

THE PORTLIGHT

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



One Great Day of Music

Sunday, May 21, 2023 10:00 AM

Join us for this inspiring Worship Service

May 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

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

I wanted to take a few moments to express my thanks and appreciation to the dedicated and devoted volunteers to the ministry here at The PORT. You are a blessing and appreciated. God Almighty will continue to reward you.

There is a saying that says, "we're better together," which basically means that even though each one of us are gifted in some way, and could accomplish many things on our own, the real difference is when we each take that God-given ability or talent and work as a team for His glory!

I often pause to think what it would be like if we did not have wonderful volunteers to serve in the different Ministries at The PORT and, to be quite honest, I don't want to think on that too long! But as people are stepping up to volunteer, needs are being met that would have never been met. May they continue to grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, which is really our goal in the first place.

Let me remind you of a great scripture that illustrates the importance of what we are doing; Matthew 25:35-40 (NKJV) 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

When we can look into the faces we serve, and somehow see Jesus, it changes everything! It will help us keep perspective on why we do what we do, and keeps our motives pure and right before the Lord. So again, thank you! What a blessing you are to me, but beyond that, what a blessing you are to the people you serve, and of course, our precious Lord and Savior.

In addition, during the month of May I want us to honor all mothers: new mothers, old mothers, mothers who have passed away, mothers who have lost children, mothers who bore us and gave us life, and those women who may not have raised their own children but have indeed nurtured others and served as spiritual mothers in their roles as friend, sister, or aunt.

It is in Exodus 20:21 where we first receive this command: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." Yes, we grow up, become independent adults, and become unbound to the rules of our parents' homes, yet we are still instructed to honor our mothers, to treat them with respect, to hold them in high esteem." As we remember the freedom and life we have in Christ, also remember the woman who God selected to be your mother, the woman who carried you, cared for you, and helped you become who you are today.

Let us give thanks for the blessings of mothers.

Blessings in Christ!

Pastor Henry



Photo courtesy of Janene Haugen

Spiritual Growth

MAY Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Welcomer/ Greeter	Fleet 3	Fleet 3	Fleet 3	Fleet 3
Ushers	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Greg Jurek	Bruce Benson Jocelyne Medzagoh Pam Rose	Bruce Benson Myron Karki Ginny Karki	Trenton Olson Pam Rose Kathy Soucy
Reader	Kathy Bell	Greg Jurek	Trenton Olson	Youth
Sound	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith
Media	Barb Andrus	Dave Smith	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith
Livestream Tech	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Tim Madsen	Daisy Castro
Closer	Tom Wellman	Steve Knopp	Wayne Andersen	Paul Richardson
Counters	Dave Smith	Pam Rose	Pam Rose	Merlin Gilbertson
Communion Stewards	Dan Baker Tracy Baker	<p style="text-align: center;">Want to serve on Sunday mornings? Tell the Office and we will get you in touch with the leader in your area of interest.</p>		

Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during MAY

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

03 - Bob Deese	14 - Chuck Bartels	24 - Scott Swenson
05 - Tom Wellman	16 - Mike Moreland	- Shiloh Wilson
06 - Amy Runck	18 - Rylie Rasmussen	28 - Sharon Beckler
10 - Janene Haugen	19 - Nathan Wells	29 - Amelia Swenson
14 - Laura Avery	23 - Evelyn Runck	30 - Mickey Anderson



Mission Outreach



Love Offering

From Minnesota Annual Conference <https://www.minnesotauc.org/loveoffering>

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session.

*The theme of the **2023 Annual Conference**— will take place May 31-June 1—is “Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience.”*

Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as an expression of our gratitude for God’s blessings in our lives. Our Love Offering this year will tangibly share God’s extravagant love with a hurting world by addressing the growing mental health needs in Minnesota.

Sixty percent of the Love Offering will fund a new grant that will support churches that have partnerships with mental health services offered in local schools or communities.

Thirty percent of the Love Offering will go to three Minnesota nonprofits engaged in mental health education and advocacy: Mental Health Connect, Mental Health Minnesota, and Minnesota Association for Children’s Mental Health.

Finally, 10 percent of the Love Offering each year goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants.

Be sure to put "Love Offering" in the memo line of your check or on the Give + App. <https://paumc.org/giving/>

~ Nancy Hagerty, Mission Outreach Chair

Trustees

All Hands on Deck! Saturday, May 13, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The Trustees and The PORT kindly ask you to join us and as we make our church grounds and structure beautiful. Check in with Don Anderson or one of the Trustees to see how you can best help out.

Let’s make The PORT shine and prepare for some spring plantings, making this a lovely place to visit for all and enhance outdoor worship events this summer.

Thank you!



What We Give Up for Lent

Some of you will remember that at All Church Conference this year, Congregational Care and The PORT surprised Pastor Henry with some birthday cheer that is close to his heart! By looking at these pictures it's pretty easy to see that he thoroughly enjoyed his "Happy Meal!"

At the Sunday service after Ash Wednesday, Pastor Henry announced that for Lent he was giving up his favorite McDonald's for 6 weeks, with some encouragement from the congregation. You might wonder if he made it the full 40 days. Indeed, he did! And he feels better for having done so.

Based on some paper bag evidence in the trash can outside his office, habits have partially returned to normal. Nonetheless, we are proud of Pastor Henry and grateful for his example during Lent!

Although we joke sometimes, Lent is very important to each of us. The United Methodist Church says, "The main purpose of 'giving up' things in Lent is to bring us closer to God; to prioritize God; to put God in the center of our minds and lives; to make God the focal point." Pastor Henry and The PORT pray that your own personal Lenten journey helped bring you closer to God and to a better understanding of yourself.



Photographs courtesy of Lori Livingston



Minnesota Annual Conference 2023 May 31-June 1

Annual Conference at River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud. At this year's conference session, we will focus on Luke 24: 13-35, with a theme of "Encounter. Transform. Respond. The Emmaus Experience."

Pastor Henry and Pam Rose will again attend this important event.

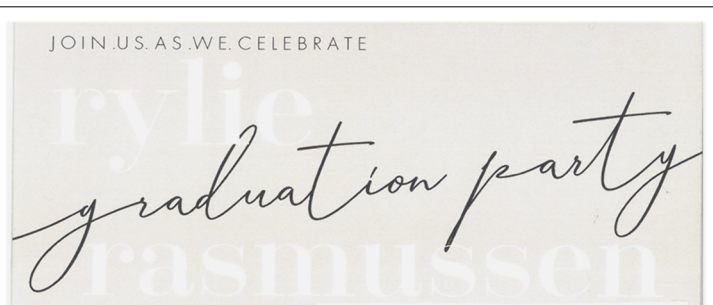
Bishop Lanette Plambeck Announces Leadership Transitions

Bishop Lanette announced her intention to appoint Rev. Carol Zaagsma assistant to the bishop for connective ministries, effective July 1, 2024. Rev. Zaagsma's responsibilities will include stewarding the mission, vision, and values of the Minnesota Annual Conference through administrative leadership; aligning the work of our Annual Conference boards, agencies, and commissions; and strengthening the connections between local, district, annual conference, and general church ministries. Bishop Lanette has also announced her intention to appoint Rev. Fred Vanderwerf assistant to the bishop for transitions and development.



Camp Minnesota offers cutting edge summer camp experiences for all ages and interests, high quality space for retreats, meetings and conferences, delicious meal service, and warm hospitality. [Click here to view our current sessions and register for camp!](#)


From the Mailbox



Rylie Rasmussen
Sunday, May 21, 11AM-3PM
The Emporium Room
20880 Keokuk Ave
Lakeville

Rylie will be continuing her education at Benedict State University where she will be studying sports medicine and playing softball for the Beavers.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9:15am Bazaar Wkshp		
7 MN Annual Conference Love Offering 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion	8 6:30pm Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	9 6:00pm Trustees Mtg 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	10	11 9:15am Bazaar Wkshp	12	13 9:00 am - Noon 
14 MN Annual Conference Love Offering MOTHER'S DAY 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School 11:15am Congregational	15 June Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Church Council Mtg (Zoom)	16 6:00pm Trustees 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	17	18 9:15am Bazaar Wkshp	19	20
21 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship: One Great Day of Music, Teacher & Leader Appreciation/Sunday School	22 6:30pm Women's Bible Study (Zoom)	23	24	25 9:15am Bazaar Wkshp	26	27
28 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School	29	30 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	31	<p>TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM: https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch</p>		

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