

# THE PORTLIGHT

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

For by grace are ye saved through faith . . .  
it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8



August 2022

## 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

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

The fundamentals of God's economy are sound! Isn't it wonderful to read a statement like that in times of great economic and financial upheaval in the United States and around the World? I wanted to take a few moments to write to you today concerning some of the events that have taken place over the past few weeks and months, and even take a look ahead.

Please be encouraged by the Word of God! When I hear someone make a statement that the "fundamentals" are sound, maybe you're like me, and have to ask yourself what exactly those fundamentals are! My desire is not to convince you that the world economy is sound, because God is the only one that knows the direction we are going, yet I do believe that when we take a look at God's fundamentals, we will see that in fact, He is not worried while He sits on His awesome throne in Heaven. I'm going to just briefly state a few things that I believe are equated with God's economy, and I trust you will be encouraged.

**THE FUNDAMENTAL OF GRACE REMAINS AMAZINGLY FREE!** His grace is still amazing! Grace in its essence means "unmerited favor." In other words, we receive the grace of God in our lives as a totally FREE gift that we cannot earn regardless of how hard we try.

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" and in 2:9 "Not of works, lest any man should boast." For some reason, it is very difficult for people to reach out and simply accept this gift, but this is what must happen for Christ to truly come into our lives. You may have heard the statement, "If it's free, it's for me!" Well, Salvation is free—yet it was not cheap by any means! Christ willingly laid down His life for us.

**THE FUNDAMENTAL OF WAGES IS STILL THE SAME!** On the other side of the point made previously, we must also remember that God's wages are still the same for those who would reject His precious gift of mercy as we see in the Word of God: Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."

Of course we know the second part of that verse speaks of the gift of God, but too many people overlook the important first part of this verse because we would much rather enjoy a "gift," than get this "wage."

Why is this important in the discussion of God's economy? It is important because we must recognize as Christians that it is both our duty and privilege to share the Gospel with a world that still needs to hear an adequate presentation of the Gospel. Take time to become acquainted with a simple way to share your faith, backed up by the Word of God. Also, live your faith in front of people that will even lead them to a point of asking you how you can have so much peace in tumultuous times! If you are a Christian, I encourage you to share your faith with people in these challenging times. Spiritual doors are wide open, and we have the answer! His Name is Jesus.

**THE FUNDAMENTAL OF GIVING REMAINS TRUE!** God GAVE His Son, and Jesus GAVE His life, and in those 2 acts of mercy showed the very essence of what God is all about. These are our examples of sacrificial giving.

The Bible tells us in Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Yes, this principle is still true! When we give, there is something miraculous about it that in turn not only meets the need of the church or person we are giving to, but it also honors God with our obedience to His Word. Giving is a sign that we recognize we are not the source of our blessings, and that without Him giving to our lives, we would have no hope on a number of levels.

Should you still give in difficult times? Absolutely! It's almost like asking if you should still breathe even when it's hard to catch your breath! I believe we need to be a giving people, now more than ever.

Rest assured... God's Economy is Sound!

In Christ,

Pastor Henry



# Spiritual Growth

## AUGUST Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28 (Outdoor Worship)
Welcomer/ Greeter	Jeff Chamberlain	Volunteer Needed	Lynn Furda	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Trenten Olson Laurette Lawson Linda Schesso	Bruce Benson Kathy Soucy Terry Wells	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Mike Moreland	Trenton Olson Myron Karki Ginny Karki
Reader	Steve Soucy	Paul Richardson	Pam Rose	Mary Nelson
Sound	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Barb Andrus	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	N/A
Livestream Tech	Clint Andrus	Daisy Castro	Scott Swenson	N/A
Closer	Steve Knopp	Scott Swenson	Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman
Counters	Merlin Gilbertson JoAnne Volden	Merlin Gilbertson Wayne Andersen	Merlin Gilbertson Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	Tracy Baker Jocelyne Medzagoh	<p><b>Will YOU serve on Sunday mornings?</b>                      We are in need of ushers, readers, and welcomers.                      Please contact the office if you can lend a hand                      a couple Sundays a month.  <i>And a big thank you to our current volunteers!</i></p>		
Communion Servers	Oliver Henry, Jr.			

# Mission Outreach

## August Mission Outreach Project— Baby Diaper Drive for VEAP



Our mission focus this month is a diaper drive for VEAP. Did you know that quite often when a family is struggling financially, they cut

back on diapers for their children? We feel for those baby bottoms.

VEAP is always in need of diapers of all sizes but especially larger sizes. Please consider a diaper donation this month.

Thank you!

Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair



## Mission Outreach

### The Port Congregation Volunteers Many Hours in the Community

Have you ever been curious about the volunteer hours our members and friends contribute to our community? Below is a brief recap of the first 6 months of 2022, as noted on the Sunday connection cards.

Our members reported 841 hours of volunteer work. Please note that some people recorded what they did but not the number of hours, so the total number is actually higher.

What did people do? They volunteered teaching ESL, they volunteered at the Arboretum, they volunteered at schools and scouts, Creekside Center, Red Cross, Ft. Snelling and, of course, here at The Port. Some of the things they did at The Port were helping in the office, spring clean up, counting, youth garage sale, our music program, and bazaar workshops.

This is just a short list of all the things are volunteers are doing. A BIG thank you to all who volunteer here at The Port and in our community.

~ Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair

## Children & Youth

### Graduation Sunday

Every year The Port has “Graduation Sunday” to honor our youths’ incredible milestone—graduating from high school, as well as other levels of schooling. Pictured here, Pastor Henry congratulates 3 PAUMC high school graduates—Clara Haugen, Carl Darnell, and Emma Mahre—reminding them that God and The Port are with them wherever they go next in their lives.



That same Sunday, Pastor Henry and The Port acknowledged the hard work of our volunteer teachers and mentors: Traci Darnell, Janene Haugen, Lynn Livingston, Rebecca Rice, Linda Schesso, Beth Cameron, and Blake Mahre. Daisy Castro surprised each of the teachers with a gift.

### Bible Presentation

Traditionally, young people at The Port receive a children’s Bible when they are in the third grade. Below Seven Vreeland receives his Bible from Pastor Henry while in fifth grade since he and his family just recently started attending our church. Welcome Seven and family!



## Help the Church Save Money!

Just a reminder that purchases you make for The Port are tax-exempt. It is a very simple process. When checking out, you need to provide the Minnesota ST-3 Form, which shows our tax-exempt status. Copies of the form are available in the church office or from Dave Smith.

Simply sign and date the form when using it. The business will keep the form once used.

By doing this, our tax-exempt status will save us a lot of money in taxes we do not need to pay!

~ Dave Smith, Church Treasurer



# Trustees

## In The Port Gardens

The Port's yard and gardens would not look as nice as they do if we didn't have many volunteers' hands at work behind the scenes.



*Trustee Don Anderson has been planting flowers around our church for years. He then comes in every week on his days off to water them! You can see many colorful, thriving coleus and petunias on the west side of the church.*

*Although not technically a Trustee, there are not many jobs around The Port that Dave Smith isn't willing to lend a hand to, including spraying for weeds and picking up debris and making it disappear.*



## A Trustee's Work Is Never Done

Seeing as the PAUMC building complex has been around for a little while, the physical workings of our church would be in sorry shape without the brainstorming and collaboration of our Trustees and their many volunteer hours.

*Tom Wellman, Harvey Erstad, and Steve Knopp work on our church's many door issues. Last month they rebuilt our water sprinkler spigot and moved it inside to avoid future theft of the expensive hardware. Problem solved!*





# Congregational Care

## We celebrate YOU during AUGUST

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

- |                       |                        |                      |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Darlene Solheim  | 16 - Joell Anderson    | 26 - Lynn Livingston |
| 02 - Isabelle Swenson | 18 - Scott Rice        | 27 - Blessing Wilson |
| 06 - Barb Deese       | - Chrissy Wells        | 30 - Jim Anderson    |
| 08 - Jean Moore       | 22 - Elizabeth Cottier | - Annie Comee        |
| 10 - John Perry       | - Paul Richardson      | - Marcie Huser       |
| 11 - Floyd Ekstrom    | 25 - Joe Matton        |                      |
| 13 - Becky Rice       | - Luke Rice            |                      |
| 14 - Ethan Runck      | - Terry Wells          |                      |



## Address Updates

Pat Miller  
E5747 816th Ave  
Colfax, WI 54730

Kumba Sheriff  
10151 E. Bloomington Fwy.  
#204  
Bloomington, MN 55420



# Other Member News

## A Bundle of Joy & a Community Leader

Sue & Terry Wells were blessed with a new granddaughter in July. Pictured below is a happy and proud Grandma Sue with Baby Gemma, and a happy mother and father, Stacy and Marco, with their little one. (There is a pretty good chance Sue has more pictures of her granddaughter if you ask her.) Everyone in the family is doing great!



Don Anderson is not only chair of our Trustees at the church, he also serves his community as President of the Richfield Optimist Club.

Below is a picture of Don from the Club's June newsletter, along with guest speakers from "Sober Sally," a mock-tail endeavor run by Mary Jackson and Chelsey Noack. Sober Sally's goal is to spread awareness that it is OK not to drink alcohol.

<https://www.richfieldoptimists.org/docs/richogramjune152022.pdf>

The Optimist Club of Richfield has been serving Richfield since 1958 and is dedicated to "Bringing Out the Best in Kids."





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				9:30am Bazaar Wkshp		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00am Worship/ Communion		6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp		9:30am Bazaar Wkshp		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care Meeting	Newsletter Deadline: pictures and articles/ drafts to paumc@paumc.org			9:30am Bazaar Wkshp		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00am Worship				9:30am Bazaar Wkshp		
28	29	30	31	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:</b>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch">https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch</a></p>		
10:00am Outdoor Worship & Picnic						

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 in-person and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am  
with Sunday School during worship.

**Staff**

Rev. Henry Dolopei, II (Pastor) [hdolopei@paumc.org](mailto:hdolopei@paumc.org) 952-888-6070; Cell: 203-508-4874 (when urgent)  
Kathryn Quam (Administrative Assistant) [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org) 952-888-6070  
Blake Mahre (Youth Group Intern) [bmahre@paumc.org](mailto:bmahre@paumc.org)  
Peggy Larson (Music Director) [peggylarson@comcast.net](mailto:peggylarson@comcast.net)  
Dale Miller (Accompanist) [miller.daler@gmail.com](mailto:miller.daler@gmail.com)  
Judy Richardson-Mahre (Sonrise Director) [jembrm@charter.net](mailto:jembrm@charter.net)  
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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>