

THE PORTLIGHT

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

⚡ THE PORT VBS ⚡

Come join us at the Hero Hotline Headquarters (The Port) where everyone's gifts are valued, and every hero has a role to play! Light dinner is included!

- ★ August 7th, 8th & 9th 6-8pm
- ★ Ages 4 thru 6th grade
- ★ The Port - 8000 Portland Ave. S
Bloomington, MN 55420
- ★ (952) 888-6070
- ★ <https://paumc.org/>

To register scan the QR Code



August 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 The PORT,

Once again, it seems hard to believe that Summer is almost over! I hope many of you are enjoying it. I am enjoying it with my family by attending barbeques most weekends, walking, dancing, and many other outdoor activities. While many have gotten or will get more weeks of vacation, rest, and relaxation; let's not forget to put God First.

Everyone has priorities. We arrange our schedules, budgets, and relationships according to perceived importance. Putting God first means we give Him top priority over everything else. He is the principal figure in our lives and central to all we do and think. When we choose to put God first, we determine that He is more important than any other person, His Word is more valuable than any other message, and His will is weightier than any other imperative.

Putting God first means that we keep the greatest commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37). In other words, we are totally invested in our relationship with God. Everything we have and everything we are, is devoted to Him. We hold nothing back.

Jesus taught us to "seek the Kingdom of God above all else" (Matthew 6:33, NLT). That is, we are to seek the things of God over the things of the world. We are to seek the salvation that is inherent in the kingdom of God, considering that salvation of greater value than all the world's riches combined (Matthew 13:44-46). The promise associated with this command is that if we are putting God first, "He will give you everything you need."

During a time of famine, the prophet Elijah visited a town where he met a widow who was preparing a final meal for herself and her son. Elijah asked her for some bread and water, and the widow explained that she had the resources for one meal only, and after that was gone, she would face starvation. Elijah persisted: "Don't be afraid. . . . But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son" (1 Kings 17:13). In essence, Elijah told her to put God first. By faith, the widow obeyed. She put God first and

fed the prophet. And then came the miracle: "There was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry" (verses 15-16).

Those who put God first will stand out from the rest of the world. They will obey God's commands (John 14:15), they will take up their cross and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23), and they will not forsake their first love (Revelation 2:4). They give God the first fruits, not the leftovers. The Christian life is characterized by moment-to-moment selfless service to God that flows from love for Him and His people. In all things, the believer trusts, obeys, and loves God above all else. Putting God first becomes easier when we take to heart the words of Romans 11:36: "Everything comes from the Lord. All things were made because of him and will return to him. Praise the Lord forever! Amen" (CEV).

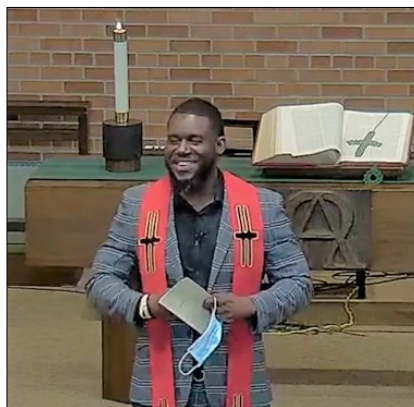
Let us put Christ first through our prayer, presence, witness, gifts, and service to The PORT.

In addition, September through December 2023, I am looking forward to your participation in upcoming events. Details will be posted in the Narthex. All are welcome.

- Prayer meeting (September to December 2023, the First Wednesday from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm)
- Bible Study (September to December, Third Wednesday from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm)
- Rally Sunday (September 10, 2023)
- Trunk or Treat (October)

Blessings,

Pastor Henry



Spiritual Growth

AUGUST Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Welcomers	Lori Livingston Daisy Castro	Melinda Matton Tom Wellman	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Amy & Travis Runck
Ushers	Scott Swenson Laurette Lawson Mike Moreland	Bruce Benson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy	Scott Swenson Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek Jocelyne Medzagoh Kathy Soucy
Reader	Youth	Mary Nelson	Paul Richardson	John Hepola
Sound	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Barb Andrus	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen
Livestream	Clint Andrus	Daisy Castro	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson
Closer	Tom Wellman	Steve Knopp	Harvey Erstad	Wayne Andersen
Counters	Wayne Andersen	Mike Moreland	Mike Moreland	JoAnne Volden
Communion Stewards	Dan & Tracy Baker	<p>Want to serve on Sunday mornings? Tell Pastor Henry or the office and we will put you in touch with the appropriate leader.</p>		

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	18 - Scott Rice	26 - Lynn Livingston
02 - Isabelle Swenson.	- Chrissy Wells	27 - Blessing Wilson
06 - Barb Deese	22 - Paul Richardson	30 - Jim Anderson
08 - Jean Moore	25 - Joe Matton	- Annie Comee
13 - Becky Rice	- Luke Rice	- Marcie Huser
14 - Ethan Runck	- Terry Wells	





Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Bishop's Episcopal Address: Quite Enough Love for All of Us

By: Christa Meland

First published on the [MN Conference website](#).

When was a time when the Creator of heaven and earth stopped you in your tracks? What were you doing? Who were you with? How were you made aware of God-with-us with you?



Bishop Plambeck addresses over 600 Minnesota United Methodists in St. Cloud, May 2023 / Photo by David Haines

In her inaugural Episcopal Address at the 2023 Annual Conference Session in St. Cloud, Bishop Lanette Plambeck told a story about a time when God stopped her in her tracks. She was at a restaurant with her covenant group during a conference at Lake Junaluska when she met Jade, a server whose soul was visibly wounded. Jade told the group her story about being tangled in

domestic violence, mental health crises, homelessness, separation from her children, working double shifts, and incredible isolation. The group knew that doing nothing was not an option so they pooled their resources to help cover expenses at a hotel where she was staying, and they pointed her to local United Methodist churches. When they checked in on Jade again the next day, she excitedly shared some positive developments in her life. God had put the world right for her and made what seemed impossible possible again.

That's exactly what happened in the Emmaus Road story, said Bishop Lanette: The impossible becomes possible as the world is made right again through encounters with the resurrected Christ who brings healing, reconciliation, and hope. It's the story for the two disciples on the road, and it's our story too.

During her address, Bishop Lanette explored the biblical story of the Road to Emmaus, found only in the Gospel of Luke, and set the scene by describing the encounter of two brokenhearted disciples on their way home. Cleopas and his unnamed companion had witnessed Jesus' ministry, but the events of the previous week, including the crucifixion, had left them disheartened and confused.

Bishop Lanette pointed out that the original biblical text says the two disciples were not merely talking on the road but rather engaged in a spirit of disagreement when Jesus joined them, unnoticed, on their journey. She also noted the original language of the question Jesus asked the disciples that stopped them in their tracks: "What words are these that you exchange with one another walking?"

With this question, Jesus intentionally drew them out of their conflict and redirected their attention on him, and suddenly, they were realigned—not yet realizing the identity of the stranger walking with them but remembering what they meant to one another and the journey they had been on together. And they began to share about Jesus.

“We see on the road to Emmaus prevenient and justifying grace,” said Bishop Lanette. “I want to suggest today that we also see sanctifying grace.”

As soon as Jesus joined the disciples on the road, he could have done a great “ta-da, here I am.” But he recognized something: They needed the journey. And it wasn't just Jesus with whom they needed reconciliation, redemption, and restoration; they needed it with each other to be able to get to a place where they could fully recognize that their companion on the road was indeed the risen Christ.

Bishop Lanette Plambeck delivered her inaugural Episcopal Address as resident bishop of the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area.

Once they recognized him, they returned with haste to their truest community in Jerusalem, proclaiming that Jesus is risen and they were no longer the same. They relayed this singular truth of the resurrection that is the foundation of our faith.

“This that we’re experiencing in The United Methodist Church—this is not a crisis of theological interpretation,” said Bishop Lanette. “This isn’t about understanding or valuing scripture differently than one another. My friends, we are in a sanctification crisis... What we are invited to do is to do life together... You and I have an obligation to be healers and hope carriers in this world, working for justice, advocacy, sharing our faith stories, developing people in their own faith formation... God needs us, I believe, to do better, to be better.”

Bishop Lanette issued an invitation: “I wonder if you would just join with me in leaning in—leaning in to one another in this room and declaring that there is indeed enough love for all of us.”

She reminded those gathered and watching online: “You are loved. You are a child of God and a person of worth. There are no exceptions.”

As we look to the future, she urged attendees to lean in to: the Great Commandment to love God and love our neighbors; the Great Commission of making disciples; the Great Requirement from Micah to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God; and the Great Proclamation to proclaim good news.



Bishop Lanette invited those gathered to anoint each other with oil while saying, "I love you."

“We need to be able to say to one another that in this very room, there is enough space. In this very room, there is enough love for all of us. Because if we can’t say it in this room with the deepest of belief and integrity, how in the world could we bear witness to it outside of this room?...In this very room, there is quite enough love for all of us.”

[Christa Meland](#) is director of communications for the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

PORT Fleets

Fleet Update for August

Ellen Smith has volunteered to be the Lead for Friends of The PORT and will work with the Fleet leaders to get cards and the list of individuals who have birthdays coming up, to ensure the individuals at the first of the month get them in time. She has a great talent in creating beautiful cards.

Ellen also had the wonderful idea if Fleets want to help out around the church would be to clean up around the outside of the church which would include pulling weeds.

Do you have other ideas for projects or team building ideas for your Fleet? If so, please bring those to your Fleet Leader, Judy Richardson-Mahre, or Nancy Hagerty.

Fleet 1	Friends of The PORT
Fleet 2	Relationship Builders
Fleet 3	Welcomers
Fleet 4	Prayer Walkers
Fleet 5	Visitor Volunteers
Fleet 6	Fellowship

Welcomers for August - Fleet 3

8/6	Lori Livingston and Daisy Castro
8/13	Melinda Matton and Tom Wellman
8/20	Steve & Kathy Soucy
8/27	Amy & Travis Runck

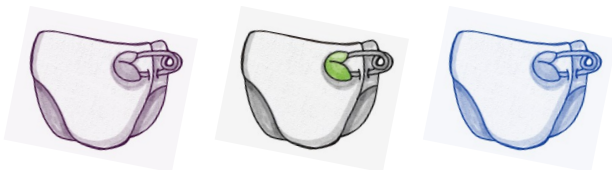
~ Nancy Hagerty, Fleets Co-chair



Mission Outreach

August Mission Outreach Project— Baby Diaper Drive for VEAP

Our mission focus for August is a diaper drive for VEAP. Did you know that quite often when a family is struggling financially, they cut back on diapers and wipes 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.






June Mission Outreach Update

In June Mission Outreach was able to send a \$500 check to Cornerstone for meals. Thank you for your donations when we raised funds earlier this spring. They greatly appreciate the help!

~ Nancy Hagerty, Mission Outreach Chair



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:00am Worship/ Communion	7 6:00 - 8:00pm Vacation Bible School 	8 6:00 - 8:00pm Vacation Bible School 	9 6:00 - 8:00pm Vacation Bible School 	10 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	11	12
13 10:00am Worship 11:15am Congregational Care	16	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp	18	19
20 10:00am Outdoor Worship with Cookout	21	22 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	23	24 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group (RSVP)	25	26
27 10:00am Worship	28	29 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp	30	31 9:30am Bazaar Wkshp		
TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE AT 10:00 AM https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch						

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>