping set up flags at Fort Snelling for Memorial Day.

June - Health Kits for UMCOR.

July - VEAP School Supply Drive and a Walker Floor Party

August - Serve breakfast at Simpson Shelter

September - We're looking into hosting a "Blessing Booth" at Bloomington Heritage Days to write thank you notes to firefighters/police officers. We'll probably also go to Feed My Starving Children in the Fall.

October - We're looking into various ways to bless the local fire departments, all of which are volunteer in Bloomington.

November - "Give a Little Gift" donation drive for Walker Methodist Health Center; and a VEAP food drive at the Annual Holiday Bazaar.

December - Mittens, Hats and Gloves for Valley View Elementary.

Trustees

Roof Update

With heavy snow followed by unseasonably warm days at the close of 2019, we experienced a leaky roof in the south entryway by the Fellowship Hall. The Trustees did a tremendous job in January breaking up and removing ice on the flat roof, and installing new heat tape, which will hopefully help to keep water flowing down the gutter on days when the temperatures are warmer. A big thank you to all who cared for this huge task.



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 | 18 - Henry Fischer |
| 08 - JoAnne Volden | 19 - Jim Stinson |
| 09 - Audrey Bartels | 21 - Kay Livingston |
| 14 - Kathleen Kessler | - Lexi Wells |



Address Updates

Simone Mitchell
8701 10th Ave S
Bloomington, MN 55420

Scott Rice new email:
Scott@pixelwerx.net



Pizza and Game Night Saturday, February 15, 2020 4:00-7:00 pm

Come for food and fellowship with your friends here at The PORT.

Arrive at 4:00 pm to be included in the pizza order (cost is \$3/person), as we'll place the order shortly thereafter.

Lemonade will be provided, or bring your own pop if you prefer.
Also bring your favorite game to play.
Friends are always welcome!

From the Mailbox

To my PORT Family:

On December 22 my life changed and nearly all that I had was lost. I was afraid, overwhelmed and devastated. Yet I was safe and my sister was by my side. Since then I have learned a lot about myself and what is important. I have been blessed beyond measure with an unbelievable army of support. I want to thank all of you who have gifted me with your prayers and offers of shelter, and even funds to move on.

The road ahead is somewhat uncertain and hopefully not too long but my faith is strong. There could have been any number of tragic circumstances but God protected me and is making a way for me to get through this wilderness. I love you all very much and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As an aside, I also want to thank you for allowing me to bring my Jhing-Jhing to church. It was unconventional to say the least but she was my everything and loved coming with me to see everyone. It says a lot about your kindness and acceptance and I can't tell you all how much that meant to me. When I would tell people that she went to church they were always taken aback. If only they could come to the PORT and see what a wonderful place it is to be.

With love and gratitude,
Lynn Livingston

Thank You!



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many months of letters supporting me in every way you can. I love all of you and I appreciate all of the encouragement you have given me.

~Betty Belk

Mental Health First Aid



Mental Health First Aid is a public education program that introduces the risk factors and warning signs of common mental health and substance use disorders, builds understanding of their impact, and reviews support options. The interactive eight-hour course teaches participants how to offer initial help to an individual who may be experiencing a mental health concern or crisis and connect them to the appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-care resources.

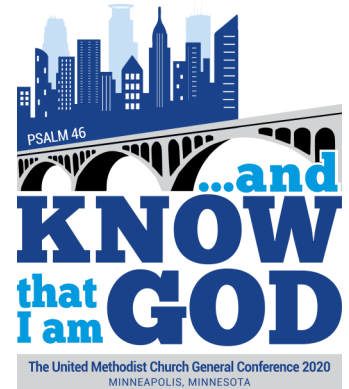
This community-based education class is open to the public and intended for people interested in increasing their mental health literacy and skills. Anyone working or living in the community will benefit from this interactive class. Please note, this class may be too basic for those who work in mental health services.

An upcoming class is scheduled for Friday, March 6, from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at Richfield Community Education Central Education Center (7145 Harriet Ave, Richfield). Lunch will be served. This class, valued at \$170 per person, is free thanks to the sponsorship of Fairview Foundation and Richfield Community Education.

To register or for more information, go to <https://richfield.ce.eleyo.com/course/7795/winter-2020-adult-enrichment/mental-health-first-aid>

Volunteer at General Conference

General Conference 2020 will take place at the Minneapolis Convention Center May 5-15. The Dakota-Minnesota Annual Conferences are hosting this event and are responsible for extending hospitality to all United Methodists who will be coming from around the world for this gathering.



The Dakota-Minnesota host team is looking for volunteers of all ages, interests, and abilities. The team's primary goal is to extend radical hospitality to guests so that they feel welcomed and safe and can focus their full attention on participating in the gathering and discerning God's vision and direction for our denomination.

Most volunteers will select three-hour shifts during the 10 days of General Conference. There are opportunities to volunteer at the airport as a greeter or driver; at several key downtown Minneapolis hotels as a greeter; at the Convention Center as a greeter, prayer room host, or technology specialist; or in other areas such as the skyways as a guide, or as an off-site venue host, or translator, or in administrative support.

For more information, email: GC2020.volunteers@dkmnareaumc.org
Sign up for one of many volunteer opportunities at: <https://gc2020welcome.org/volunteers/>

Youth Plant Sale Fundraiser

Orders due April 19

Order forms will be available in your March Portlight

Gift Card Fundraiser Orders due March 29



Children, Youth & Family Ministries Garage Sale

April 24 and 25

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



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:00am Confirmation	3	4	5 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8
9 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care Meeting 6:00pm Youth Group	10	11	12 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15 Newsletter Deadline 4:00pm PAUMC Pizza & Game Night
16 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:30am Valentine's Brunch	17 PRESIDENTS' DAY	18	19 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group	24 7:00pm Hagerly Small Group	25	26 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship @ PAUMC	27	28	29