

THE PORTLIGHT

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

Spring Plant Fundraiser at PAUMC

Spring has arrived! Order your plants now! Enrich your patio or garden while supporting our youth camp scholarship with your purchase.

There are options for everyone: patio pots, hanging baskets, individual plant packs, annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetables. Ordering is all online this year—same high quality plants with a new ordering experience. Here is the link to order:
<https://www.pahls.com/spring-fundraiser/?ref=17>

Brighten someone's day with a new plant and help a youth go to camp! **The deadline for ordering is April 26**, and plant pick-up is May 8. If you are uncomfortable or unable to order online, feel free to call or email Judy Richardson-Mahre at 612-202-6457 or jembrm@charter.net for assistance.



April 2021

Our Mission

"To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."

Our Vision

"To be a safe harbor along life's journey."

The **P**  **ORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor's Message *Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

I sit at my mother's dining room table as I write this Pastor's Message for April, grateful for some time in Missouri when I could still work virtually while also offering some care for her during a variety of medical and dental appointments. I want to express my appreciation for your support of me being away. And while I've still been working hard from here, I don't take the privilege of it for granted.

As is often the case when I come home, I notice things that need a little attention. On this trip, those things included replacing a lightbulb here and there, taking some of the recycling to the recycling center (recycling isn't integrated with garbage pickup here), and replacing the caulk in the shower.

My mom had also started a to-do list of things for me to help with. One of those things was that there was an unusual sound from the toilet, as if the water was running more than it should. Off to the hardware store I went for a new fill valve, and when that didn't seem to entirely correct the problem, back again for a new flapper. Now the problem is fixed! In a house, sometimes a little maintenance is needed.

Our faith is a little like that as well...sometimes a little maintenance is needed.

Faith is described in the Bible as "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) I think of faith as having trust in all the truths about God (as Creator, Jesus and Holy Spirit) that we read about in the Bible – truths such as humans being created in the image of God for the purpose of a relationship with God, that God is present and active in our lives, that Jesus died for us, that the Holy Spirit is here as our Advocate, that Christ has prepared a place for us beyond this world, and yet we are to love God and neighbor and self and also care for creation while we are here.

In Hebrews 11, we also read about how our ancestors lived in faith, and how that faith was lived out by their actions: Noah responded in faith when he was warned about the flood by following through on the instructions he was given in order to endure; while Abraham and Sarah responded in faith when God called them to be a blessing to "all the families of the earth." They moved as instructed, and now we know Abraham as "the father of many nations."

These are our ancestors in the faith...living their lives open to God's guidance and instruction, counting on God for strength and wisdom each step along the way... living lives of faith. And living such a life requires maintenance along the way. Both Abraham and Noah were described as righteous. They worked on and actively participated in their faith before God asked them to do the great things we read about in the Bible. It's that maintenance work they did that prepared them for the challenges they faced.

And when I think about it, one of the reasons I became a pastor is because in my heart, I want to help guide you in the maintenance work on your faith so that you are ready for any challenges that lie ahead, while also offering some encouragement in the "love God and neighbor and self" part of living a life of faith here and now.

One of the roadmaps to accomplishing this is the commitment we make at our baptism...to pray, participate, give, serve and share. All of these things are evidence of a strong faith; while working on all of them help to strengthen one's faith.

So, as you evaluate your own faith, is there an aspect of it that needs a little maintenance today? Do you want to learn more about the Bible? Then sign up to participate in the small group that starts April 12. Are you looking for a place to serve? Pick up a few of the requested items outlined in the April Mission Outreach Project and bring them to the drive through drop-off on April 17. Is your prayer life in need of a boost? Say a breath prayer for the next few minutes, repeating "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" as you breath in and again as you breath out. (Philippians 4:13) Feeling disconnected? Watch worship on our YouTube channel or Facebook page, and then call a friend from The PORT to talk about what you heard and saw.

God is always actively working in our lives, but there is work to be done on our part in growing in our faith. Create your own faith to-do list and let's get to work together on it.

Growing in faith with you,

Pastor Carol



Youth Group News

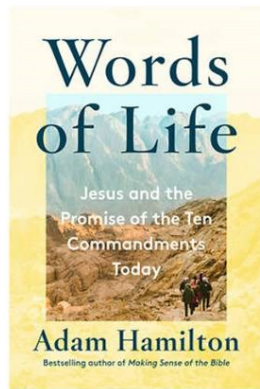
In April, the Youth Group will resume in-person meetings, observing all social distancing and mask protocols. We will plan to meet in the Fellowship Hall where there will be plenty of room to spread out. Watch PAUMC Youth on Instagram for more up-to-date information; and be sure to mark your calendars now – we'd love to see you!
~Blake Mahre and Pastor Carol

April 11 from 6:00-8:00 pm Topic: Resurrection & New Life.

April 25 from 6:00-8:00 pm Topic: Teamwork.

Small Group Study Opportunity for April

Nancy Hagerty 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>



The group will be conducted via Zoom and a link will be emailed to all group members ahead of time. The first book study will be 7:00 PM Monday, April 12.

The deadline for ordering your book through the Church Office has passed, but you can still purchase the book on your own at Cokesbury.com or other booksellers. In addition to the hardcover, the electronic version is available through Kindle or Apple Books. To sign up for a small group, please call the Church Office at 952-888-6070 or email paumc@paumc.org. All are welcome!

- ◆ 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

Camp Minnesota Welcomes Back Campers This Summer

Camp Minnesota is a ministry of Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The following is an excerpt from the camp website:

Camp Minnesota offers cutting edge summer camp experiences for all ages and interests with delicious meal service and warm hospitality. Currently, nearly all fulltime camp staff have been vaccinated or have an appointment to get vaccinated. This is a positive step forward to help us get back to sharing camp safely. See the article [CDC Prioritization of Camp Staff for COVID-19 Vaccinations](#). Please check out the current list of [COVID-19 and Camp FAQs](#) for additional safety and programming information. We update this webpage when we get new information.

We're grateful for the chance to share Christ, Creation, and Community with the churches and families of the Dakotas and Minnesota Conferences of The United Methodist Church. We can't wait to see you!

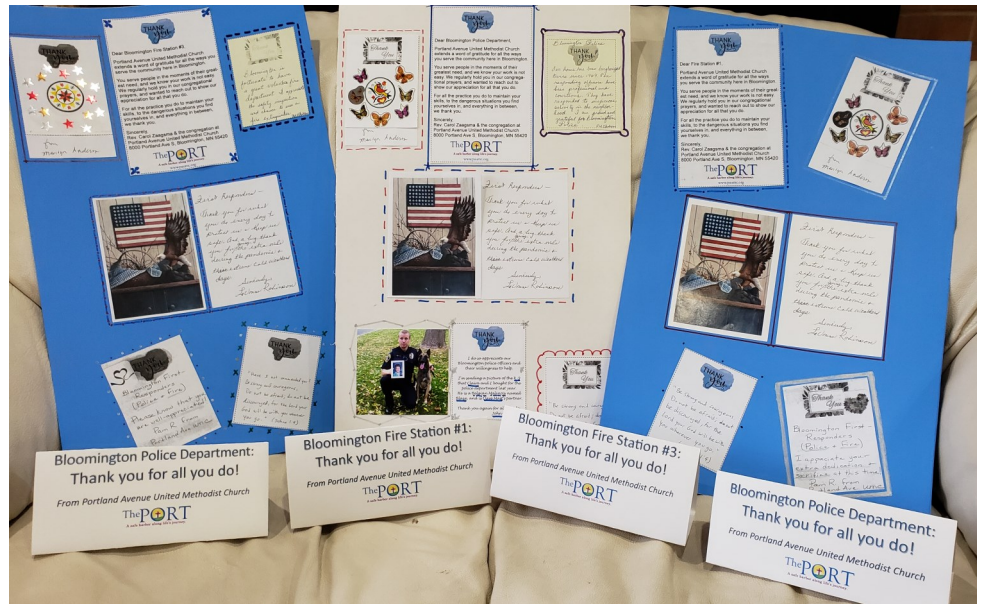


Mission Outreach

Honoring Those Who Protect Us

During the month of February, The PORT's Mission Outreach team collected monetary donations to provide snacks in appreciation of Bloomington's first responders.

We delivered fruit and veggie trays plus snacks and beverages to Bloomington Fire Department - Stations #1 and #3. At Fire Station #3 we received a brief tour of the new facility, which was interesting. One of the responders we talked to works for the St. Paul Fire Department and volunteers for the Bloomington Fire Department as well. Talk about dedication!



We also delivered beverages and snacks to the Bloomington Police Department. All recipients were extremely grateful for the snacks.

Much appreciation to all of you who donated to help make this happen. A special thank you to Sue Wells for taking our thank you notes and displaying them so nicely on a big card to give to each station!

April Mission Outreach Project – Cornerstone Shelter Supplies

Our April focus will be Cornerstone. They are in need of some specific items:

- Liquid hand soap in individual-size containers (7 – 11 ounce)
- Men's and women's ankle socks multi-pack
- Women's multi-pack bikini or similar underwear (sizes S – XXL)
- Women's deodorant
- Family-size body wash
- Family-size body lotion
- \$20-25 gift cards to big-box stores and grocery stores (Walmart, Target, Cub, etc.), so we can be flexible in meeting the most immediate needs of their participants.

Please be aware of the specific items they need as they will not accept anything else at this time. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, the Mission Outreach group will go shopping for gift cards. We will also be hosting a drive through drop-off at PAUMC for these items on Saturday, April 17th from 10:00 - 11:00 AM.

~Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair

We celebrate YOU during APRIL

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

04 - Martin Thames Jr.
06 - Jeff Chamberlain
- Pam Rose
08 - Scott Cameron
15 - Jarek Haugen
16 - Katelyn Hagerty

18 - Mike Cameron
- Bob Haugen
20 - Kasey Swenson
25 - Amelia Liu
26 - Pat Ekstrom



Virtual Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, April 10, 2021

2:00 - 3:00PM

Do you have a favorite item from your childhood?

Do you have a favorite Easter item you still have available to share?

Do you have something with the PAUMC logo on it?

These are just a few examples of 'hunt-for' items that you may be asked to find as you join your PAUMC friends for our second Zoom Scavenger Hunt. It's easy, fun, and no social distancing required! Follow the Zoom link provided below to join the Congregational Care Team as they lead you through this springtime adventure!

Join the Zoom Meeting here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81410620747?pwd=ZlZlRkRkZ6eVVQQTmx2SG5wSi9zQT09>

Or call 1 (312) 626-6799 (Rates may apply.)
Meeting ID: 814 1062 0747 Passcode: 424869

Address Updates

Kay Livingston
Sunrise on Vernier
1850 Vernier Rd #126
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Steve & Kathy Soucy discontinued their landline. Their cell phone numbers remain the same.



Congregational Care

April Coffee Fellowship

Lynn Livingston is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Virtual Coffee Fellowship

Time: Apr 18, 2021 10:30 AM

Join here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84852769525?pwd=OTQ2ajc3T0NzRDdZYk0ySXZ2Q0N3dz09>

or call (312) 626-6799 (Rates may apply.)

Meeting ID: 848 5276 9525 Passcode: 982240



Summer Portlight Subscription Drive!

The PORT is beginning a very special undertaking in April and we need our readers' help! After completing a recent audit of our Portlight subscriptions, we found that only 75% of our active church members (with email addresses) are currently subscribed to the Portlight. We hope to change that!

Starting in April, we are asking for your help in attracting 43 new subscribers between now and Labor Day, to reach our goal of 150 subscribers. We think we can do this, but we can't do it alone!

The Portlight newsletter is a group effort every month with many church leaders and our pastor contributing wonderful items that support our PAUMC mission. Please tell a friend why you enjoy getting the Portlight and kindly forward this link for them to subscribe:

<https://paumc.org/>

From the Mailbox

Thank You

Dear Portland Avenue Friends,

You were so thoughtful to both Joan and me for a long time. I have read the newsletter and will be prayerfully thinking of many of the people mentioned.

Rev. Delton Krueger

Editor's Note: Rev. Krueger was appointed at PAUMC from 1980-1988 and now lives in Saint Paul, MN



Farewell

Dear Pastor Carol and Friends at The PORT,

A very special thank you to you and everyone at The PORT. I just wanted to express my deep appreciation. My warmest regards to everyone. Best wishes. Please let me know about the Bazaar. God Bless.

Love,
Larry Stalberger

Editor's Note: Larry transferred his membership to Minnehaha UMC in February. We look forward to seeing him from time to time in the community and at social church events such as the Holiday Bazaar.

Summer Softball!

Blake Mahre has heard of a church softball league taking new teams for play this summer on Friday nights at 6:00 PM at Mendakota Park in Mendota Heights, starting April 30. He would like to coach a team from The PORT, so if you have interest in playing on the team, please contact Blake at bdrm00@charter.net or (952) 820-5798. This league is co-ed and for all ages (15 and older), so jump right in and let's have some fun!



Trustees Steve Knopp, Harvey Erstad and Tom Wellman replaced all of the light bulbs around The PORT with LED lights. They also replaced the ballasts in the light fixtures. Next, new lights will also be installed on our sign in front of the church.

In addition, the Swenson family removed two aging pine trees along the south edge of the church parking lot, and a damaged tree near the south entrance to the building.

~Don Anderson, Trustees Chair



Did you know?

A stock gift is a great way to support your local church. Donating appreciated stock allows you to increase the impact of your gift while also providing certain tax advantages.



For example, if you purchased a stock more than one year ago, and it has now appreciated in value, you will owe tax on the amount of the gain when the stock is sold. However, if you donate the stock directly to your church, you avoid paying tax on the gain and your church will receive the full value of the stock. Also, if you itemize, you are also eligible for a tax deduction on the fair market value of the sale up to the amount allowed by the IRS.

It's easy to donate stock to The PORT by going through the Minnesota United Methodist Foundation. You will find the Wespath Securities Transfer form along with instructions in the Forms tab on their website: www.mnumf.org. You're also welcome to contact [Diane Weller](mailto:Diane.Weller@mmf.org) for more information or help with the process.

Alternatively, you may contact the church office or Financial Secretary (Merlin Gilbertson 952-715-2231 or merlgil99@gmail.com) and ask that the necessary forms and instructions be mailed (or emailed) directly to you.

~Merlin Gilbertson, Finance Secretary

**This information is provided as an overview and is not intended to be used as tax or accounting advice. The Minnesota United Methodist Foundation recommends that you consult with your personal tax and financial advisors to discuss the tax advantages of donating stock to charity.*

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>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <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/ </div>						
4 EASTER 10:00am Online Worship/ Communion	5	6	7	1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Online Worship	2 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00pm Good Friday Online Worship	3 Afternoon Easter Plant Pick-up at the Smith's Home
11 10:00am Online Worship 11:15am Congregational Care Videoconference 6:00pm Youth Group	12 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group Videoconference	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 2:00pm Virtual Scavenger Hunt
18 NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY 10:00am Online Worship 10:30am Virtual Coffee Fellowship	19 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group Videoconference	20	21	22 7:00pm Church Council Videoconference	23	24
25 10:00am Online Worship 6:00pm Youth Group	26 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group Videoconference	27	28	29 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	30	