

THE PORTLIGHT

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

May 2024

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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."



Pastor's Message

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

PORT members and friends, there is nothing quite as great as the importance and value of attending church. (No offense to those who cannot attend but watch online.) I feel the love of God, as well as people around me who are in unity worshipping the Lord together.

There are many moments to share about attending The PORT. Worth mentioning one such moment was this year's Easter Sunday Worship with The Brazilian Church of Hope. Praise be to God!

As we profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and we live a life reflective of that confession of faith, I would like to encourage you to make church attendance a regular and consistent part of your life. You WILL become a stronger Christian as a result!

Jesus valued the church greatly, and in fact He called it "His Bride!" We know also that He's coming one day for a Bride without a spot or a wrinkle, but we also realize there's still a lot of spots to be removed, and wrinkles to iron!

Hebrews 10:25 gives us a tremendous reminder of the importance of church attendance: "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - - and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Paul gave a reminder in the following verse about the body of Christ. Ephesians 3:18: "may be able to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the width and length and depth and height."

The phrase "with all the saints" is very interesting. Paul is reminding the church at Ephesus that this process of growing in Christ is not something we can do on our own, or even just within the context of our own families. While we must grow in Christ there, we need to be reminded that the love

Christ wants us to grow in, is one we learn in the context and environment of the church, or the body of Christ!

The church is where we get into some "iron sharpens iron" moments!

The church is where we are able to weep with another who weeps!

The church is where we are able to rejoice when another rejoices!

The church is where we can join together to meet needs!

I want to encourage you to continue to be faithful to The PORT. I believe this is possible even in the face of all the demands the world places on us.

If there's anything the enemy of our souls would like to do, it is to keep us too busy to have time for God. Also, he would do his best to keep us from gathering with other believers in worship together. When I read Hebrews 10:25, it doesn't encourage us to attend church "less," but more!

We need each other! The faith of the truly believing Christian is being attacked as never before. There is indeed strength in numbers. Someone has rightfully commented that we are "better together." I know that seems quite apparent, but for The PORT to make an impact on our communities, we must do so in a unified way!

I would encourage you to be like Joshua of old when he said these words in Joshua 24:15b - "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Let's come together like never before! Let's lead our family to church and develop the excellent habit of faithfulness to God's house!

Blessings,

Pastor Henry



May Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	May 5 Confirmation	May 12 Mother's Day	May 19 Great Day of Music	May 26 Peace with Justice
Welcomers	Heather Anderson	Tim Hagerty Kate Hagerty	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Greg Jurek
Ushers	Bruce Benson Don Anderson Trenton Olson	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek Pam Rose	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Pat Ekstrom	Pam Rose Greg Jurek
Reader	Youth	Greg Jurek	Pam Rose	John Hepola
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen
Livestream	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Daisy Castro	Daisy Castro
Closer	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Harvey Erstad	Scott Swenson
Counters	Wayne Andersen Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman Trenton Olson	Pam Rose Trenton Olson	Pam Rose Trenton Olson

Communion Stewards Dan & Tracy Baker

We need you for media, sound, livestreaming and more.
If you can help please let the office know or ask any of the volunteers!

Congratulations to our Confirmation Class of 2024

Join us for worship on Sunday, May 5 as we welcome six Confirmands into the membership of The PORT. This group has been working hard for the past two years to prepare for this day. They have attended confirmation classes, retreats, summer camp, and participated in the PORT's worship services and mission outreach events. They are a great group of youth and we are very excited to welcome them into our PORT family! Please join us for a reception following worship to congratulate them.

Daisy Castro, fathers Blaine Daniels and the late Les Castro, Godparent Lynn Livingston
Leo Castro, fathers Blaine Daniels and the late Les Castro, Godparent Lori Livingston
Oliver Darnell, parents Bryan and Traci Darnell, grandparents Harvey and Peggy Erstad
Henry "Junior" Dolopei III, parents Rev. Henry and Assata Dolopei
Josh Rice, parents Scott and Becky Rice, grandparents Harvey and Peggy Erstad
Evelyn Runck, parents Travis and Amy Runck, grandparents Harvey and Peggy Erstad



Mission Outreach

Detailed below are two missions that The PORT is supporting in May. Please use the special offering envelopes to donate to either or both, and if using a check please note which one your funds should go to in the memo field.



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

WE DEMAND JUSTICE + CHANGE

TOGETHER

OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

May 26th is Peace with Justice Sunday

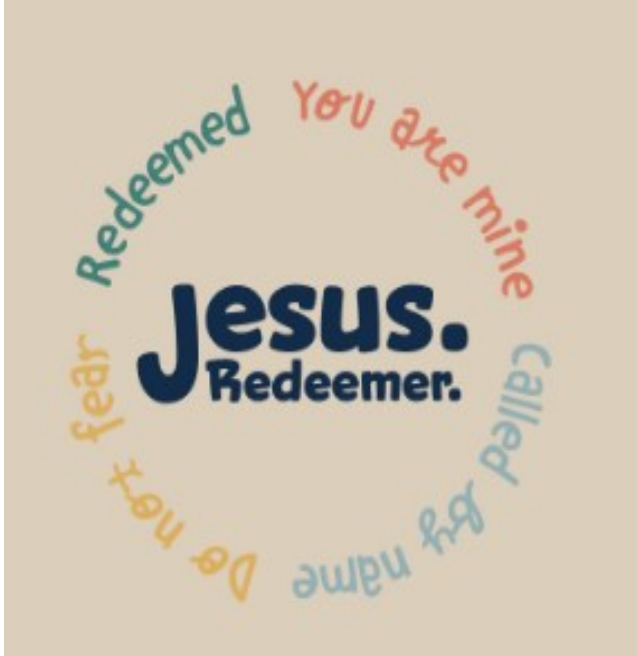
Our Social Principals call for us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve, by peaceful means, every dispute that arises between or among them.

Each Annual Conference has a Peace with Justice Coordinator developing local social justice ministries. Fifty percent of the offering remains in our annual conference to support this ministry.

To learn more about this ministry, please visit: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/peace-with-justice-sunday-ministry-article>

Thank you, as always, for your generous giving and support.

~ Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose,
Mission Outreach Co-Chairs



Redeemed You are mine Called by name Do not fear

Jesus.

Redeemer.

2024 Love Offering

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions. Donations made during the month of May will be brought to the 2024 Minnesota Annual Conference taking place May 29th & May 30th in Bloomington.

The Love Offering this year will be distributed as follows:

30% to a new trauma care center in Ukraine

30% to immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network

30% to special programming aimed at reducing trauma at Emma Norton Services' new Restoring Waters facility

10% to Volunteers in Mission scholarships

Happy Birthday to our May Friends!

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	16 - Mike Moreland
05 - Tom Wellman	18 - Rylie Rasmussen
06 - Amy Runck	19 - Nathan Wells
10 - Janene Haugen	23 - Evelyn Runck
14 - Chuck Bartels	24 - Scott Swenson



24 - Shiloh Wilson
28 - Sharon Beckler
29 - Amelia Swenson
30 - Edith (Mickey) Anderson

Coffee Fellowship Needs Volunteers!

Please help us keep the coffee time going by signing up to provide treats on a Sunday or two. Plan for about 40 people and arrive early to have the food set out by 9:30. After fellowship time please clean the tables and sweep the floors. It's a great way to serve The PORT!

Sign up on the clipboard in the Wesley Room. Thank you for volunteering!

Great Day of Music is Sunday, May 19

Invite your family and friends to our annual music-filled service as we celebrate the end of our program year and the beginning of summer!

Then stay for a potluck lunch.

Sign up at the Welcome Desk to bring a dish to share. (Crockpots only for hot food, please.)



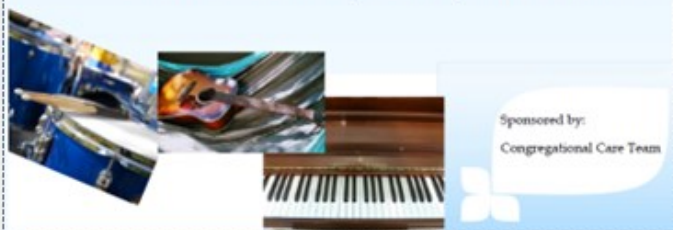
Come Join us!
Great Day of Music Potluck &
70th Anniversary celebration

May 19th, 11 a.m. in the Wesley Room

To celebrate the end of the program year and recognize our wonderful worship leadership team and band, we're having a potluck right after the Great Day of Music Service on May 19th.

** Sign up to bring a dish to share!

Please use Crockpots only for Hot Dishes



Sponsored by:
Congregational Care Team

Calling All Graduates!



If you or a family member are graduating from high school, college, or vocational school, we want to recognize and celebrate your accomplishments! Please join us for worship on Sunday, June 2 and stay for a reception with cake following the service.

To be included, please email the church office by Wednesday, May 29 and provide your graduate's name, their school name, and any honors, achievements and future plans that you'd like to share with your PORT family.

We are excited to share our congratulations and pride in your accomplishments!

Holiday Bazaar is set for November 8 and 9, and we'll be celebrating a big milestone!

Did you know that 2024 marks the 50th year for our Holiday Bazaar? That is really quite a milestone! The Committee would like to invite you to participate any way you can. What would it look like if everyone at The PORT was part of the event? We are currently accepting Silent Auction donations of gift baskets, if you would like to put one together before the busyness of summer sets in. We can't accept perishable goods at this time, but we would gladly store your donation! The workshop groups are underway as well. Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:15 and Thursday mornings from 9:30-11 you will find a small group of women crafting, laughing, talking, and even snacking as they create ornaments and the like in assembly-line fashion. There is no commitment to attend regularly, although that would be fantastic. All ability levels can be accommodated.

Trustees

PORT Spring Clean-up Day Saturday, May 4, 9am - 12pm

It's spring, and that means it's time for the annual **Spring Clean-up** of our church building and grounds. There are jobs, big and small, for everyone both inside and out. The Trustees work so hard throughout the year to maintain our building. Let's come to support them and make this job go faster. All of the churches who worship here are invited.



Come dressed for cleaning or yard work, bring your favorite work gloves and gear, if desired. Many hands will make it go

faster and it will be much more fun. Refreshments will be provided! We hope to see you there!

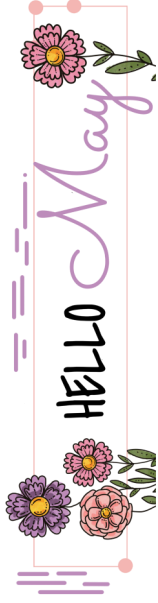
Mission Outreach - April Recap

Thank you to everybody who participated in these important missions in April. They were very successful and our donations will make a difference for so many people in our community! What a blessing!




Bloomington Scholarship – We donated \$500 in memory of Russ and Carol Cox to the Education Foundation of Bloomington. The scholarship is for a 2024 graduating student of color from Bloomington Kennedy who will be going to school to be a teacher.

VEAP Birthday Bags and Food Drive – With your support and commitment to buying items to create birthday bags, we provided 100 personalized birthday bags along with enough cake mix and frosting to make 60 cakes. We also were able to provide a few fun gifts. The Potters Church focused on a food drive. Together with their food drive and our birthday bag items, we donated 259 pounds of food! For those who provided monetary donations, PAUMC collected \$120 towards the birthday bags and \$440 for all other food needs.





HELLO May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	2	3	4 Spring Clean-up At the PORT 9am—12 noon
5 Confirmation Sunday 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:00am Reception	6	7 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	8 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	9 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	10	11
12 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School 	13	14 6:00pm Trustees 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	15 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	16 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	17	18
19 Great Day of Music! 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:00am Potluck Lunch in Wesley Room	20	21 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	22 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	23 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	24	25
26 Peace with Justice Sunday 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School	27 	28 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	29 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	30 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	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

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