

# THE PORTLIGHT

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

November 2023



Our 49th Annual Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures is here!  
See page 5 for details and how you can help.



Friday,  
Nov. 10,  
9am-  
6pm



Saturday,  
Nov. 11,  
9am-  
3pm



## 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.

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# Pastor's Message

Each year around the Thanksgiving season, I follow some friends on social media repeating a tradition to share each day, over 30 days, something they're thankful for. It's a wonderful practice! One of the things I love about seeing all my friends posting what they're thankful for is that I know some of these people are facing hard things. So, behind the smiles and thanks are also tears and heartache. The Bible has a lot to say about "giving thanks." A common phrase in the book of Psalms is "enter His gates with thanksgiving." (Psalm 100:4).

No matter our season of life, there can *always* be a reason to enter God's gates and give thanks. How? I think Psalm 100:4 tells us exactly why we are always welcome to enter with praise.

Can't you imagine, if all is stripped away, how do we enter God's house with thanksgiving? What if our hands are empty? I believe we can give thanks because of *who God is*, not just what God has done. Thanksgiving is not only about what God does for us, but all God *is* for us. Friends, there are lots of things God does for us for which we can give thanks. So much! We have God's **salvation** for our sins. He listens to our prayers and provides for our needs. We can give God thanks for all these things, but I believe there is more. I believe God's character is enough to enter His gates with thanksgiving. So, sing songs of praise and thanksgiving – enter the gates with thanksgiving. Worship and praise God daily. Acknowledge God who provides and who is present always. But let us also give thanks for the church, the family with whom we worship; let us be bound together in singing and praying and mutual love and support.

As I reflect on this year, I want to remember all God is instead of thinking about what He's done. Yes, I am thankful for all God has given me and done for me, but I want to be thankful for just simply who God is! I hope you do as well.

We are being made into disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are looking to live a life of service and joy. We are being invited to consider our common humanity, our shared experience of living in a world that has heartache and struggle, but also profound joy and satisfaction that is deep and true and binding heart to heart. And it all

grows out of an awareness of the interconnectedness of life, which opens us up to living in thanksgiving. Will you join me?

For the entire month of November, let's read verses in the Bible that remind us of God's character and spend some time rejoicing in our God who is beyond compare. There is truly no one like our God and we can give thanks for this! His characteristics give us hope and joy.

Suggested readings: Psalm 100, Psalm 28:6, Psalm 40:11, Psalm 116:1, Psalm 23, and John 10:11,14,16.

Blessings,



Pastor Henry



# Youth and Families

Kids ages 4 to 12th grade are invited to attend Sunday School classes. The elementary class meets downstairs every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month, which is designated as Family Worship. We are working through the “Fruits of the Spirit” curriculum this fall.

Older kids (grades 6 to 12) meet the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the youth loft.



A Kids' Christmas program is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 17th during the worship service.

Also on Dec. 17th, we will be having a Bethlehem Experience beginning at 12pm. Families, neighbors, the congregation, all are invited to the Fellowship Hall to walk through the events leading up to Jesus' birth with displays and activity booths.

## NOVEMBER Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Welcomer/ Greeter	Barb & Clint Andrus	Christine Hortenback & Jon Krogsrud	Harvey & Peggy Erstad	Gloria & Frederick Wilson-Bahun
Ushers	Scott Swenson * Jocelyn Medzagoh Kathy Soucy Mike Moreland	Bruce Benson* Myron Karki Ginny Karki Pam Rose	Trenton Olson * Greg Jurek Mike Moreland Curt Willhite	Wayne Andersen * Sharon Beckler Jocelyn Medzagoh Kathy Soucy
Reader	Melinda Matton	Scott Rice	Pam Rose	Katelyn Hagerty
Sound	Dave Smith	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith
Livestream Tech	Daisy Castro	Clint Andrus	Tim Madsen	Scott Swenson
Closer	Steve Knopp	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman
Counters	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	Tracy & Dan Baker	<b>Can YOU serve on a Sunday? Tell the office or any volunteer!</b>		

## We celebrate YOU during NOVEMBER

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

- |                    |                            |                       |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 - Carl Darnell   | 9 - Kathy Swenson          | 22 - Todd Rasmussen   |
| - Joyce Faircloth  | 13 - Mary Nelson           | 27 - Mary Lou Johnson |
| 6 - John Lounsbury | 18 - Sue Wells             | 29 - Joan Whitehead   |
| 9 - Bruce Benson   | 20 - Eric Richardson-Mahre | 30 - Dave Smith       |





## Walker Methodist Health Center— Give a Little Gift Program 2023

During November please consider making a donation to the “Give a Little Gift Fund” through the Walker Methodist Health Center. This fund allows their team members to create small care packages or gifts for residents during the holiday season. Please make your check out to PAUMC and in the memo line put Give a Little Gift. **Donations must be made by 11/26/23** so that our check can be received at Walker by 12/1/23.

## Fleet Update

You may have seen a blank bulletin board where the Fleet information was. While we may have discontinued the program, we still need your help! Please read on for the many ways you can be involved with the ministry of the PORT.

**Welcomers** – Greet and welcome our members and visitors as they come through our doors on Sunday mornings. Contact Nancy Hagerty at nancyhagerty@hotmail.com to get on the list for 2024!

**Coffee Fellowship** – If you have an interest in bringing treats for our coffee time before and after worship,

please sign up for Fellowship on the sheet in the Wesley Room. This is a valuable act of kindness as it provides a warm atmosphere for our church members and guests. Please contact Kathy Soucy at ksoucy56@gmail.com or Lynn Livingston at lynnliving@yahoo.com with questions.

**Friends of the Port** – If you enjoy receiving a birthday card, consider helping with creating cards, buying stamps, addressing cards or even donating supplies for card creation. Please contact Ellen Smith at dsmith1482@aol.com.

**Visitor Volunteer**– If you enjoy making phone calls to others or like to visit others in their home, please contact Dave and Ellen Smith at dsmith1482@aol.com to find out more about their PAUMC Visitation List that is used to track their outreach to our members.

**Relationship Builders** – Pastor Henry’s two new groups will lead to closer relationships with our fellow members and God. Please consider joining the following:

**Prayer Meetings** – Pastor Henry’s in-person Prayer Meeting is the first Wednesday of every month from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Wesley Room.

**Bible Study** – Join Pastor Henry’s in-person Bible Study the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Wesley Room.



## A Note on Stewardship...

*Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.*  
*Luke 6:38 (NRSVUE)*

I remember a time when I didn’t help others because I was afraid I would not have enough for myself. But God led me to the above scripture and I decided to give money. A short time later, I received more money than I had given. It was truly unexpected. Over time, God has

taught me to have an open heart for giving.

When we trust God, have an open heart, and are ready to give, the gifts we give will be blessed by God. Are you ready to trust God...maybe just try for a month; and see what your story becomes?

(The above is based on the October 8th Upper Room testimonial.)



# Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures

## Bazaar Week: November 6 - 11

Our 49th Annual Holiday Bazaar is on the way! This is the single largest event our church sponsors and everything that is donated comes from our Port members! Our sale has an excellent reputation and folks really do plan for it as part of their holiday preparations.

As with every important task at The Port, we are looking for everyone's support. The Bazaar will be held on Friday, Nov. 10 from 9 to 6 and Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 to 3. We have many areas to staff so please consider volunteering for a couple of hours, or longer if you can, throughout the week.

### How can you help right now?

- Complete any craft items** you're donating and bring them to church by November 5.
- Donate a gift basket** for the silent auction (or the funds for one and we'll shop for you) by November 5. Include an inventory of what's included and the cost for the items.
- Take fliers to distribute** to family and friends or to post in windows or on bulletin boards of places you frequent such as coffee shops, hair and nail salons, libraries, bakeries, etc.
- Make something for the bake sale.** We need sweet breads, cookies, bars, pies, snack mixes, fudge, or holiday treats to sell on Friday and Saturday. We will provide trays you can use to pack your goods and instructions to help with labeling and packaging. Our bakery ladies will do the pricing so you don't have to worry about that.
- Donate gently used fall and holiday items** for the Attic Treasures which is sponsored by the Youth and Family Ministries.
- Use your social media platforms** to get the word out and invite your friends and neighbors.

### The schedule for "Bazaar Week" is as follows:

**Monday and Tuesday Nov. 6 & 7, 6:30pm** - Pricing of sale items. Can you help tag items? We will need all personal craft donations by this time. We will NOT be able to accept donations later as we will not have time to price them.

**Wednesday, Nov. 8, 11am** – Gather tables and set up the room layout. We need strong backs to carry tables and display stands up from the basement and from around the building. At **1pm** we will cover the tables with cloths. At **5pm** we'll bring merchandize into the room and start setting up the displays.

**Thursday, Nov. 9, 10am to 6pm** – Display merchandise, decorate room. Attic Treasures will need help pricing and displaying their merchandise in the Wesley Room. **Bake Sale** goods can be dropped off Thursday after 10am and we will need more goods on Friday to stock our tables for Saturday.

**Friday, Nov. 11, 9am to 6pm, and Saturday, Nov. 12, 9am to 3pm** we are open for business and we need YOU! Please sign up to work as many hours as you can. You'll be standing or sitting behind the tables listing the items our guests are buying on a tablet for them to pay at the central cashier. You will not need to handle money, just offer a smile and a warm "hello". This is a great way to meet our neighbors and to show them the warm hospitality of The Port. It's a very fun time!

**Saturday at 3pm** we'll clean the room and haul the tables back to storage. Strong backs and legs will be needed again. With lots of help we should be done by 5pm.

Thank you all in advance for your support of this long-standing labor of love. We sincerely hope you will come often this week to help us get ready and to join in the fun! This is a great way for high school students to get volunteer hours too.

Please pray for the success of our Holiday Bazaar and for the strength and health of our workers and guests. We hope to see you all there! If none of this is possible for you, then come down and visit, eat and shop. You won't be sorry!

Feel free to contact any of the following people with any questions:

**Lynn Livingston** 952-797-2645

**Lori Livingston** 612-240-2640

**Kathy Soucy** 612-226-2085

**Janene Haugen** (Attic Treasures) at 612-940-4408

# Stewardship and Finance

November brings with it the time to think about upgrading your financial commitment.

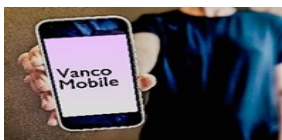


Sermon Series:

Pastor Henry has been speaking during October on stewardship, responsibility and the joy we receive from giving generously.

Stewardship Sunday will be November 5th. Pledge cards will be received during worship and may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

Several giving options are available:



Vanco Mobile App



Church Website



Mail to church



Bring to church


## Mark your calendar for some fun! Hanging of the Greens and Bingo, Saturday, December 2

What is that?! Every year we mark the beginning of Advent by decorating our church for Christmas. We have wreaths to hang, ornaments to make, trees to put up and a few other things that we look forward to seeing. The church is so beautiful when it is done. This year we are returning to our PAUMC roots by turning this event into a fun time for families, so we have added Bingo, which will be our reward when we are finished. We will begin at 10 a.m. and start Bingo around noon. Bring some snacks to share while we play and let's have a great day together!



# November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	31 7 ELECTION DAY	1 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together 6:30pm Prayer Meeting 7:30pm Confirmation	2 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	3	4
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion/ <b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b>	6 Bazaar Week Begins (see page 5) 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing	7 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing	8 11:00am Bazaar Setup - all day 6:30pm Worship Leader Rehearsal	9 10:00am Bazaar Setup - all day Bake Sale drop-off	10 HOLIDAY BAZAAR & ATTIC TREASURES 9:00 am- 6:00 pm Bake Sale drop-off	11 HOLIDAY BAZAAR & ATTIC TREASURES 9:00 am - 3:00 pm 3-5pm Take down and empty Fellowship Hall
12 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School/ <b>VETERANS' SUNDAY</b>	13	14 Newsletter Deadline	15 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Confirmation	16	17	18
19 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School	20	21 6:00pm Trustees Mtg	22 7:30pm Confirmation	23 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED	24	25
26 United Methodist Student Day 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School	27	28	29 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together 6:30pm Worship Leader Rehearsal 7:30pm Confirmation	30		

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  
Lori Livingston (Administrative Assistant) [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org) Office: 952-888-6070  
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>