

# THE PORTLIGHT

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

**March 2024**

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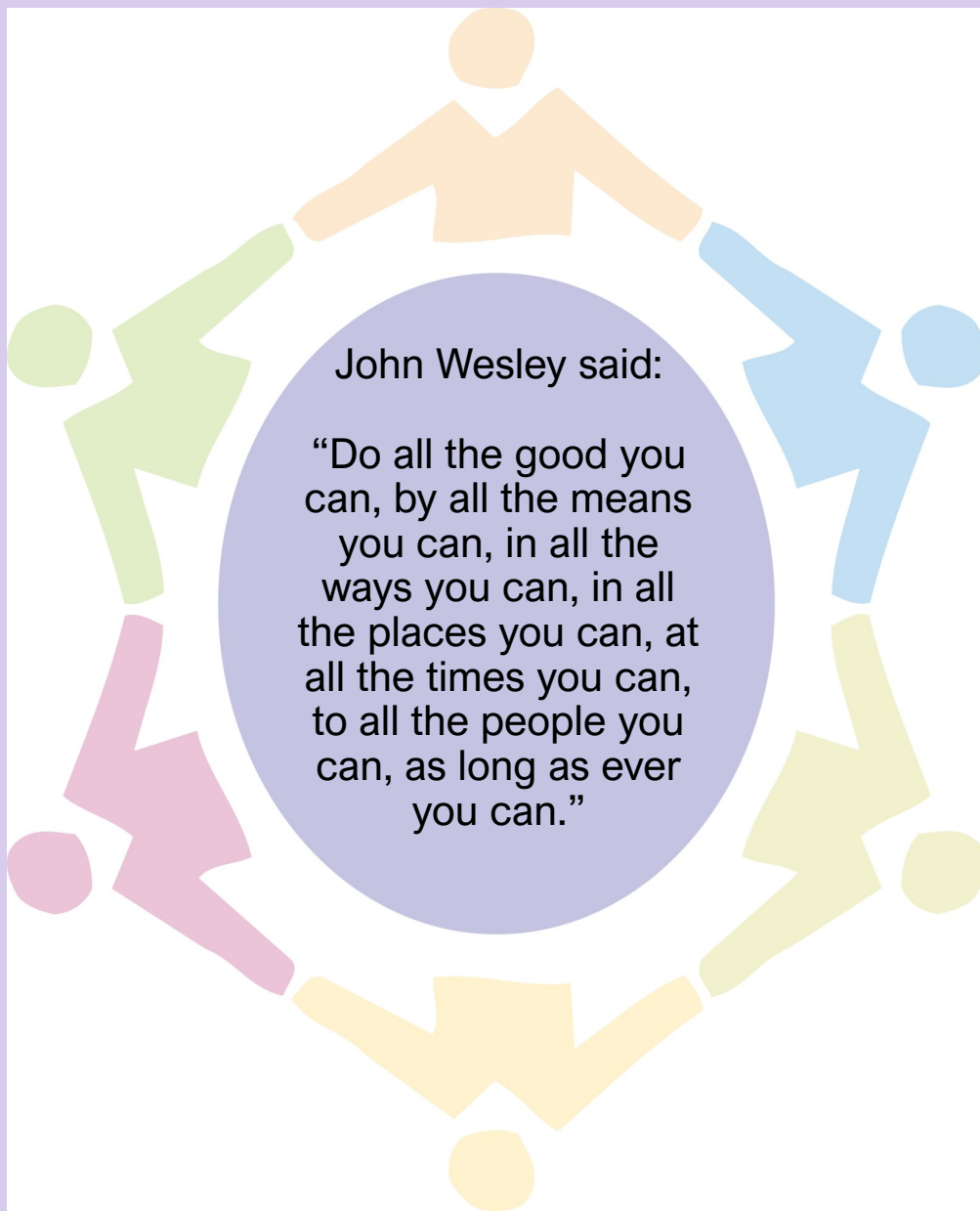
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**Our Mission**

*"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

Resurrection Greetings!

Friends, I often wonder about hope, especially when I'm feeling lost, or facing challenges, troubles, trials, tribulations, struggles, pain, and many other issues. The good news is that I always have a sense of who and where to turn to for hope. For me the **Who** is **Jesus** and the **Where** is the **Church**. It is my prayer that Jesus is your Hope.

PORT friends, I'm grateful to God for this exciting time of year, especially for those of us who have put our trust and faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior! It is a time to be excited to embody the Good News as light in a world of darkness. It is a time to embody hope, generosity, and love.

A portion of scripture in the Bible shows the tremendous victory Christ won over death as He arose from the grave in power and authority.

**1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (NKJV)** — “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It almost seems that the Apostle Paul is taunting death as he knows the resurrection of Christ was then, and continues to be, the ultimate testimony to the truthfulness of the claims of Christ.

In a world of decaying values and shifting “truths,” we as believers know there is One who has never changed and never will change! **Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)** — Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

From the moment Jesus breathed his final breath on Friday, it seemed death would win, and life would lose. Yet, death had never encountered such a victor as Jesus Christ! He was without sin, so death could not win! That first Easter Sunday (Resurrection Sunday) was coming, and Jesus would come out of the powerless tomb!

Friends, we have a reason to celebrate and worship! In a world that seems overwhelmed with sin and despair, we as Christians should be shining our light MORE and not less!

This nation needs Revival! This nation needs to experience the life that Christ offers that resulted from His victory on Calvary and the resurrection that took place! Revival needs to start with each of us asking God to move powerfully in our lives.

He's still alive and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God, making intercession for us today!

**Romans 8:34 (NKJV)** — Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Join us on Easter Sunday for a powerful time of worship, word and fellowship! It will be a combined worship service with our faith partners, The Brazilian Church of Hope. I am excited. Jesus Christ died and rose from the death so we can embody a Resurrected life. Death has been cancelled!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Henry



## MARCH Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Easter, Mar 31
<b>Welcomers</b>	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Greg Jurek	Emery Mahre & Wyatt French	Youth	Todd & Julie Rasmussen
<b>Ushers</b>	Trenton Olson Greg Jurek Melinda Matton Jocelyn Medzagoh	Scott Swenson Myron Karki Ginny Karki Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson Laurette Lawson Mike Moreland Scott Swenson	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Trenton Olson Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson Myron Karki Ginny Karki Pam Rose
<b>Reader</b>	Greg Jurek	Scott Rice	Curt Willhite	Mary Nelson	Neil Anderson
<b>Sound</b>	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre
<b>Media</b>	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus
<b>Livestream</b>	Scott Swenson	Scott Swenson	Daisy Castro	Tim Hagerty	Clint Andrus
<b>Closer</b>	Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Scott Swenson
<b>Counters</b>	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman Jon Krogsrud	Tom Wellman Jon Krogsrud	Pam Rose Jon Krogsrud	Pam Rose Steve Soucy
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Daniel & Tracy Baker	Want to serve on Sunday mornings? Let the office know and we will connect you!			

### Youth and Family Updates:

We continue to provide Sunday School for kids and youth. Kids from kindergarten to 5th grade meet on the lower level each Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month which is designated as family worship Sunday. Youth in grades 6 to 12 meet on the second and fourth Sundays in the loft.

The kids will be waving palm branches on Sunday, March 24th. We will not have Sunday School on Easter Sunday, March 31st. The elementary kids will be starting a new curriculum on Heroes of Holy Week. We have exciting things planned and lots to learn!

The youth grades 6 to 12 will be assisting with the breakfast on Easter morning.

### Spring Garage Sale News

The Youth and Family Ministries Garage Sale is scheduled for April 26th and 27th. Please contact either Becky Rice (651-592-7752) or Janene Haugen (612-940-4408) to schedule a time to drop off donations. Our room is very full and we are sorting prior to the sale, therefore, we are requesting notification on all donations.

We will accept furniture, however, we cannot accept it until April 24th. If you donate a larger furniture item and it doesn't sell, you must pick it up on the 27th. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



# Mission Outreach

## March Mission Outreach: VEAP Birthday Bags

VEAP offers birthday bags to their pantry visitors who have children 12 years old or younger during the month of their special day. They distribute between 100 to 150 bags per week! Help us provide birthday bags for VEAP by donating the following items:



- \* Cake or cupcake mix
- \* Cupcake liners
- \* Canned or tube frosting
- \* Birthday candles
- \* Birthday-themed napkins or plates
- \* Birthday favors like bubbles, balloons, etc.

Donations will be accepted through 3/31. Monetary donations can also be made by check in the offering or by mail to the church office. We are excited to see how many birthday bags we can create for our community!

Please contact Nancy Hagerty or Pam Rose at [ThePortMissionTeam@hotmail.com](mailto:ThePortMissionTeam@hotmail.com) with any questions.

## February Mission Recap - Sandwiches for Dignity Center

On the Saturday after Bingo and during the Sunday Service on February 11<sup>th</sup>, the members of our church came together to build sandwiches which were donated to The Dignity Center. The Dignity Center is an interfaith outreach ministry of Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church in Minneapolis. The Port blessed The Dignity Center by making over 200 sandwiches which filled 20 bread loaf bags!

Thank you to everyone who donated items, money, and their time to make the sandwiches. It is such a blessing to provide food for those in need!

Nancy Hagerty, Co-Chair Mission Outreach.



## Happy Birthday to our MARCH friends!

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
- 20 - Melinda Matton
- 24 - Linda Gilbertson
- 28 - Ellen Smith



## Happy 70th Anniversary to PAUMC!



Our church was chartered on March 19, 1954.

What a proud legacy we have. A celebration is being planned. Watch for more details, coming soon.



## Family Game Night

It's time for a fun get-together!!

We will meet on Saturday, March 16 at 6 p.m. for a game night! Bring your favorite game and an hors d'oeuvre or snack to share. This is also a great opportunity to bring a friend. The more, the merrier!

This event is for the whole family so we hope to see you there!

Questions? Call Lynn Livingston, 952-797-2645.



## Easter Worship Schedule

Easter is coming! And we're doing things a bit differently this year! Here's what you need to know to participate, experience and celebrate fully the last days of Jesus' life!

### Palm Sunday at The Port - 3/24/24 - 10 AM

Join us for the celebration of Jesus entering the holy city and the beginning of his final days on earth.

### Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service - Thursday, 3/28/24 7 PM

This is a service of community and sharing the sacred Last Supper of our Lord. We will be participating in communion with others and reflecting on the last few days of Jesus' life. The service will begin with bread, fruit and "wine" celebrating in a way like the disciples shared the last Supper with Jesus. We will then be sharing the scriptures of Jesus' passion, suffering and crucifixion, leaving in silent reflection.

### Easter Morning 3/31 beginning at 8:30 AM

We will be joining in partnership with the Brazilian Church of Hope to share our mutual love of Jesus.

- **Breakfast:** Our Easter celebration begins with our traditional breakfast at 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall where we will be hosting our partners in ministry - the Brazilian Church of Hope (BCOH).

- **Easter Worship Service:** The combined Easter Celebration will begin at 10 AM in the Sanctuary and will feature music, scripture and messages from the BCOH and The Port.

- **Brazilian Lunch:** Our Easter celebration continues after the service with a Brazilian lunch served in the Fellowship Hall hosted by BCOH.

We are looking forward to a very meaningful Easter season in partnership with our Brazilian sisters and brothers. We hope you will attend any or all of these events, as they work with your schedule. Please RSVP for the breakfast and lunch on the back of the Connection Cards or by calling the church office.

# 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 retirees on the Trustees Committee (Harvey Erstad, Steve Knopp, Tom Wellman) put in a lot of hours in January and February as they replaced light bulbs in our building's Exit signs, which was complicated due to the various styles and ages of the signs throughout the building. They made repairs to the boilers to keep the heat on in our building. And they removed a dying Ash tree from the parking lot side of our building.



We are blessed to have such a dedicated group of men who are willing to put in so much work to keep our property maintained. Thank you to all of the Trustees for all you do for the Port!



On Monday, 2/19, the Trustees, with lots of extra help, removed the large dead Ash tree from our church yard. Harvey Erstad brought a large trailer, three chain saws, lots of knowledge plus two grandsons to help make it happen. Thanks to all the great help the tree was down and things pretty well cleaned up by noon. Harvey hauled a large load of small branches to recycling and Kathy Bell with her pickup truck helped to haul the wood away. Tim and Nancy Hagerty helped with cleanup. Thanks again to the many extra hands and strong backs for getting this done!



# March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><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></p>						
<b>3</b> 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/Communion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Voting Day - Presidential Primary</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00pm Light Dinner 6:30pm Lenten Book Study (Wesley Room) 7:30pm Confirmation	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>  UMCOR SUNDAY 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/Sunday School	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:00pm Trustees Meeting (Wesley Room)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Shamrock Game Night (Fellowship Hall)
<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Spring Begins</b> <b>PAUMC's 70th Anniversary of our charter!</b> 	<b>20</b> 6:00pm Light Dinner 6:30pm Lenten Book Study (Wesley Room) 7:30pm Confirmation	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/Sunday School <b>31</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 8:30am Breakfast 10:00am Worship w/ Brazilian Church of Hope 11:45am Brazilian Lunch	<b>25</b> 6:30pm Church Council (Zoom)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5:30pm Bring Your Dinner - Let's Chat! 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal 7:30pm Confirmation	<b>28</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00pm "Last Supper" Service of Communion with Good Friday Scriptures	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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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