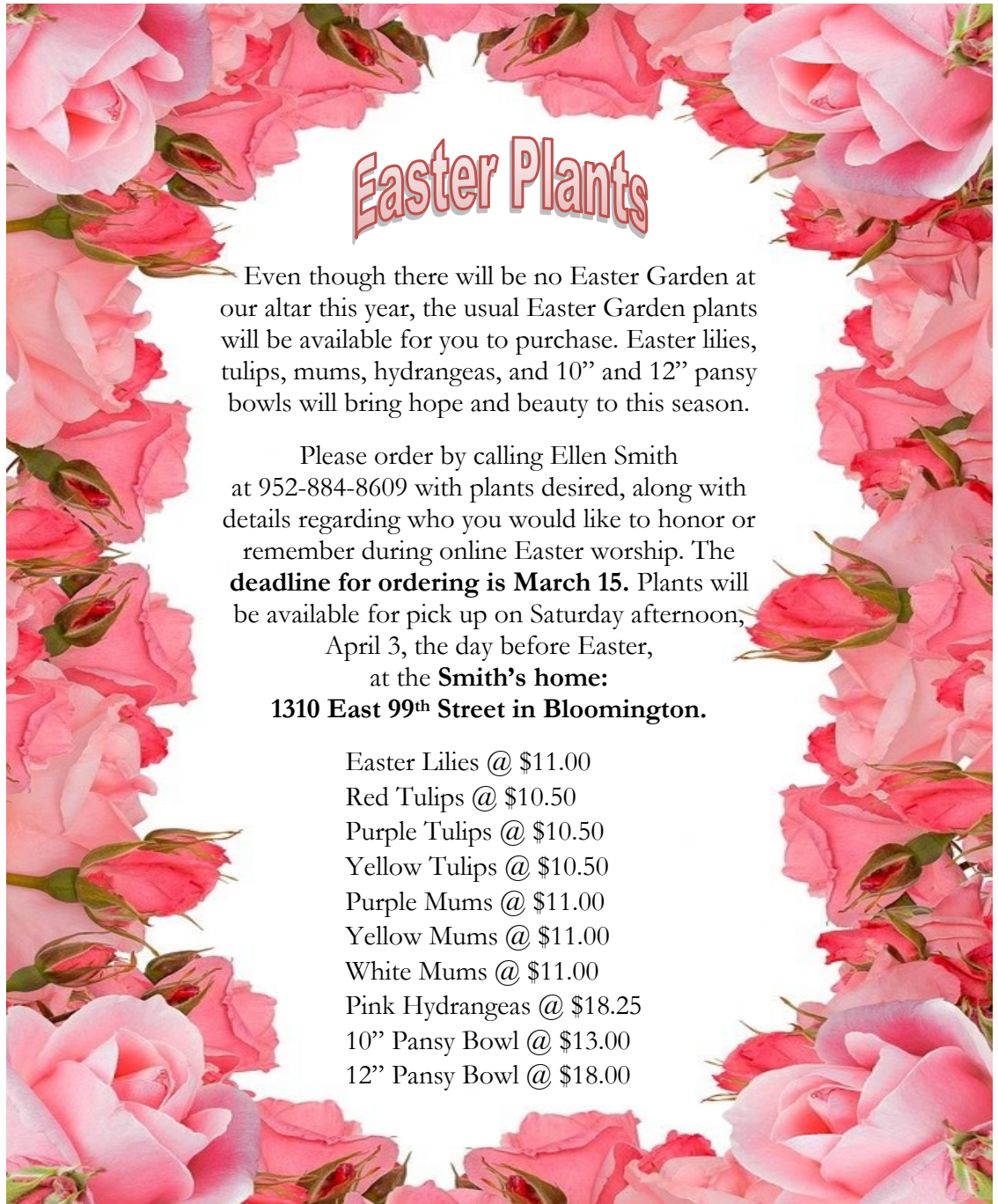


THE PORTLIGHT

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



Easter Plants

Even though there will be no Easter Garden at our altar this year, the usual Easter Garden plants will be available for you to purchase. Easter lilies, tulips, mums, hydrangeas, and 10" and 12" pansy bowls will bring hope and beauty to this season.

Please order by calling Ellen Smith at 952-884-8609 with plants desired, along with details regarding who you would like to honor or remember during online Easter worship. The **deadline for ordering is March 15**. Plants will be available for pick up on Saturday afternoon, April 3, the day before Easter, at the **Smith's home:**
1310 East 99th Street in Bloomington.

- Easter Lilies @ \$11.00
- Red Tulips @ \$10.50
- Purple Tulips @ \$10.50
- Yellow Tulips @ \$10.50
- Purple Mums @ \$11.00
- Yellow Mums @ \$11.00
- White Mums @ \$11.00
- Pink Hydrangeas @ \$18.25
- 10" Pansy Bowl @ \$13.00
- 12" Pansy Bowl @ \$18.00

March 2021

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*

In a mailing last December to all members and friends of The PORT, the idea of Star Words was introduced, along with a randomly picked Star Word written on a yellow poster board star for each member of your family.

While I was aware of all the various words selected to become Star Words, the process of distributing them truly was random. Your Star Word was a gift to you, with encouragement to ponder what significance it might have in your life, or to consider how God might be speaking to you in the coming year through *your* word.

A Star Word was picked at random for me, too. I'll be honest – knowing the whole list of words, I was hoping beyond hope to receive the word REST in my mailing.

My routine has been so very different with pandemic responsibilities at church. What used to be a demanding schedule became much more onerous with navigating the technical challenges of shifting from in-person to online worship (seriously, I didn't even know how to record video on my camera) leading staff and leaders in the congregation to reimagine their ministry areas to engage folks virtually, many additional videoconference meetings, and not only preparing worship (designing liturgy, writing sermon, etc.) but in pandemic times, extending that worship-prep process by up to 3 hours of recording time and 10-12 more hours per week editing and video uploading time. To say that I wanted, perhaps even needed, the Star Word REST is an understatement.

Instead, I got the word REVIVE. Revive means to return to consciousness or life – to become active or flourishing again. It sounds like really hard word. Like I so often do, the first thing that came to mind is this word in the context of this congregation. Is that what my Star Word is about? I'm exhausted. Yet is God urging me to revive all of us as individuals as well as our

entire congregational structure and culture and systems?

After *much* prayer (like, this really weighed heavy on my heart, so I prayed *a lot*), it became clear to me that it's not my job alone to revive us. We've all got work to put in as far as that goes, and to lean on the power of the Holy Spirit, too. Furthermore, we each have our own Star Word to consider how God is speaking through our word, so perhaps it's fitting that I take on my Star Word in a more personal manner, while trusting you all are doing the same. Out of that, we all might be revived!

Again, through much prayer, I realized that God is encouraging me to take on this word REVIVE in relation to the personal joys I had set aside amid the rigorous demands of pastoring in a pandemic – joys such as trumpet playing, spontaneous mid-day play with Bailey, cooking/baking (I had asked for and received a casserole cookbook for Christmas, so have enjoyed trying many new recipes from it since the first of the year), and developing the routine where I end every day with a phone call to my mom to see how her day went. I also signed up to take the remaining six courses required for my MBA in an effort to REVIVE my career goals. And you know what? I'm beginning to feel revived.

This is just my journey so far this year with my Star Word. The year is young, so I imagine my relationship to my Star Word will continue to change and shift and grow as the year progresses. Perhaps more importantly is the question about how you've been getting along with your Star Word so far this year? I'd be curious to hear from you, so please call or send me a note about your Star Word story.

Journeying with you,

Pastor Carol



Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)



Blake Mahre (on right) with two influential mentors on the day he preached his first sermon.

Welcome to Our New Youth Group Intern

I'm pleased to introduce Blake Mahre as a recently appointed Youth Group Intern. Blake will work with me to provide leadership, faith formation and fellowship opportunities to our youth group. As many of you know, Blake has a call to youth ministry, and this will be wonderful experience for him as well as welcome leadership to the youth group here at The PORT. Please join me in welcoming Blake in this capacity.

~Pastor Carol

Youth Group News

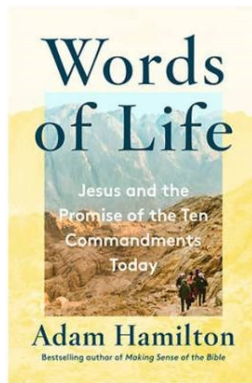


March 14 - 6:00 pm Videoconference Topic: TBD. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86286015085?pwd=aTl6STQ1YmppNTNVTWFQd3kzUGQwZz09> or call (312) 626-6799 Meeting ID 862 8601 5085 Passcode 963355

March 28 - 6:00 pm Videoconference Topic: TBD. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85892371360?pwd=aitBRVdpdUxGK29aMGZBa1dJakdKZz09> or call (312) 626-6799 Meeting ID 858 9237 1360 Passcode 562285

Small Group Study Opportunity for April

Nancy Hagerty and Dave Smith will be hosting a five-week video/book study on “Words of Life - Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today” by Adam Hamilton. Guided by the author, we will look at each ‘thou-shalt-not’ commandment and learn how it is really intended to be a life giving ‘thou-shalt’ guide. The video was filmed in Egypt. To read a full description of the book and see the sample video, go to: <https://www.cokesbury.com/9781524760540-words-of-life>



- Nancy — Monday, April 12 at 7:00 PM
- Dave — Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 PM

Hardcover books are available for purchase through the Church Office for \$19.00. Otherwise, electronic versions are available to order on your own through Kindle or Apple Books, currently \$13.99. To order your book and to sign up for a small group, please call the Church Office at 952-888-6070 or email paumc@paumc.org The deadline for ordering your book is March 25 at 12:00 PM. All are welcome!

- ♦ Interested in leading an additional group? Contact Dave or Nancy.
- ♦ Know of a good book or study that would be interesting for our church? Contact Nancy.
- ♦ We are always looking for new leaders to host and other study ideas!

~Nancy Hagerty, Small Group Leader

Although unsure if the session will be in person or via ZOOM, there are currently two options available:

Mission Outreach

March Mission Outreach Project — VEAP Food Shelf

During the month of March we will be accepting donations for VEAP food shelf. VEAP’s mission is to “create pathways to stronger, more hopeful communities through access to healthy food, housing stability, and supportive services.” PAUMC is focusing on collecting items that cannot be purchased through food assistance programs. Some of these items include diapers, toilet paper, and tissues. Of course, all non-perishable food items will be accepted. If you would like to make a cash donation, you can write a check to PAUMC and put VEAP in the memo line. You can also go to PAUMC.org/giving and select

VEAP. Donations can be dropped off at The PORT office during regular business hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will also be having a drive through drop-off for donations at the church on Saturday, March 20 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

~Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair

UMCOR Sunday is March 14

When disaster strikes around the globe, you might wonder, “what can one person do?” UMCOR is prepared to act when given the resources. To participate, please designate your offering with UMCOR SUNDAY in the memo line of your check, or give online at paumc.org/giving and select “UMCOR SUNDAY.”

Mission Outreach

Valley View Elementary Teachers & Staff Respond to PAUMC Gifts

In January our Mission Outreach team made a gesture of appreciation as teachers and staff there returned to in-person classes. The PORT provided snacks, coffee gift cards, and handwritten cards to show the teachers and staff they have our support. In turn, they showed their appreciation of The PORT's kindness, as you can see in these wonderful replies. Enjoy!

Pastor Carol & The PORT,
Wow, thank you so much for keeping Valley View Elementary in your thoughts as we've transitioned back into in-person learning. There were many anxious feelings in the building, but the snacks were such a happy surprise for staff, and the gift card to Caribou was an unexpected treat. We feel so lucky to be a part of such a supportive community! Thanks again on behalf of VVE staff!

~Saraya Dahlen, LSW & Joan Maland, Principal

I just wanted to send a huge Thank You to you and the members of your congregation. What a nice surprise it has been to come back to school with treats in the lounge for us to enjoy as well as the notes we have received along the way. In these crazy times and circumstances, it has really been appreciated!
Have a wonderful week and thank you again :) ~Sarah

Dear Pastor Carol,
Thank you so much for your thoughtful and generous gift. It is wonderful to know that there are so many community members who support the Valley View Elementary staff and students!

With much love, Tricia Adkins

I wanted to say Thank you for all the treats and the great coffee Gift card! It was a great surprise to see on my desk! I also wanted to say Thank you for thinking of all of us at Valley View Elementary! I hope that you are staying well and warm!
~Mandy



I am a 2nd grade teacher at Valley View Elementary school. I wanted to say thank you so much for the kind gestures you have shown to us this school year. It's crazy how much a kind note or a little treat can really help brighten someone's day. I have your note hanging up on my file cabinet. It's nice to reread every now and then! Thank you for being so kind to "strangers" we appreciate it more than ever right now!
Take care, Staci

Thank you! To your and your congregation for the thoughtful gift card and for thinking of us at Valley View Elementary. We miss all our kiddos and are so grateful that they are slowly coming back to the classroom. Thank you!
~Annette, Valley View Lunch Lady

Dear Pastor Carol,
Thank you so much for thinking of the staff at VVE. It is so appreciated. It will definitely be put to good use.
Here is to a healing and healthy 2021!!
~Julie

Hello Pastor Carol,
I am the school psychologist at Valley View Elementary. Thank you so much for the Caribou gift card and snacks! We really appreciate the support of our community members, especially during this difficult year. The coffee and treats help to perk up my day!
Thank you again, Sydney

Dear Pastor Carol and the Portland Avenue United Methodist Church Community,
Thank you so much for the thoughtful treats and Caribou gift card. That was awesome and so generous of all of you. Take care!
Sincerely, Chris

Just a little note to say Thank-you for the gift card to Caribou coffee. That was so sweet and thoughtful of you! It is greatly appreciated.
~Tracy

Hello Carol,
Thank you so much for your card's beautiful words and for the gift card. I really enjoy what I do. The children are our future and many times the parents can't afford to provide all their needs, especially under the right now circumstances. I really appreciate all you are doing to support the community of our school. They are fortunate and they are very grateful with your support.
God bless the United Methodist Church community.
~Ana

Hello Pastor Carol,
I want to thank you and Portland Methodist Church for generously providing various treats and the Caribou Gift Card today for Valley View Elementary Staff. This has always been a great surprise that makes the day shine brighter. Thanks for helping out and for showing your support.
Best, John

Thank you so much for the treats provided here at VVE for all of us to enjoy! Also, the Caribou gift card is greatly appreciated as well as kind and thoughtful! It means so much to know you and your church value us as teachers. Every day is a blessing for me to work with the students and families here at VVE.
Thank you and take care, Deb

Hi there!
I'm a 5th grade teacher at Valley View Elementary and I cannot thank you enough for the thoughtful gift card to Caribou! Sweet gestures like this are so very appreciated!
THANK YOU!!! ♥ ~Kristy

Thank You!

Thank you to you and your team who have been providing us with treats to welcome us back to school! Also, thanks you so much for the Caribou gift card! That will come in handy on these cold mornings!
~Lorna

Pastor Carol,
I can not explain or come up with the words of appreciation, gratitude, and thanks for the card and the treats. I mean I got a personally written postcard meaning someone took the time out of their day to make mine.
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
~Talisman

Hi Carol,
Thank you so much for the caribou gift card. I enjoyed a latte this Friday morning. Thanks for your support during this hard time.
Thank you again, Linnea

Pastor Carol-
Many thanks to you and your congregation for the Caribou gift card! It was a wonderful surprise this morning and so generous of you. It's been a crazy year full of transitions and challenges and it's nice to know someone is thinking of us. Thanks again for your support of students and staff at Valley View Elementary.
It is greatly appreciated.
~Rachel

Good afternoon Pastor Carol,
I am a teacher at Valley View Elementary & I just wanted to reach out and give a sincere THANK YOU to you for the incredibly thoughtful Caribou gift card. It truly means the world that people like you are thinking of us teachers during this crazy pandemic.
Thank you again, Amber

Dear Pastor Carol,
I wanted to take the time to Thank You for the kind note and Caribou Gift Card. It made my day!!!! We are so fortunate to have organizations in our community like your church!
Thanks, Deb

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

04 - Judy Richardson-Mahre

05 - Katherine Minks

16 - LaVonne Robinson

17 - Lori Livingston

18 - Myron Karki

19 - Elijah Peine

24 - Linda Gilbertson

28 - Ellen Smith



Virtual Coffee Fellowship

We have been meeting virtually for some months now, enjoying coffee together after Sunday online worship. It seems that the same group continues to gather and it is always good to see and be seen so we can check in with each other. We all miss our PORT family and some of you we haven't seen for a year now! It would be so great to see some new faces added to the coffee time. It is one hour on a Sunday, and we used to spend much more time than that together.

Let's have a big turnout for March. Bring a cup of coffee and we will take a screenshot of everyone to put in the Portlight. I have so enjoyed hosting you all every month. Can't wait to see you all!

~Lynn Livingston, Congregational Care Chair

Here's the link to participate:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89829940686?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89829940686?pwd=cWxia0NOcUwzVERPbHICTUZIMXFzUT09)

[pwd=cWxia0NOcUwzVERPbHICTUZIMXFzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89829940686?pwd=cWxia0NOcUwzVERPbHICTUZIMXFzUT09)

Or call (312) 626-6799 (rates may apply)

Meeting ID: 898 2994 0686 Passcode: 134549

Finance

All Church Conference Accepts The PORT's 2021 Budget

At the 2020 All Church Conference held on January 28, the PAUMC 2021 Budget was accepted by the Church Council. The Budget shows a projected shortfall of \$12,208 for the year. This looks concerning; but we feel that with keeping expenses in check and hoping for stronger than projected Easter and Advent offerings, we will come out fine at the end of 2021.

Last year, we overcame a forecasted \$15,289 deficit because of the generosity of members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church.

PAUMC receives \$34,000 from the other churches and the dance studio that use our building, which enables us to come relatively close to a balanced budget. We have a good relationship with these people, and we are grateful for having that income in helping us run our facility.

~ Dave Smith, Treasurer

Trustees

Insurance Change and Roof Repairs

The Trustees has been busy with the following activities for the church:

- ◆ Researched and changed insurance carriers which saves the church approximately \$1,900 yearly while maintaining the same coverages.

- ◆ Oversaw significant roof repairs, tree removal, and maintained tree trimming on the property
- ◆ Repaired the south boiler and the church's sign in front.

The Trustees also noted that one pending project is work on the lighting around the church's sidewalks.

~ Don Anderson, Trustees Chair



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:00am Online Worship/ Communion	8	9 6:00pm Trustees Videoconference	10	11	12	13 2:00pm Virtual Paddy O'Bingo!
14 UMCOR SUNDAY Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:00am Online Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach Videoconference 6:00pm Youth Group Videoconference	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 First Day of Spring
21 10:00am Online Worship 10:30am Virtual Coffee Fellowship	22	23	24	25 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group Videoconference	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY 10:00am Online Worship 6:00pm Youth Group Videoconference	29	30	31	TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch • https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/ 		

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

Blake Mahre (Youth Group Intern)

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>

Paddy O'BINGO!

Saturday, March 13, 2021
2:00 - 3:30 PM


Please join us for Virtual Bingo, St. Patrick's Day style, on Saturday March 13 from 2-3:30. Wear something green if you like and we will play several games, called by Lynn Livingston. Create your own card using the template, or make more than one if you like! Maybe you have a Bingo game at home and could use cards from that. However you do it, please join us! We had a lot of fun in January! Hope to see you on March 13!

~Lynn Livingston, Congregational Care Chair

Here's the link to participate:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86967354131?pwd=cUNVR29DRmtWbXhKU3dvU3hPbIV6QT09>

Or call (312) 626-6799 (rates may apply) Meeting ID: 869 6735 4131 Passcode: 632745

B (1-15)					
I (16-30)					
N (31-45)					
G (46-60)					
O (61-75)					