

THE PORTLIGHT

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



January 2023

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

Greetings,

My family and I are grateful to have the opportunity to worship with you and to be a part of this wonderful church community. The Port, you are a blessing. Friends, as we look out over the horizon of this new year, I probably don't need to remind you that none of us knows what tomorrow holds. This is why it is so important to keep our eyes focused on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we look back on the past year, we can see the many ways in which God has blessed us and guided us through the challenges that we have faced. And as we look ahead to the new year, we can have hope and confidence that God will continue to be with us and lead us on the path that He has for us.

We can always look to our past and find moments and periods of time we probably would not like to repeat. This new year gives us all an opportunity to make changes we need to make in both our spiritual and physical lives.

So let us enter this new year with a sense of excitement and anticipation, knowing that God has great things in store for us. Let us also remember to be thankful for all that He has done for us and let us commit to serving Him with all of our hearts.

There's a powerful scripture in the Bible that I believe is still relevant in this day and age we live. Isaiah 43:19 (NKJV) Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

I realize this was written to the people of that day; however, I still believe we serve a mighty God who longs to do "new things" in our lives. Yet, these things God wants to do are usually accompanied by our willingness and cooperation. There may be some in our midst attempting to look out over the weeks and months ahead and can only see a "dry wilderness." Yet, let me remind you that He can still make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert!

I want to encourage you today to allow the Lord to do "a new thing" in your heart, marriage, job, church, school, or community! While we all will continue to go through times of refining and even trials, we serve a God who is faithful and WILL bring us through as we trust Him!

Thank you, leaders, volunteers, members, and guests of The Port. From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate everything you do for our church. Without you, I can't imagine what this space and place would be.

Rest assured that we love you here at The Port and will continue to pray for God's richest blessings in your life! YOU are highly valued! Remember . . . God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it!!!

God bless you, and Happy New Year!

Pastor Henry



Spiritual Growth

January Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
Welcomer/ Greeter	Neil Anderson	Melinda Matton	Beth Cameron	Ginny Karki	Megan Mahre
Ushers	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Trenton Olson	Scott Swenson Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson Pam Rose Kathy Soucy	Scott Swenson Laurette Lawson Mike Moreland	Trenton Olson Myron & Ginny Karki
Reader	Melinda Matton	Kathy Bell	Curtis Willhite	Neil Anderson	Katelyn Hagerty
Sound	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith
Livestream Tech	Daisy Castro	Scott Swenson	Clint Andrus	Tim Hagerty	Scott Swenson
Closer	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Don Anderson	Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman
Counters	Pam Rose	Dave Smith	Dave Smith	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman
Communion Servers	Daniel & Tracy Baker	Will you serve on a Sunday now and then? Training provided by our friendly volunteers who would appreciate your help. Contact Pastor Henry or Kathryn			

Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during JANUARY

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



01 - Kumba Sheriff	10 - Jael Medzagoh	25 - Dale Miller
02 - Don Anderson	12 - Chaz Brobst	Dominick Wells
Kathy Soucy	Inge Lystad	26 - Gregory Christensen
03 - Viola Mitchell	14 - Carol Cox	27 - Daniel Wilson
05 - Emma Mahre	Nancy Stinson	28 - Traci Darnell
06 - Marilyn Anderson	15 - Merlin Gilbertson	29 - Pastor Henry
08 - Megan Mahre	24 - Peter Anderson	

Address Updates

New email for Pat Ekstrom:
patmekstrom@gmail.com

Jim & Marilyn Anderson
York Gardens
3451 Parklawn Ave
#331
Edina, MN 55435

Mission Outreach

January Mission Outreach: Valley View Elementary Winter Clothing Donations

For January, help warm up the kids at Valley View Elementary by donating new or gently used snowpants, boots, hats, gloves and mittens. The school keeps these on hand for the various needs of the children. They are looking for the following:

- Snowpants (sizes 5- 10/12)
- Boots (sizes 11- 3, 6, 7)
- Gloves (they currently have 5 pairs left)

Please bring your donations to worship or drop them off during office hours by Sunday, January 22.

Worship is 10:00am Sundays and office hours are Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00am - 1:00pm.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you can either write a check with Valley View in the memo or donate through Vanco. We look forward to seeing how many items we can provide!

~ Nancy Hagerty, Mission Outreach Co-Chair



Help Wanted

Media Presenter

The Media Department is looking for another team member to create and present the media slides on Sunday morning. Experience with Microsoft PowerPoint is a plus, but we will train.

This job typically takes 2 hours to prepare the slides and your time during the service to display them. Your services would be scheduled approximately once per month.

Contact Dave Smith for more information.

Sound Operator

The Sound Department is looking for another sound system operator to set up and break down the microphones and other various sound equipment for the Sunday service.

Your workload would include running the sound board during the service too. No experience necessary. On the job training—easy to learn. This job requires approximately 1.5 hrs to complete. Your services would be scheduled approximately once per month.

Contact Dave Smith for more information.

From Your Staff

Dear Members of The Port,

On behalf of Pastor Henry, Kathryn, Peggy, Dale, and Paul, thank you for your generosity and care, shown in your Christmas cards and gifts to us and in your kind words throughout the year. It means a lot to each of us to see how this church goes above and beyond to show us we are appreciated.

We look forward to the new year at PAUMC!



Children and Youth



Thank you to our children and youth for your service to others and to the church!

Pictured above: Sunday Schoolers help to decorate The Port's two Christmas trees during one of their classes. Below: Leo takes his turn leading Children's Sermon during worship.



Above: Oliver and Henry read about the first theme of Advent - Hope. Below: Daisy lights the candle of Hope. These youth are members of Pastor Henry's confirmation class.



Christmas Cards

Seasons Greetings from Your Port Family

We so appreciate the warm and colorful Christmas cards that friends of The Port sent in and put on our bulletin board in the narthex. Our church family!





MERRY CHRISTMAS / THE RUNCK'S 2022



GRATEFUL - THANKFUL - BLESSED

happy holidays from the rasmussen family



LOVE, TODD, JULIE, JAKOB, RYLIE, MILLIE & TALLIE

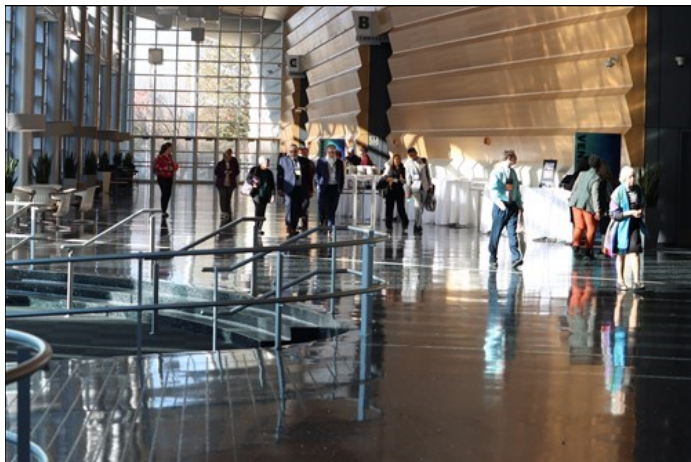


Highlights from Jurisdictional Conference

Reminders of God's Work and Blessings by Rev. Henry Dolopei II

The following article is from the Minnesota Annual Conference website, originally published November 2022.

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/blogdetail/reminders-of-gods-work-and-blessings-17115108>



Throughout the day, “reminder” was a word lingering in my mind. I woke up this morning and noticed it was 8:35 am. I did most of my morning routine and hastily walked through the hall of the convention center to be on time for worship while saying my morning prayer. Randomly, I turned to a scripture on my phone. I came across these verses, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6; ESV) After reading these verses, a feeling of guilt overtook me. Often, I reflect on my doubts and fears regarding the church while claiming to trust God.

What a terrible feeling to be guilty. Thanks be to God for the perfect timing for worship. I recited the scripture from 1 John 1:9, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I was forgiven. It was a joy and blessings to experience the Native American tradition come alive in worship. I needed ‘the prayer over the drum’ and ‘the friendship dance,’ a reminder of the beauty of God in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit pours out in many traditions. Worshipping God in truth and Spirit.

Throughout the day, God reminded me through proclamation, our leaders, and his people that God will not leave nor forsake us. The Holy Spirit will always be at work to empower his people to love God and love neighbor and to heal a broken world.

In addition, I was reminded, God continues to bless the church with leaders ready for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Friends, I was reminded about the presence of God. God’s presence was alive in worship. God’s presence enlightened the deliberations. God’s presence was experience in the elections. The presence of God was amongst the people called United Methodist.

Friends, I was excited about the diversity in the room and the intentionality to listen, to questions, and the effort to address the schisms.

It was a joy to see my Africa University brother from DR Congo. He is serving as one of the district superintendents in the Iowa Conference.

Whatever the future holds, I am grateful for God’s giving resources at our disposal to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Once again, I am ready to utilize these resources to labor in the mission field spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I know God will make straight our path if only we acknowledge God and Trust in God with all our heart and do not lean on our own understanding.



Rev. Henry Dolopei II is a clergy delegate for Minnesota to the 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference and the pastor of Portland Avenue UMC in Bloomington.



Important Dates In January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship/ Communion	2	3	4 6:15pm Sonrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School 11:15am Mission Outreach	9	10 6:00pm Trustees Mtg	11 6:15pm Sonrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	12	13	14
15 HUMAN RELATIONS DAY 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18 6:15pm Sonrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	19	20	21
22 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School	23	24	25 6:15pm Sonrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	26	27	28
29 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School 11:00am All Church Conference	30	31	Is YOUR meeting or event on the Portlight calendar? Please send updates to the office at paumc@paumc.org by the 15th of any month to place them on the following month's Portlight calendar.			

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

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Peggy Larson (Music Director) peggylarson@comcast.net

Dale Miller (Accompanist) miller.daler@gmail.com

Judy Richardson-Mahre (Sonrise Director) jembrm@charter.net

Paul Herrmann (Custodian) Cell: 612-916-3376

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