

THE PORTLIGHT

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



Let's do our best to know the Lord. His coming is as certain as the morning sun; he will refresh us like rain renewing the earth in the springtime. (Hosea 6:3)



June 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*

As I write this month's message, Minneapolis is burning in the aftermath of an uprising related to the killing of George Floyd. I hear the outcry. I feel the rage. I join in the heartache. And I know there is fear.

Words are never adequate in a time like this. So I will sit here for some time without words. And I will try instead to listen to the outcry right now.

...And to accept the rage; even as it is directed at me and others like me.

...And to feel the heartache; even though I know my heartache is nothing compared to that of George Floyd's family.

...And to face the fear; even as I know my fear pales in comparison to people of color in our communities who fear for the lives of their black and brown-skinned sons and husbands as they leave the house to go for a run in their neighborhood, or drive down the street, or write a check at their local supermarket.

By and large, I think those of us who are white have gone far too long without acknowledging that we have a problem with racism in our country, in our communities, even in our churches, and in ourselves. And it is past time to do something about it. It is long overdue

for us to raise our awareness and make a better effort to understand.

A few months ago I made mention of a small group study I was contemplating teaching. It was developed a few years ago by the United Methodist General Commission on Race and Religion. After my inquiry, just one person indicated an interest in studying this topic together. *Surely* we might have more interest now.

So this summer, I invite you to participate in a 9-week videoconference small group study with me entitled "Vital Conversations on Racism," from 7:00-8:00 pm on Wednesday evenings starting June 10. Each week will involve watching a video and then talking through the discussion questions during our videoconference call; and while it works best to call in with computer or smart-phone, you may also participate by dialing in on a landline.

Please email carol.zaagsma@paumc.org or otherwise call me to sign up. I'll send the technology details when the roster is complete.

Ready to learn together,

Pastor Carol



Guest Column *Letter by Bishop Bruce R. Ough*

Bishop Bruce R. Ough disseminated the following message to all Minnesota United Methodist congregations on May 22, 2020.

Keep On, Looking Ahead

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

Across our nation, many states are allowing more businesses to open with strict guidelines to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19. In this extended pandemic season, we are now at a point where the responsibility has shifted from Gov. Walz mandating that we stay at home to each person and organization determining how to stay safe based on recommendations offered to us.

Re-Gathering Plan for Churches



Many congregations are already well on their way in developing plans to gradually return to in-person worship when it becomes safe to do so. It's clear that our new normal for the foreseeable future will involve wearing masks, staying six feet apart, frequently washing our hands, sanitizing common spaces, and assessing our personal risk and vulnerabilities as we engage in our daily activities.

What does all of this mean for our churches? Religious leaders in Minnesota, including myself, have been working with the governor's office to develop specific guide-lines to re-open our houses of worship in smart and safe ways. In the meantime, the Minnesota Conference has developed a Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches based on

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Youth Group News

May 31 - 6:00 pm Youth Group Videoconference Game. Items to bring with you to the call: scrap paper and something to draw/write with. Also bring one object with you to the videoconference, but keep it hidden until it's time to reveal. Each of us will take a 2-minute turn to describe the object you brought, while others on the call try to draw it what you're describing. At the end of 2 minutes, we reveal our drawings and the closest picture to the actual object wins a point. Then we repeat for the next person to describe their object.

June 7 - 11:00 am Confirmation Videoconference. See email for details.

Congregational News Related to COVID-19

Office Hours

The PAUMC office remains open by telephone appointment only on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Please call as needed.

Worship & PAUMC Events

In-person worship and gatherings remain suspended until further notice.

We mail paper copies of worship materials each week to those without email. If you are not receiving these materials and wish to via USPS, please call the church office at (952) 888-6070 and request to be added to the weekly worship mailing.

Worship can be found online at 10:00 am Sundays, or any time thereafter at our YouTube channel or Facebook page:

- <https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>
- <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC>

Upper Room Devotional Books

We still have the Upper Room daily devotional books for May-June available. Each day includes a scripture reading and a very short reflection and prayer. Please contact the church office at (952) 888-6070 or email paumc@paumc.org if you would like a copy mailed to you.



Postponed Conference Dates Rescheduled

General Conference, Jurisdictional Conference, and the Minnesota Annual Conference were all recently postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rescheduled dates were recently announced, and are as follows:

- Minnesota Annual Conference will meet virtually for one day on August 29, 2020. We will set the Minnesota Annual Conference budget for 2021, which has a direct effect on the apportionments we pay.
- General Conference - August 29-September 7, 2021, in Minneapolis, MN. United Methodist Delegates from all over the world will be here to make decisions that affect the entire denomination.
- North Central Jurisdictional Conference - November 10-13, 2021 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. At this conference, we will elect new bishops to replace those who are retiring, including Bishop Ough, the resident bishop of the Dakotas and Minnesota.



There are few memories in a young adult's life that can match that of their high school graduation ... marching into the school auditorium or onto the athletic field ... WOW! The POMP and CIRCUMSTANCE . . . You finally made it!

We have two high school seniors: Dorothy Lynn Baker and Joseph Daniel Matton, both in the Class of 2020 at Kennedy Senior High School here in Bloomington; and one college graduate: Scott Cameron, featured in this edition of the Portlight.

Dorothy Baker

Dorothy was very much disappointed in the school year being shorted because she would be missing out on the socialization with teachers, friends, and other students.

Her favorite memory at Kennedy was in her sophomore year. It was all about the Sadie Hawkins Dance. The dance was memorable because the DJ kept playing music that wasn't really the style she liked, but she and her date still had a lot of fun pretending the music being played was music they liked and dancing to it anyway.

Dorothy enjoyed being in the Kennedy Theater productions, participating in 4 out of 9 of them, including The Little Mermaid musical, where she served as stage manager, which required working with a large supportive crew.

Dorothy's future plans are to go to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, but only time will tell when college campuses will be opening back up. She would like to study Journalism.



Joe Matton

Joseph (Joe) Daniel Matton also attended Kennedy High School, the Class of 2020. With the senior year cut short, Joe was going to be missing the camaraderie with his friends at school.

Throughout Joe's high school years, he most enjoyed participating in the choir program.

Early in Joe's school years, he became active in the Cub Scouts of America. As he grew older, he evolved into the Boy Scouts, and ultimately he was recognized and decorated as an Eagle Scout for a landscaping project he completed in the center island just outside the PAUMC sanctuary entrance.

Joe is currently employed at Menards in Richfield and is putting in a full-time schedule.

His plans this summer are to get some traveling under his belt. He has his sights on California and Florida.

Eventually, Joe is interested in getting into a trade for his career. He just might become a welder.



Charles (Scott) Cameron

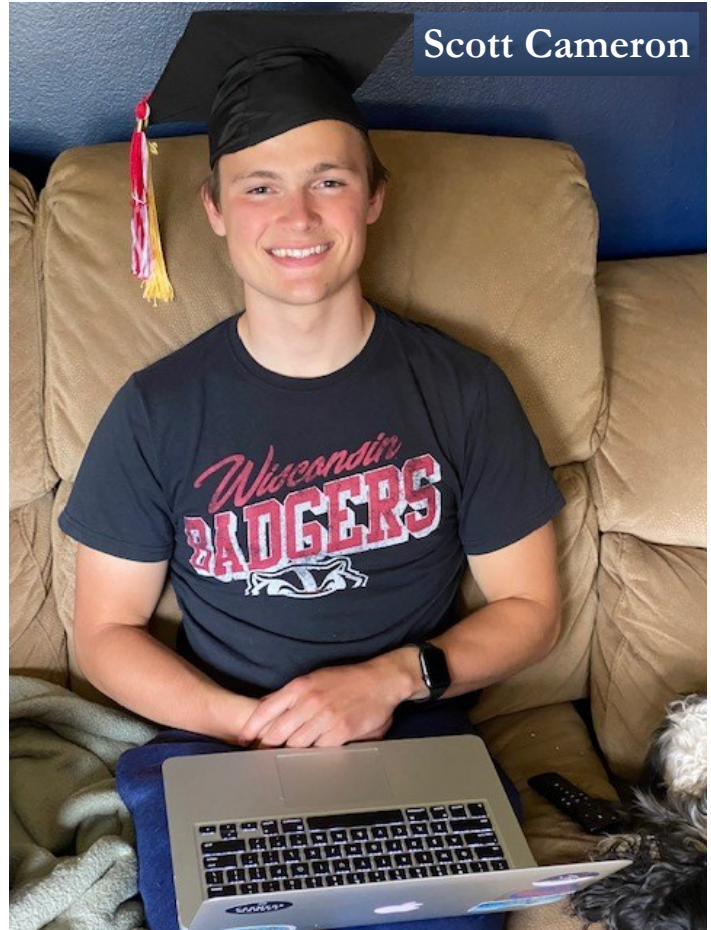
Scott is our congregation's most recent college graduate, having complete his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin. It might also be noted that Scott, too, was a graduate of Kennedy High School four years ago.

When I asked Scott what his plans were for the summer, he said he focus now is to get applications completed to get into Medical School. He has a great desire to get back to Wisconsin. He will be heading back in August.

Scott struck a familiar note with me when I inquired as to the field of medicine he was leaning toward. He responded, "Neuropathy." I mentioned that I suffered from that and maybe he would be able to remedy it. Then he told me that he was thinking about "JUVENILE Neuropathy". . . and my thought was, "maybe he can catch me in my second childhood!"

Whatever the future holds for Scott, he's ready! He is focused, ambitious, and completely prepared.

In addition to his professional life, he has the support of a young lady that has been in his life now for two and a half years. She is also studying medicine. I'm sure Scott and Natalie will enjoy a wonderful future together!



It was a great pleasure being able to chat with each of these young adults. I know that whatever lies ahead in their futures will ultimately be met head-on with what it takes to succeed. I wish them well, as I'm sure all of you do, too!
~Steve Soucy

Honoring 2020 Graduates

The following are extended family members who have or are graduating this school year.

- **Emma Meyer**, granddaughter of Floyd & Pat Ekstrom, graduated from Lakeville Area Learning Center. She plans to take a gap year and then attend one of the three colleges where she has been accepted.
- **Layton Wilson**, nephew of Pastor Carol, graduated from Glendale High School in Springfield, MO. He plans to attend Missouri State University this fall.
- **Leila Jones**, granddaughter of Jim & Marilyn Anderson, graduated with a PhD in child psychology from the University of Minnesota and now employed by the state education system.
- **Casey Nelson**, grandson of Mary Nelson, graduated from the University of California, Irvine.

Mission Outreach

Holy Week Challenge Update

On Palm Sunday, Pastor Carol issued a Holy Week Challenge. VEAP Foodshelves had recently reported that they can feed one person for a month for \$30, or a family of four for \$120.

Pastor Carol challenged us to join together to feed 10 families of 4 for one month through the local VEAP foodshelf, which meant we needed to raise \$1,200 in order to meet our goal.

Within two weeks, the unity around this challenge resulted not only meeting the goal, but far exceeding it! We had 35 individuals and family units participate in this challenge, with a total of \$4,600 sent from The PORT to support our local VEAP foodshelf.

What a beautiful way to witness to God's grace and generosity while tangibly helping our neighbors in need.



Meeting Basic Needs.
Building Stronger Communities.

Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during JUNE

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



- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 02 - Mark Wicks | 08 - Peggy Erstad | |
| 03 - Dianne Madsen | - Guy Moore | 19 - Harvey Erstad |
| - Julie Rasmussen | 09 - Joshua Rice | 21 - Alina Haugen |
| 06 - Clint Andrus | 16 - Blake Mahre | 24 - Ann Benson |
| 07 - Paul Swenson | 18 - Bryan Darnell | 29 - Heather Anderson |

Address Updates

Tim Hagerty (new email)
timjhagerty@hotmail.com
(Note: The Hagertys have discontinued their landline.)

Paul Sponsel (new home phone)
(952) 884-4581
(Note: Paul will not answer the phone but he does listen to messages.)

Administrative News

From the Finance Team

Our Finance Team asks that we all contribute as normally and regularly as we can, as building and staff expenses continue even while in-person worship is suspended. Please mail your contributions to PAUMC, 8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420; or consider a secure online donation at paumc.org/giving/. Thank you for your faithful support of The PORT.

From the Trustees

A few anonymous gardening angels have been at work in the landscaped areas on the west side of the building and in the Memorial Garden, pulling out leaves from last fall and mowing the grass in the courtyard. Thank you!

We could really use a couple of people to adopt one of these areas by stopping by once every week or two to pull weeds or otherwise care for the plants.

If you are willing to care for part of our grounds in this way, please contact Don Anderson, chair of the Trustees, by email at dona5745@aol.com or (612) 866-7184.

Lawnmower Sought

PAUMC has had a battery-powered lawn mower for some time to mow the Memorial Garden grass. This mower is no longer functioning. If you have an extra manual reel mower, or a small push mower that you would be willing to donate for this purpose, please contact Don Anderson, chair of the Trustees, by email at dona5745@aol.com or (612) 866-7184. Thank you.

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the best information we have right now. I want to remind you that currently, groups of only 10 people or fewer are permitted to gather if each person maintains the proper distance. Drive-in worship services at which people remain their vehicles is also an option.

I urge you to go slow and keep your focus on the health and safety of your congregation and neighbors. I believe we will need to let go of trying to determine a precise date when we will be able fully return to public worship and recognize that we will instead need to be guided by a phased approach that unfolds over the course of the coming months as COVID-19 continues impact our state and communities to varying degrees.

I know how painful this is when we need each other more than ever and we long to see one another face-to-face. But as leaders of the church, we are called to care for the most vulnerable in our midst—and there is no way we can gather indoors, for an extended period of time, without exposing people in our communities to significant risk. What we know is that the virus is spread through the air, and we are contagious before we show symptoms. Gathering for celebrations such as weddings, funerals, corporate worship, and singing, are extremely high-risk activities. There have been several recent reports of congregations gathering for worship and then promptly closing after a coronavirus outbreak caused by an asymptomatic carrier. The stay-at-home order might have been lifted, but the virus is still very much with us.

Additionally, for most of our congregations, what you are able to offer online is of a higher quality than an in-person experience would be right now given the physical distancing requirements, restrictions on singing, recommendation to wear masks, and need for careful cleaning between all activities. Imagine a sanctuary where every family is six feet apart. There is no congregational singing. There are no hugs or handshakes. There is no mingling or fellowship time. The very things that people are longing for in gathering are too risky at this time. Many of our congregants, particularly the elderly, will be unlikely to accept the risks associated with in-person gatherings week after week if what they can experience at home is closer to the worship service they know and love.

I have heard the concerns. What about the church down the road that is open when we are not? Why can people shop at Walmart and Home Depot but not come to church? Of course being the church matters. But we are called to act not out of fear or competition or economic uncertainties but out of love and care for the whole. There is nothing stopping us from being the church we are called to be right now, in this moment, and we can do it in a way that ensures the safety of our people.

So, my friends, I ask you to keep on keeping on. Continue to innovate and seek new methods to help your congregation grow as disciples and serve your community. Invest in online worship and plan to make it an extension of your church even after we can resume in-person gatherings. Take advantage of these summer months by having some 10-person gatherings outdoors while wearing masks and staying six feet apart, or by inviting people to drive-in worship. Plan to not return to in-person worship until the risk of infection is low and in adherence with all state guidelines. Keep developing and refining your congregation's plans for re-gathering based on our [Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches](#).

Current Phase: Orange



Continue to encourage and engage in extravagant generosity because we are open for business, and your support is essential to our mission of making disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

Thank you for your leadership and the tremendous ways you are adapting in this most challenging time. I know how difficult and exhausting it is to live and lead in this time of uncertainty. And yet, we do not do this by our own strength. We are held up by the power of the Holy Spirit, and I have every confidence that God will continue to lead us forward into a future with hope.

In Christ's love,

Bishop Bruce R. Ough
Resident Bishop, Dakotas-
Minnesota Area
The United Methodist Church



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 online worship on Sundays at 10:00 am
~~Sunday School (9:00 am) and Coffee Fellowship (9:30 am)~~ suspended until further notice

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

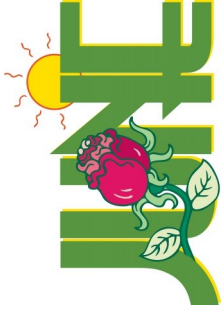
Mary Nelson (Handbells Director) nelsonc2m@aol.com

Paul Herrmann (Custodian) 612-916-3376

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:00am Online Worship with Communion 11:00am Confirmation Videoconference	8	9	10 7:00pm Vital Conversations on Racism Small Group Videoconference	11	12	13
14 10:00am Online Worship 11:00am Congregational Care Videoconference	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:00am Online Worship	22	23	24 7:00pm Vital Conversations on Racism Small Group Videoconference	25 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group Videoconference	26	27
28 10:00am Online Worship	29	30	<p>TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch • https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/ 			

Puzzle!

Use the code to find out what these biblical people may have taken on a picnic.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

(Genesis 3:6)
Adam and Eve 6 18 21 9 20

(Genesis 25:28)
Isaac 23 9 12 4 7 1 13 5

(Genesis 25:34)
Esau 19 20 5 23

(Numbers 11:5)
Israelites in Egypt 3 21 3 21 13 2 5 18 19

(Ruth 2:1-4)
Ruth 7 18 1 9 14

(1 Samuel 14:2)
Saul 16 15 13 5 7 18 1 14 1 20 5 19

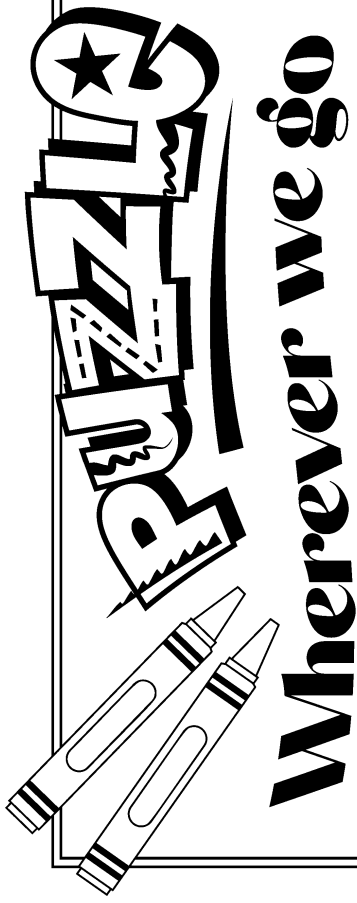
(1 Samuel 14:29)
Jonathan 8 15 14 5 25

(Daniel 1:12-16)
Daniel and friends 22 5 7 5 20 1 2 12 5 19

(Matthew 3:4)
John the Baptist 12 15 3 21 19 20 19

(Matthew 14:17)
The 5,000 people 2 18 5 1 4 6 9 19 8

Answer: fruit, wild game, stew, cucumbers, grain, pomegranates, honey, vegetables, locusts, bread & fish

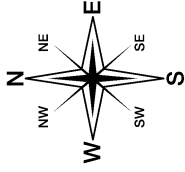


Puzzle!

Wherever we go

No matter where we journey, God always protects us.

Directions: Use the map and compass to answer the clues. Then write the boxed letters in order in the spaces below to complete Psalm 121:8, NIV.



Start at the SHIP.
Move 1 space N, 3 spaces E, and 2 spaces N _ _ _ _

Start at the WORLD.
Move 1 space W, 1 space S, and 1 space SE _ _ _ _

Start at the SUITCASE.
Move 1 space NE, 2 spaces S, and 1 space E _ _ _ _

Start at the PLANE.
Move 2 spaces SW, 1 space S, and 1 space W _ _ _ _

Start at the CAR.
Move 1 space E, 1 space N, and 1 space NW _ _ _ _

Start at the SIGN.
Move 1 space SE, 1 space W, and 2 spaces NW _ _ _ _

The _ ORD will watch ove_ your comi_g and go_ng both no_ and for_ vermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV

Answer: plane, car, sign, ship, world, suitcase. The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:8, NIV