

THE PORTLIGHT

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



FOOD DRIVE



**Parade of Donations
Wednesday, September 30, 2020
6:00-7:30 pm**

September's mission outreach focus is on a donation drive for VEAP. The plan is to hold a "Parade of Donations" on Wednesday, September 30, from 6:00-7:30 pm when you can drive by and drop off your non-perishable food donations or paper products (diapers, wipes, toilet paper) in the parking lot at church. Members of the Mission Outreach Team will be there to receive your donations and then take them to VEAP.

This is a special project intended to honor Linda Schesso's retirement, which happens to coincide with our drop off date! Linda is the chair of the Mission Outreach Team and is retiring from her home childcare business. She would love to celebrate with a big turnout to benefit VEAP.

September 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

Hi Friends,

I have one request of you. When you watch the weekly worship video on YouTube or Facebook, would you please react to it with either a comment about something that really resonated with you, or click on one of the responses available, such as a "like" or whichever other option best fits your honest reaction to what you saw and heard?

The reason for my request is perhaps a little selfish. You see, it gets a little lonely leading worship in front of my DSLR camera (yes, that's how I've been recording worship this whole time). I miss seeing you on Sunday mornings. I rely on your body language to know if there is a concern I should inquire about. So it would help me a lot just to simply know that you are there. A comment or reaction from you would help me to know you watched. Along the same lines, I imagine our musicians would love to hear an encouraging word from you as well.

A secondary (although honestly more important) reason comes from knowing a little bit about social media. You see, when you reply to a public post, your friends will more easily see that you have interacted with it. Sometimes social media gives you a notification or an alert when a friend comments on something you commented on. That makes worship more noticeable to other people, which might help them see a message that touches their heart when they otherwise wouldn't have stumbled upon the video on their own. Simply put, your responses help others in the congregation know that you are there, too; while also helping all your friends have a better chance of being blessed by our ministries. It's one way to be a gentle evangelist.

I suspect some of you are wondering why we're not returning to in-person worship yet if I'm missing you all so much! And it is true - I do miss you. I love to hear from you via email and when you call. I confess I do not make as many outgoing calls to you as I would like. The collective spiritual, administrative and technology needs during this pandemic have skyrocketed for me, and I honestly am doing the best I can do to keep up with those time-sensitive demands. But I promise I will answer when you call, as long as I'm not tied up in a meeting or talking with someone at the moment, or spending family time at home after a long work day.

I've also heard people comment how wrong they think it is that so many other businesses have opened up and the church ("the one thing we need the most" they say) remains closed. And, it is true - many other businesses have opened up. But, it is fundamentally not true that the church is "closed."

Our ministries are very much underway - they just look different than they did before the pandemic. We continue to worship every week. We continue to support our neighbors who are in need. We held an 8-week virtual small group study through the summer. And now over 30 people have signed up to be a PORT Pal by calling their assigned "pal" from church once a week to say "hi." We have scheduled our third virtual coffee fellowship to be held September 20. We are working with Sunday School teachers, as well as the youth group and their parents to design meaningful faith formation during this time. We are also working with Bazaar Workshop groups to begin meeting again, perhaps in new ways (with more homework to be done individually) as well as masks and physical distancing when they are in the building.

The real truth is that the way we have done the things we do on a typical Sunday morning (sing, shake hands, hand out bulletins, talk for extended periods of time, take communion, pass the offering plates, etc.), as well as in most of our ministries (fellowship events, mission outreach projects that put us side-by-side in close quarters) is not safe to do with this particular coronavirus in our midst. So, we're figuring out new ways to do these things - and all that takes time; and it will take people to do the cleaning required once we do return to in-person worship. So until we have the "how" figured out, and the volunteers lined up to handle the extra needs, and the go-ahead from state and conference leaders as well as the Church Council, we'll continue to worship virtually. I'm confident that God is understanding of this, and I pray that we will be as well.

Please connect to the ministries that are underway. Who knows - *you* might be just the person someone else was hoping to hear from the next time we have virtual worship or coffee fellowship. So, yes, it does matter that you show up, for more than just me!

Pastor Carol



Sunday School News

We're not quite ready to return to in-person worship, but when we do, we're going to try an experiment with having Sunday School during worship. Everyone, including kids, will start in the Sanctuary. After children's moments, they will go to Sunday School for the remainder of the worship hour. More details will follow once we're able to come back in-person and can give this a try.

Youth Group News

September 27, 2020 - 11:00 am Youth and Parent virtual meeting to discuss plans for MS/HS Sunday School and Youth Group for the coming program year.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81340147323?pwd=RnZFNmxiclzWHJkRWNaakMxZ2tOQT09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 813 4014 7323 Passcode: 875398
Telephone # 312 626 6799 US (rates may apply)

Congregational News Related to COVID-19

Many are wondering when PAUMC will return to in-person worship. We are following the guidelines of the Minnesota Annual Conference. We remain in the "yellow phase," which is the third of five phases. The "yellow phase" is characterized by "some state-wide restrictions still in place for businesses and gatherings with the infection rate leveling off or decreasing."

The next more permissive phase would be blue. We do have a small group of leaders working on a plan for how we can return to in-person worship using all the required safety protocols once we reach the "blue phase." We are also working on the technology to enable a small group of worship leaders (pianist, vocal soloist, liturgist, media & sound technicians, and pastor) to live stream worship from the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. We'll let you know when we're ready for this! We had hoped we might be in the "blue phase" by Labor Day, but we are not, therefore in-person worship remains suspended until further notice.

Here is a summary of the recommendations for the "yellow phase" we are in now, with the full list available here <https://www.minnesotauc.org/regatheringplan> :
Worship and life events:

- Continue holding online worship, recording from home or the sanctuary with only a small group of people.
- If your space is large enough for social distancing (we recommend at no more than 25 percent of room capacity), have a contingency plan for overflows beyond the approved number of people. Place measured markers throughout the sanctuary to identify approved seating areas. Thoroughly clean surfaces and common areas between services.

- High-risk individuals (those over age 60 and/or with underlying health conditions) are highly encouraged to stay home and should be given options to participate through virtual means.
- Minimize the number of items that need to be touched or distributed, including offering & bulletins.
- Have designated individual(s) record the names of each person present, not only for attendance purposes but for contact tracing if needed.
- Use no-touch alternatives to communion, if you choose to offer it during this phase.
- Do not sing when gathered inside of your building.
- Create opportunities for fellowship time online instead of before or after worship.
- Eliminating nursery care during this phase; and have children remain with family during children's time.
- At the end of service, direct people row by row to leave the building, with doors propped open to eliminate the need to touch door handles. Have separate entrance and exit doors.

Small groups and faith formation:

- You may offer both in-person and online opportunities for Bible studies, small groups, and committee meetings, but must retain virtual participation options for those not yet comfortable attending in-person.
- Do not offer in-person children's ministries, Vacation Bible School (VBS), mission trips, or lock-ins until we reach the next phase.

As you can see, there is a lot to consider! We will continue to be as transparent as possible, while making decisions with intention and care, given the most current information we have at the time. ~Pastor Carol

Mission Outreach

Cornerstone Shelter Meal Update

The PORT's response to the Mission Outreach Team's invitation to sponsor a boxed dinner for residents at Cornerstone Shelter was tremendous! At \$14 per meal, we received enough to purchase at least 70 meals, so we've already scheduled to sponsor dinner again on the first day of school, and will pick another date for as long as we have the funding!

2020 Love Offering

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with the Annual Conference Session. The theme of the 2020 Annual Conference session, which took place virtually on Aug. 29, is "Be the Light - Live Hope!" The Love Offering provides the opportunity to be light and hope for those crying out for love, compassion, justice, and grace in their lives.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough invites congregations to begin praying about and preparing to participate in the Love Offering as a miraculous expression of the abundant life we have in Christ Jesus, even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and social upheaval.

The funds from this year's offering will go to four projects: Simpson Housing Services (40 percent), Emma Norton Services (40 percent), Joyce Uptown Foodshelf (10 percent), and the Committee on Native American Ministry Diaper Drive (10 percent).

Simpson Housing Services - 40%. Simpson Housing Services' mission is to house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness. It began as an emergency overnight shelter in the basement of Simpson UMC in 1982. Simpson has since become a leading nonprofit providing assistance to people experiencing homelessness through their emergency shelter, supportive housing, and developmental and educational services for children, while also partnering with landlords and developers to find affordable housing for all families and individuals. The 2020 Love Offering will support the construction of a new, modern, and dignified shelter on the property of the old Simpson UMC building. Learn more at www.simpsonhousing.org

Emma Norton Services - 40%. Emma Norton was founded in 1917 in St. Paul through a gift that Mrs. Emma Norton from Winona, MN gave to the United Methodist Women. Today, Emma Norton serves homeless women, individuals, and families who have the additional challenges of mental health, chemical dependency, and/or a chronic health condition. Emma Norton helps nearly 300 individuals and children each year through its permanent housing facilities in St. Paul and Maplewood, a scattered-site housing program in the community, and its SOAR (Social Security Outreach, Access, and Recovery Technical Assistance) Program, while also serving nearly 80 children through home visits, after-school programming, social emotional learning, and tutoring. In 2020, Emma Norton is undergoing a major renovation of its family townhome community in Maplewood and launching a capital campaign for a new building in St. Paul that will better serve its clients. Learn more at www.emmanorton.org.

Joyce Uptown Foodshelf - 10%. Joyce Uptown Foodshelf is committed to serving anyone experiencing food insecurity in a large area of South Minneapolis. Its mission is to distribute food to those in need with respect and dignity, as an expression of the love of God. The foodshelf, started 50 years ago by the former Joyce UMC, is now a ministry of Lake Harriet UMC and relies on its many partners who donate time, food, and money. In 2019, Joyce Uptown Foodshelf served 12,684 individuals, 4,358 of whom were children, and distributed 239,556 pounds of food. In 2020, the foodshelf is focused improving its physical space to be more accessible for its clients. Learn more at www.joyceuptownfoodshelf.org

Native American Ministry Diaper Drive - 10%. The Minnesota Conference Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM) is coordinating a diaper drop that will provide diapers to families on each of the 11 reservations in Minnesota. For families that were already struggling, the pandemic has exacerbated economic hardship. This drive will help native families meet a vital need during this worldwide health crisis.

To support these ministries, send your check marked "Love Offering" to the church office, or donate securely online at paumc.org/giving and select "Special UMC Mission Offering." Bless others through your generosity during these difficult times.

We celebrate YOU during SEPTEMBER

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

04 - Ardy Anderson	20 - Travis Runck	27 - Jerry Janes
06 - Cash Minks	21 - Joy Plourde	28 - Barb Andrus
08 - Joaquina Lawson	25 - Clara Haugen	29 - Ronele Janes
- Trey Thompson	- Georgina Wittstruck	
13 - Steven Fischer		
15 - Paul Schesso		
18 - Oliver Darnell		



Address Updates

JoAnne Volden
7 Travelers Trail W #112
Burnsville, MN 55337

Jim Stinson
new home phone:
(952) 854-9317



From the Mailbox

Thank You from Cornerstone Shelter

Dear Friends at Portland Avenue United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of dinner for the families in Cornerstone's shelter. We are so grateful that your organization and its members have been such a strong source of partnership in our work!

Sincerely,
Courtney Poja
Director of Advancement

A Postcard from a Sister Congregation

Hello! My name is Lily Caudill and I serve on staff at Church of the Resurrection. On behalf of the church and our ShareChurch Team, we wanted to let you know that we are praying for you as you seek to be the salt and light in the community. We are proud to be on this mission with you!

Editor's Note: Church of the Resurrection is in Leawood, Kansas. Some of you may recognize it because it is the church where Adam Hamilton is the lead pastor, and our small groups often read his small group study books.

Virtual Coffee Fellowship

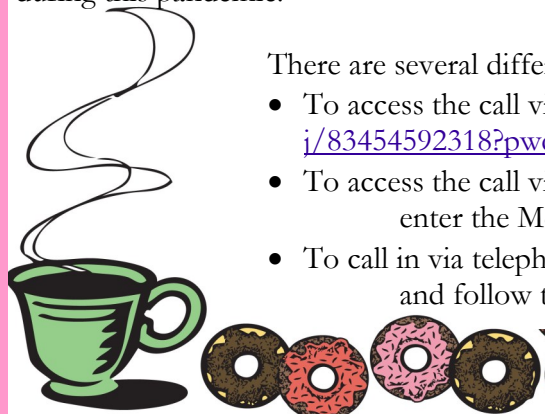
The Congregational Care Team and Lynn Livingston will host a Virtual Coffee Fellowship via Zoom on Sunday, September 20, 2020, from 10:30-11:15 am. Many have bemoaned the fact that you miss seeing each other. Here's a chance to safely connect and "see" one another virtually; so participating in this is a great way to connect with your church friends during this pandemic!



Coffee Fellowship

There are several different ways you can participate:

- To access the call via a web browser, click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83454592318?pwd=cSsyK2VyRk9QSWNtNEdTRHI3UzFGQT09>
- To access the call via Zoom app on a tablet, smartphone or pc: enter the Meeting ID 834 5459 2318 and Password 046952
- To call in via telephone without video access (rates may apply): Dial 1-312-626-6799 and follow the prompts. Meeting ID is 834 5459 2318 and Password is 046952.



2020 Holiday Bazaar *“with some essential changes”*

2020 is set to be the 46th year of our PAUMC Holiday Bazaar. This has always been an exciting event for our members that gets us in the mood for the holidays and makes us a visible presence in the community. With the COVID-19 pandemic, some discussion arose about canceling this year’s event, given all the rules and protocols in place and we were feeling disappointed. There were a few who wondered if it could still be done, safely.

A sub-committee was formed to take a serious look at the situation and brainstorm some possible solutions and we came up with a plan we are excited about! We investigated the current requirements of the Bloomington and State Health Departments and the CDC and looked at how we could operate and adjust our Bazaar to meet those expectations. The plan went before the entire Bazaar Committee and was approved. We then received the blessing of the Church Council (with some reservations), so as things stand, we are ready to proceed. So many beloved events have been canceled this year, and we know the community relies on our annual Holiday Bazaar as a way to kickstart the holiday season. We at the PORT are a Safe Harbor, and our sub-committee feels that right now people could use a little lift in their spirits and maybe some new fun things for the Holidays!

This year’s Bazaar will be smaller. We will have holiday decorations, some woodcrafts, needlework, a small Silent Auction and some pre-packaged food items. We will not have a bake sale and the Bistro won’t be serving food but we can still have a festive atmosphere. We have always provided quality handmade crafts and items for our customers, and that will be the focus of this year’s sale as well. We have created a brand with a loyal following. The PORT’s Holiday Bazaar is the biggest event we sponsor each year. In a few short years we will hit a half-century of successful Bazaars! While fundraising has been an important part of previous Holiday Bazaars, that is not a priority this year. We want to be a service to people who need some normalcy in these trying times. We have encountered challenges in many ways over the years and each time we hit a bump in the road we rally the troops, make an alternative plan and move forward. We CAN do this this year too!

We fully understand that many of our members are in the “vulnerable adult category” and would not feel safe

working at or attending the Bazaar, but you can still be a part of it! If you would like to help make projects – painting, gluing, sewing, sawing, sanding, or the like – we can set you up with something you can do at home. Most of us have more time than we need right now, so if you are interested get in touch with one of us listed below and we will get you going. We will have other ways you can help and we will keep you informed as we finalize the plans.

We want to share with you the procedures we have set so far for Bazaar 2020:

- We have created a map of the Fellowship Hall with a clear layout that provides one-way traffic, with no ability to cross others’ paths. To maintain social distance guidelines we will have a limited number of PORT staff and customers in the Hall at one time.
- All workers and customers will be required to wear a face mask. We will encourage staff to also wear gloves and will have them available for customers as well. We will have sanitizing stations at the entrance to the church and the Hall.
- The Silent Auction will be stocked mainly with gift baskets put together by our members. If your family typically donates a basket, we urge you to do it again this year. We will also have a small group willing to do some shopping and creation of baskets with funds donated by members, so if you aren’t able to or comfortable with shopping for your items you can send a check and we will do it for you.
- The only food items we will sell will be commercially-made products like lefse and fruitcake. We have some leads for other possibilities to include as well.
- Our fliers will reflect the fact that this event is scaled down, but we will be back in full-force next year!

We will be sending out more information in the coming weeks, and we encourage you all to keep crafting if you have been, and if you are looking for a project, call one of us below and we will help you. We look forward to a successful and meaningful 2020 PORT Holiday Bazaar – “with some essential changes.”

Bazaar Sub-committee

Kathy Swenson 612-209-4559 swenkath@gmail.com
Lynn Livingston 952-797-2645 lynnliving@yahoo.com
Lori Livingston 952-928-5344 lklivingston@yahoo.com
Barb Andrus 612-619-5785 bcandrus80@gmail.com
Judy Richardson-Mahre 612-202-6457 jembrm@charter.net

Wallet Thieves

The Bloomington Police Department has seen an increase in wallet thefts recently. Unfortunately many of our victims are elderly, and these are occurring in stores, specifically grocery stores such as Cub Foods on Lyndale and Walmart. Suspects will take advantage of unsecured wallets in purses and distracted shoppers.

The Crime Prevention Unit put together a flyer (found below) to help remind people of things they can do to help prevent these thefts. And as always, please report any suspicious behavior!

-CRIME ALERT-

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM WALLET THEFT

- Take only what you need and **leave the rest at home**
- If someone bumps you or engages in conversation,
keep in mind someone **may be trying to take something from you**
- If you must bring a purse or bag,
ensure it is **zipped or securely closed**
- **Never** leave your purse unattended in a cart
- If you discover your wallet has been stolen,
call your bank immediately and notify the police.
Criminals often try to use the items in a wallet
and your identification immediately.



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>

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00am Online Worship/ Communion	7 Labor Day	8 6:00pm Trustees Videoconference	9	10	11	12
13 10:00am Online Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach Videoconference	14	15 7:00pm Bazaar Workshop	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18	19
20 10:00am Online Worship 10:30am Virtual Coffee Fellowship 11:15am Congregational Care Videoconference	21	22 7:00pm Bazaar Workshop	23	24	25	26
27 10:00am Online Worship 11:00am Youth & Parent Videoconference	28	29 7:00pm Bazaar Workshop	30 6:00-7:30pm VEAP food drive drop-off in honor of Linda Schesso's Retirement	<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/ 		

30 Days of Anti-Racism

Campus minister Morgan Stafford said, “I have learned that I’ve benefitted from racism, while people of color have been harmed. I believe that white Christians must take the lead to confront and dismantle racism. It’s our job.”

To focus and make tangible his beliefs, Morgan spent the month of June doing at least one thing every day to listen to, learn from, do, and become more anti-racist. His idea has been recreated into this “30 Days of Anti-Racism” project and shared with United Methodists across the denomination. Learn more at <https://www.gcorr.org/30-days-of-anti-racism/>. Participate as you are able; and repeat again next month as you’d like. This is long, hard work, but we can make a difference when we all make an effort.

30 *days* of ANTI-RACISM

SEPTEMBER 2020		1 Pray about how God is calling you to act.	2 Draft your racial autobiography.	3 Participate in intercultural conversations.	4 Volunteer or donate in support of National Food Bank	5 Support diverse leadership.
6 Celebrate National Read-a-Book Day by purchasing an anti-racism resource.	7 Pray about how you can speak up about injustice this week.	8 Learn more about your local elections.	9 Engage in the difficult conversation.	10 Learn greetings and phrases in another language.	11 Be willing to be in the minority.	12 Support a local Black-owned business.
13 Listen to a preacher from a different cultural background than your own.	14 Plan to participate in an anti-racism demonstration.	15 Commit to continued learning in celebration of National Online Learning Day.	16 Engage in local community organizing.	17 Recognize racism in your community.	18 Find a mentor who is from a different cultural background than your own.	19 Learn about Hispanic Heritage Month.
20 Send your tithe or offering to a Black church.	21 Engage with and invest in young leaders dedicated to anti-racism work.	22 Celebrate National Voter Registration Day by registering to vote and helping another person to register.	23 Encourage an activist.	24 Support Black artists and musicians.	25 Amplify the voices of People of Color by inviting them as speakers at worship and other events.	26 Watch a documentary film or series about anti-racism.
27 Pray about how God is calling you to be more anti-racist.	28 Support non-profits engaged in the work of anti-racism.	29 Examine your implicit biases.	30 Commit to continuing the work of anti-racism in honor of National Love People Day.	  RELIGION & RACE The United Methodist Church www.gcorr.org		
#30DaysAntiRacism						