

THE PORTLIGHT

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



Paper Product Pizazz!

Help our local food shelf (VEAP) stock up on essentials that cannot be purchased through SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program).

Here's a list of much-needed items:

- √ Toilet paper
- √ Disposable diapers
- √ Tissues
- √ Baby wipes
- √ Paper towels

If you cannot get out to shop for these items, we encourage you to make a monetary donation to VEAP as their buying power is greater than ours.

In fact, they are able to provide food for six meals with every \$1 donated!

You can contribute by marking your check payable to PAUMC, with notation to VEAP in the memo line, and putting it in the offering plate.

Watch for the VEAP shopping cart in the narthex throughout the month of March to put your paper items in.

Of course, we always gladly accept food items (please, only non-perishable, unopened and unexpired).

Thank you for your generous support of this ministry during Minnesota FoodShare Month; and please remember to make note that you participated in this donation drive on your Connection Card.

~Linda Schesso

March 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.

March Mission Outreach

Pastor's Message *Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

This month I'd like to share with you some news that will have a future impact on traffic in our part of Bloomington. Last month I attended a listening session between local businesses and the Minnesota Department of Transportation and its partners (Hennepin County, Metro Transit, and the cities of Edina, Richfield and Bloomington).



The purpose of the meeting was for local businesses to learn about long-term fixes being planned on Interstate 494 between Hwy 169 and the Airport; to hear about how changes to the I-494 access at Nicollet Ave, Portland Ave, and 12th Ave may affect our area; and to share our comments.

The project is planned to start as early as 2022. It's important to note that the final design is not determined yet, and that was part of the reason for this meeting. Even so, due to initial feasibility studies, the focus is currently on the possibility of closing access to I-494 at both Nicollet and 12th Avenues, while building up access at Portland Avenue in order to accommodate the increased traffic. You can learn more and watch for updates at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169/>

This might fall into the "what they didn't teach me in seminary" file; but even so, I found it quite interesting to see the various types of interchange designs available to choose from, including a tight diamond interchange, diverging diamond interchange, Texas U-Turn, roundabout, and single point urban interchange. It was with care that neighboring business owners and I looked over the designs, wrote feedback and questions on the diagrams, and voted for the design we thought would be best.

While none of the interchange designs would result in construction on our property, we will most certainly see changing traffic patterns according to the final design selected (as in a lot more traffic driving by)...especially if Portland Avenue becomes the only entrance/exit possibilities between Lyndale and Cedar Avenues.

Another significant impact could be to the access to existing businesses just to our North. Another meeting is planned this month to "explore ideas to reimagine the 'gateway' between Bloomington and Richfield." This is possible through a grant from a program called the Congress for New Urbanism Legacy Projects. You may learn more about this at <https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/plan/portland-legacy>

While this is pretty much what I know at the moment, you can depend on me to give updates when available. You are also invited to the following public events:

- **Monday, March 23 from 6-8 pm** at Richfield City Hall (6700 Portland Ave S) to focus on identifying opportunities and challenges and generating ideas.
- **Thursday, March 26 from 6-8 pm** here at Portland Avenue UMC (8000 Portland Ave S) where the design team will present and seek input on various ideas and actions to revitalize the area.

I suppose this can all be a bit disconcerting. Yet it also could be pretty interesting to see how all of this might bring greater visibility to our ministries here at The PORT. It could be that God is on the brink of doing yet a new thing with us! I pray we will be faithful and wise stewards of our witness, vision, mission, values, and heritage as all this unfolds around us.

Pastor Carol

Gift Card Program

March 29, 2020 will be our next deadline for ordering gift cards through the gift card program. This deadline allows your order to arrive in time for Easter.

In this fundraiser, you order and pay face value for any number of gift cards; and PAUMC receives a rebate from a portion of your sale from the company that processes the sale. It's a great fundraiser for the church, as long as participation is maintained.

Research gift card availability at <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com>.

Then fill out the order form found at the Welcome Desk, and return with payment to Kathy Swenson by March 29.



Fundraiser

March 2020



Mar. 1 Evelyn & Josh
 Mar. 8 Katelyn & Oliver
 Mar. 15 Janea & Luke
 Mar. 22 N/A
 Mar. 29 Josh & Oliver

Youth Group News

March 6-7 - Confirmation (grades 8-9) retreat at Camp Koronis.
 Leave church on Friday at 4:00 pm; return Saturday by 5:00 pm.

March 14 - Social activity with Beth Cameron.
 Paddy 'O' BINGO at The PORT from 1:30 to 3:00 pm.
 See details on page 6 (this is an all-church fellowship event).

March 29 - 6:00 to 8:00 pm Meet with Pastor Carol & Dan Baker
 for class and fellowship.

MARCH Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Coffee & Treats	Laurette Lawson, Jocelyne Medzagoh	JoAnne Volden, Carol Emdy	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Greeters	JoAnne Volden, Carol Emdy	Jeff Chamberlain, Lynn Furda	Barb & Clint Andrus	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler	Linda Dicks, Daniel Dray
Ushers	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Terry Wells, Steven Johnson	Bruce Benson, Beth Cameron, Jim & Marilyn Anderson	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson, Pat Ekstrom, Mike & Lori Moreland	Steve & Kathy Soucy, Steven Johnson, Pat Ekstrom
Welcomers	Ginny Karki	LaVonne Robinson	Jean & Guy Moore	Kathy & Steve Soucy	Kathy Swenson
Reader	Nathan Peine	Guy Moore	Mary Nelson	Joel Sponsel	Linda Dicks
Sound	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Dave Smith	Dave Smith	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus	Nathan Peine
Closer	Steve Knopp	Harvey Erstad	Paul Richardson	Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman
Counters	Russ Cox, Steve Soucy	Russ Cox, Wayne Andersen	Linda Dicks, Wayne Andersen	Linda Dicks, Wayne Andersen	Linda Dicks, Mike Moreland
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	Carol Emdy, JoAnne Volden				

Spiritual Growth

Easter Garden

It is now time to order your Easter Garden plants.
Lilies, Tulips, Mums, Hydrangeas, and Pansy Bowls are all available!

Easter Lilies are \$8.00 each.

Tulips are \$7.50 each and come in a choice of red, purple and yellow.

Mums are \$8.00 each and come in a choice of purple, yellow and white.

Hydrangeas are \$15.00 each and are pink.

10" Pansy Bowls are \$10.00 each, and come in assorted colors.

12" Pansy Bowls are \$15.00 each, and come in assorted colors.

Order forms are at the Welcome Desk. Please complete your order, including "in Memory of or Honor of," and turn it in to the Church Office with payment by Sunday, March 22.

The Easter Garden is always beautiful, and a tangible sign of new life!



Easter Plant Order Form

- _____ **Easter Lilies @ \$8.00**
- _____ **Red Tulips @ \$7.50**
- _____ **Purple Tulips @ \$7.50**
- _____ **Yellow Tulips @ \$7.50**
- _____ **Purple Mums @ \$8.00**
- _____ **Yellow Mums @ \$8.00**
- _____ **White Mums @ \$8.00**
- _____ **Pink Hydrangea @ \$15.00**
- _____ **10" Pansy Bowl @ \$10.00**
- _____ **12" Pansy Bowl @ \$15.00**

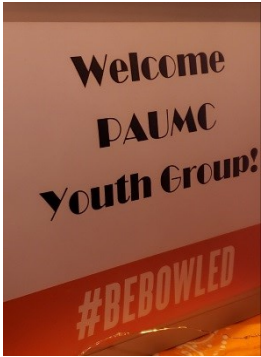
Total \$ _____

Name _____

In Memory of: _____

or

In Honor of: _____



Youth Group Bowling Recap

The Youth Group has been enjoying one social outing each month, led by Beth Cameron.

On February 22, we went bowling and all had a great time of fellowship.



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.

UMCOR Sunday - March 22

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church. Through UMCOR, we respond to U.S. and international disasters, while also working with vulnerable communities to strengthen self-sufficiency. Gifts given to this special offering underwrite UMCOR's administrative costs so that all designated gifts throughout the rest of the year will go to the project you specify. Your gifts ensures UMCOR's response in times of crisis so that 100% of gifts to UMCOR help those who need it most. Special offering envelopes will be provided in your bulletin.

Ash Wednesday Offering for VEAP

Our special offering received during our combined Ash Wednesday worship with Hillcrest UMC was designated for VEAP food shelf. There are over 3 million visits to Minnesota food shelves each year; and our local VEAP food shelf is one of the largest in our state. We received \$466 in offerings.

Thank you for your generosity!

February Mission Project Recap

Thank you to all who participated in the "Letters for Legislators" mission focus on February 23. The Wesley Room was full of folks writing letters to Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, and to the U.S. Representative from their district, urging bipartisan support for the Summer EBT program and Hunger-Free Summer for Kids Act (S.1918) as well as the Maternal and Child Health, Gavi, and Nutrition in Global Health initiative for fiscal year 2021.



We mailed 31 letters that day, while some took supplies to write and mail their letters from home.

Thank You from Valley View Elementary

Dear Pastor Zaagsma and congregation,

Thank you for your generous gift of Kleenex and bleach wipes. We greatly appreciate your support of Valley View Elementary School. They will be put to good use! The assistance of faith communities like yours have enabled this school to accomplish far more than it otherwise could have. On behalf of the staff at Valley View Elementary, I thank you again.

~Joan Maland, Principal

Congregational Care

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.

02 - Amelia Fischer	18 - Myron Karki
04 - Judy Richardson-Mahre	19 - Elijah Peine
05 - Katherine Minks	24 - Linda Gilbertson
16 - LaVonne Robinson	- Paul Sponsel
17 - Lori Livingston	28 - Ellen Smith

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Address Updates

Dorothy Chamberlain
(note: new room # only)
The Estates
9200 Nicollet Ave S #201
Bloomington, MN 55420

Les Castro & Blaine Daniels
1765 Clover Tree Ct.
Chula Vista, CA 91913

Bea Batchelor
(note: effective March 12)
Walker Methodist Care Suites
7400 York Ave. S. #330
Edina, MN 55435
(952) 230-1721

Ardy Anderson (new email):
ardy17360@gmail.com

Daniel Baker (new email):
dbaker8301@gmail.com

Welcome New Member

Pam Rose is the newest member here at The PORT, after transferring her membership from Simpson UMC on February 9. Pam grew up at Simpson UMC, and like many folks at some point along their faith journey, she stepped away for a bit. Then she returned and became quite active at Simpson UMC, where she has served as their treasurer since 2011. Pam lives here in Bloomington with her husband, Rudy. Welcome to Pam!



Paddy 'O' BINGO!

March 14, 2020

1:30 - 3:00 pm

Come for a fun afternoon of BINGO with prizes that celebrate St Patrick's Day as well as plenty of everyday favorites.

Arrive at 1:15 to get settled in.

We'll start calling our first game at 1:30 sharp.

Please bring a snack to share. Beverages are provided.

This event is free and open to everyone, so bring a friend!



Children, Youth & Family Ministries Garage Sale

April 24 and April 25

Please keep this annual event in mind as you go about your spring cleaning this year. Donations of clothing, household items, toys and tools are all greatly appreciated. More information will be available in the April Portlight.

Pizza and Game Night Recap

We had a great time of fellowship February 16, as over 20 gathered to enjoy pizza and play games for the evening.



Thank you to the Congregational Care Team for hosting this event.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:00 Youth Group Parent Meeting	2 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group	3 7:00am-8:00pm Presidential Nomination Primary	4 1:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group	5 1:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group	6 6:30pm Confirmation Retreat at Camp Koronis	7 3:00pm Confirmation Retreat Ends
8 Daylight Savings Time 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach	9 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group	10 4:30pm Serve dinner at Cornerstone 6:00pm Trustees	11 1:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group	12 1:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group	13 1:30pm Paddy 'O' Bingo!	14
15 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship Newsletter Deadline	16 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group	17 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	18 1:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group	19 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	20	21
22 UMCOR SUNDAY 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship	23 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group	24 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	25 1:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group 6:15pm SonRise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Pastor Carol Small Group	26	27	28
29 8:45am Handbells 9:00am Education 9:30am Fellowship 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group	30 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group	31 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp				

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

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