

# THE PORTLIGHT

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

WOMEN'S  
**BIBLE**  
STUDY

**Please join us!**  
**Women's Bible Study**

**Starting Monday March 13**  
**6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**  
**on Zoom**

*(See page 3 for details.)*

**March 2023**

## **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

Grace and peace to you as we embark on a journey of reflection, meditation, worship, and service over the course of the next several weeks.

The PORT, “How is it with your soul?” This a powerful and important question that Methodists have asked since the beginning of the movement. Often, I ask myself this question especially in the season of challenges, setbacks, valley, trials or tribulations. In those moments, I am reminded about turning it over to Jesus Christ.

Friends, we’ve entered the perfect season, called Lent, to reflect on this important question, to take an inward journey, and to spend some time in solitude and reflection, while on the other hand considering the state of your soul as it walks about in the world. How goes your soul – which is to say, “How do you live in the world around you? How do you make an impact, or better yet, how does your faith impact your community, your church, your family?”

For six weeks, I will not be enjoying my delicious McDonalds breakfasts and meals. However, I will be at McDonalds asking others in different ways, “How is it with your soul?” I am looking forward to these moments that the Spirit of God will bring to light. Isaiah 58:6-7 says, “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?”

The PORT, Lenten season differs in many ways from the Advent season: we don’t have a hanging of the greens, we don’t sing carols, and instead of anticipating the birth of the Christ child, we prepare ourselves for His death and resurrection. Now I admit that putting it that way, this all sounds rather gloomy in contrast— but we can rejoice because we know He has **risen**, He has **risen** indeed!

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to*

*this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” - Romans 12:1-2*

Paul writes to the Romans that we believers are called to study, worship, and renew our minds and in so doing, we may know the perfect will of God. Just as we marvel over the circumstances of Christ’s entrance into our world during Advent, we can also find ourselves amazed at the ability, creativity, and love of God. During Lent, we ponder how Jesus left this world only to rise from the grave to sit at God’s holy, heavenly hand.

After spending forty days being tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus stayed busy. During His last week on earth: he cleared the temple, cursed the fig tree, taught the Sermon on the Mount—and that was just the first two days. In fact, the majority of the Gospels focus on this latter part of Christ’s life. This Lenten season, won’t you join me in learning more about our Savior—His last earthly days and the glory of the days to come?

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Henry



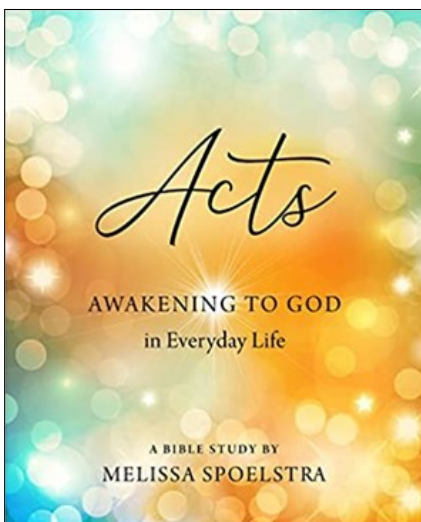
*“How is it with your soul?”*

# Spiritual Growth

## MARCH Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Welcomer/ Greeter	Janene Haugen & Group 4	Becky Rice & Group 4	Linda Knopp & Group 4	Steve Soucy & Group 4
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Laurette Lawson, Kathy Soucy	Wayne Andersen, Sharon Beckler, Mike Moreland	Scott Swenson, Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson, Melinda Matton, Kathy Soucy
Reader	Kathy Bell	Neil Anderson	Scott Rice	John Hepola
Sound	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty
Livestream Tech	Scott Swenson	Daisy Castro	Clint Andrus	Tim Hagerty
Closer	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Clint Andrus
Counters	Tom Wellman, Mike Moreland	Pam Rose, JoAnne Volden	Tom Wellman, Mike Moreland	Pam Rose, Steve Soucy
Communion Stewards	Dan & Tracy Baker	<p><b>Want to serve on Sunday mornings? Let the office know and we will connect you!</b></p>		

## Women's Bible Study (Continued from cover.)



**Learn to awaken to God's Spirit today and every day by studying the Book of Acts with Melissa Spoelstra.**

*Whether it's because of distractions, busyness, or a case of the blahs, we can experience a drift toward indifference in our spiritual lives. We have a need for an ongoing spiritual awakening if we want to become more aware of God's presence and activity in our everyday lives.*

The participant workbook is available through [Cokesbury](#) for \$10.99 or [Amazon](#) \$13.99.

Women of all ages are welcome – if you are interested and want to be included on the Zoom invitation or would like more information, please contact Barb at [bcandrus80@gmail.com](mailto:bcandrus80@gmail.com).

We look forward to growing in faith together!

~ Barb Andrus, Church Council

# Mission Outreach

Hi Nancy,

Thank you so much for the generous donation of meals to Cornerstone's families in our Emergency Shelter. Cornerstone's Emergency Shelter is configured into apartment units so families have privacy and so that they can have some sense of normalcy after experiencing violence and trauma. Each family is responsible for preparing their own meals (although we provide the food), so having a special treat after a long day is truly appreciated!

We are so grateful for your partnership in this work of helping families impacted by violence as they work to achieve safety—an ultimately—stability.

With gratitude,

Courtney Poja  
Director of Advancement



January 3, 2023

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church  
8000 Portland Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55420

Dear Portland Avenue United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generosity. Your gift of \$2,100.00 on December 18, 2022 to Feed My Starving Children is providing 8,750 MannaPack® meals to those around the world who need it most.

**"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ..." — Matthew 25:35**

Until all are fed,

Mark Crea  
Executive Director/CEO

**P.S. We would be honored to be part of your legacy.** Including a provision for FMSC in your will or trust will ensure you're right there with us as we feed kids, feed spirits and empower communities for years to come. Learn more at [fmsc.org/plannedgiving](https://fmsc.org/plannedgiving)

*Your donation is tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law. EIN 41-1601449  
No goods or services were exchanged for this donation.*

## 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
- 24 - Linda Gilbertson
- 28 - Ellen Smith



## Address Updates

Pat Ekstrom  
15380 Garrett Ave  
Apple Valley MN 55124  
952-457-8728  
patmekstrom@gmail.com



Addition to new directory:

Greg Jurek  
8848 Nicollet Ave S #103  
Bloomington MN 55420  
612-219-8941  
jurek\_gregory@yahoo.com

## From UMC.org

### What Is Lent and Why Does It Last Forty Days?

*This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications.*

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on [Ash Wednesday](#) and ends on Holy Saturday. [Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word \*lencten\*](#), meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, [fasting](#) and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians.

Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.



Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

# Trustees

## The PORT's Mechanics, Electricians, and Handymen

We aren't sure who we would find to work like the Trustees do, maintaining the integrity of our building structure and everything in it, providing hours of skilled labor—all for the cost of ... well, for free.

The Trustees have been extra busy lately! Assisting in the complicated replacement of a Sanctuary smoke detector, replacing a heat exchanger fan and the switch on one of our ovens, stopping roof leaks, and many more tasks the office doesn't see or even understand. Pictured here are Harvey Erstad, Steve Knopp, and Tom Wellman.

Not pictured here are our six other Trustees, including Chair Don Anderson who is often in the building working on every sort of form required of a church, or trimming, planting, and picking up litter from our yards. Under the Trustees' watch, boilers must be inspected every year, as do fire extinguishers, and RPZ valves. Contracts are negotiated for insurance, lawn care, and our security system. All that and they still have a smile on their faces, and a laugh ready to share.

A big thank you to all of our Trustees. They earn their title, and we are fortunate and blessed to have them looking out for us.



## 2023 Easter Plant Order Form

Easter Flower Order Form	Price (ea)	Qty
8" Easter Lily - 3 blooms	\$ 22	
6.5" Azalea - Pink	\$ 21	
6.5" Hydrangea - Blue	\$ 20	
6.5" Hydrangea - Pink	\$ 20	
4.75" Tete-a-tete Daffodil - Yellow	\$ 6	
4.75" Gerbera Daisy - Assorted	\$ 6	
12.5" Pansy Bowl - mixed colors	\$ 17	
6.5" Mums - Pink/Purple	\$ 12	
6.5" Mums - Yellow	\$ 12	
6.5" Mums - White	\$ 12	

***Orders due Sunday, 3/19/23: fold in half and place in Offertory with check to PAUMC, memo line: Easter Garden.***

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_




In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

*Plants may be taken home after the 10:00 am Easter service.*



# March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	2	73	4
			8 6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	9 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	10	11
			15 April Newsletter Deadline 6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	16 9:30am Morning Bazaar Wkshp Resumes  6:30pm Caregivers Support Group (RSVP)	17 St. Patty's Day	18
			22 6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	23 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	24	25
			29 6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	30 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	31	
			1 <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>			
5 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:15am Mission Outreach Meeting	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School	13  6:00 pm Women's Bible Study Begins (Zoom)	14	15	16	17	18
19 <b>UMCOR SUNDAY</b> 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship Easter Garden Order Deadline	20 First Day of Spring 	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School	27 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	28	29	30	31	



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) Office: 952-888-6070; Cell: 203-508-4874

Kathryn Quam (Administrative Coordinator) [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org) Office: 952-888-6070

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)

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

Church Office E-mail: [PAUMC@paumc.org](mailto:PAUMC@paumc.org) PAUMC Website: [www.paumc.org](http://www.paumc.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>

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