

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



**April 2026**

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**Join us on Easter Sunday, April 5**

**8:00am Sunrise Service (outdoors)**

**8:30am Easter Breakfast**

**10:00am Easter Worship Service**

*(The full schedule for Holy Week is on page 4)*

## **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

Hello Portland Avenue UMC,

In the past few months I have written about several topics for my pastoral letter, and even though this past month I spent some time thinking about Ash Wednesday and Lent, I feel have drifted a little bit from the core mission and reality of the church.

To be clear, we have great things happening at The Port right now. Our Bible Study is in full swing, we have kicked off our Bazaar workshops, Sunrise is back and doing a wonderful job leading worship, we are still gathering for SupPORT meals, we are still providing support to people who need it in our community (with hopefully more to come), we have started to have meetings and discussions with other local UMC Churches about ways to combine in ministry, and we had a very successful interior clean-up day where we have made great improvements to the storage and space of the church. We are also in the process of welcoming another church to our building, who will become our fourth partner at The Port. These are great things, and we should celebrate them, and build upon them.

But as we wind down Lent and prepare for Easter, it is a good time to pause and reflect on the purpose of our faith and our activity. As you see elsewhere in the Portlight, we have a variety of worship plans during Holy Week. We will have a great Palm Sunday service, where we move from Palm Sunday to Passion Friday. We will be hosting our Maundy Thursday service with some of our friends at the other UMC Churches in the area, and we are invited to gather at Hillcrest UMC for Good Friday. Finally, on Easter, we will have an 8am "Sunrise Service" of scripture and prayer, followed by our traditional Easter breakfast and a wonderful worship service. I am looking forward to all of this, and it should be a great opportunity for us to gather and worship and to invite those in our family, our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, to come and check out church (especially if they haven't been in a while).

But I really do want to take a moment to consider the Resurrection. The Resurrection is the reason that we celebrate Easter. We prepared a little with our look at Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead during our Encounters with Jesus portion of Lent, but the Resurrection is the culmination of the life and ministry of Jesus; it is the purpose of his ministry.

Like all of you, I am aware that there can be differences between denominations, and there can even be differences within congregations around issues of theology and politics (especially in this era), but as Christians, as followers of Jesus, we are unified in the Resurrection. It is the core belief that makes us a Christian, that we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and because of that we are forgiven of our sins and our shortcomings, and we now have eternal life, both now and in the next life. To put it most directly, it is the most important event in the history of humanity, and it impacts all of us for eternity. I want to make sure that we continue to remember this – that we have faith for a reason, and that this fundamental reality of Resurrection should be something that binds us all together, in a way that is much stronger than any other belief or fact can divide us.

But the reality of the Resurrection also requires a response. Because of the Resurrection, because we have eternal life through our faith in Jesus Christ, it should inspire us to action, to become aware of those around us, especially those who are poor, on the margins, and are vulnerable. We should have great confidence and desire to love and serve others, because of what Jesus has done for us. Let us celebrate the Resurrection, let us renew our faith in Jesus, let us sit in the awesomeness of eternal life, but let us respond.

Blessings to you all and I'll see you on Easter.

Pastor Steve



## April Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	April 5 Easter Sunday	April 12	April 19	April 26
<b>Welcomers</b>	Heather Anderson Mike Moreland	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Heather Anderson Bill Baker	Harvey & Peggy Erstad
<b>Ushers</b>	Bruce Benson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy	Wayne Andersen Greg Jurek Laurette Lawson	Scott Swenson Jocelyne Medzagoh Mike Moreland	Trent Olson Don Anderson Pam Rose
<b>Reader</b>	Neil Anderson	Frederick Wilson- Bahun	Tim Hagerty	Kathy Bell
<b>Sound</b>	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Intern Paddy	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Intern Paddy
<b>Media</b>	Nancy Hagerty	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty
<b>Livestream</b>	Tim Hagerty	Trent Olson	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson
<b>Closer</b>	Scott Swenson	Harvey Erstad	Wayne Andersen	Clint Andrus
<b>Counters</b>	Trent Olson Mike Moreland	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Daniel & Tracy Baker			



### Birthday Blessings to our April Friends!

06 - Pam Rose                      18 - Bob Haugen  
 08 - Scott Cameron              20 - Kasey Swenson  
 15 - Jarek Haugen                25 - Amelia Liu  
 16 - Kate Hagerty                26 - Pat Ekstrom

If you have a birthday during the month of April but your name isn't on our list, please notify the office so we can update our records for next year.





## SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK & EASTER:

- Palm Sunday, March 29 at 10:00am.
- Maundy Thursday service of Communion, April 2 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- *Good Friday service at Hillcrest UMC, April 3, 7:00pm*
- Easter Sunday, April 5
  - Sunrise Service at 8:00am (outdoors)
  - Breakfast at 8:30am
  - Worship Service at 10:00am

**Please RSVP on the Connection Cards or call the office!**



## *Spring Cleanup Day will be Saturday, May 9*

The Trustees invite everybody to help with the clean-up of our church building and grounds from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm on Saturday, May 9th. Please join us for all or any part of this morning to refresh our shared facilities, both inside and outside. Refreshments will be provided.

There's something for everyone to do and we know "many hands make light work." Thank you in advance for your help!



## *Annual Great Day of Music will be Sunday, May 17*

Invite your family and friends to our annual music-filled service as we celebrate the end of our program year. The entire service will be music! Join us for this fun, toe-tapping morning that's sure to fill your heart and soul!



## *Graduate Recognition will be Sunday, June 14th*

Calling all grads! We'll be celebrating your accomplishments during our worship service on June 14th. Please notify the church office by 5/28 if you have a graduate in your family this year so that we can include them in the recognition. We will also have a reception following the service so that we can greet and congratulate the graduates.

The office phone is 952-888-6070 and email is [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org). Please provide the grad's name, school name, any honors received, and their future plans. Thank you!

# Mission Outreach

## April's Mission Outreach Project is Native American Ministries

Please join us in April to recognize and honor the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and churches by contributing to the April Mission Outreach Project for the Native American Ministries. We will have a special offering on Sunday, April 19th.

Contributions help develop and strengthen Native American ministries within each United Methodist annual conference and provide scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry.

- **Fifty percent** of the funds collected stay within the annual conference to support Native American ministries.
- **Twenty-five percent** of donations fund scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry at any approved theological school.
- **Twenty-five percent** of donations collected are allocated to develop impactful programs. These funds enable the UMC to collaborate with established Native ministries to create new initiatives for Native American communities.

To learn more about this special offering, please visit: [Native American Ministries Sunday | UMC.org](https://www.UMC.org)

Thank you, as always, for your generous support.  
Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose, Missions Co-chairs



## Special Request from Emma (Emery) Mahre

Emma will be going to New Jersey on a mission trip at the end of May. She is looking forward to sharing her faith testimony, learning more about the gospel, and helping others in New Jersey! If you'd like to financially support Emma in her endeavors, you can do so by donating money via the Campus Crusade website - [give.cru.org](https://give.cru.org) and look up Emma Mahre to donate! Prayers would also be appreciated!

If you have any questions, you can reach out to Judy Richardson-Mahre at 612-202-6457 or via email at [jembrm@charter.net](mailto:jembrm@charter.net).

Thanks so much for supporting Emma in this holy adventure!



# Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser

**Spring is coming, which means it's time for our Annual Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser for our Youth Program and to help our youth attend summer camp!**

**This year we are partnering with Gerten's, and all orders must be placed online using the special code below. The sale is open through Easter Sunday, April 5th at 10pm.**

**Here are the instructions to access the site and place an order for our fundraiser:**

- 1. Go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com)**
- 2. Enter the Store ID code of 1187 into the text field and click 'Enter ID to Continue'.**

***Note: This Store ID code is for Portland Ave United Methodist Church.***

**The plants will be available for pickup at the church on Saturday, May 16th, at 12:00pm.**

**Please share this fundraiser with your family and friends. Anybody can order as long as they will be able to pick up their plants on 5/16.**

**Any questions, please contact Judy Richardson-Mahre at [jarm0304@gmail.com](mailto:jarm0304@gmail.com), or her cell is 612-202-6457.**

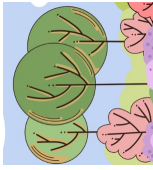
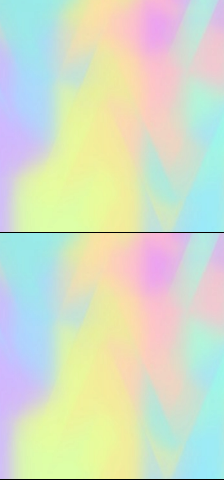
**Thank you for your participation and support!**



TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b> 8:00am Sunrise Service 8:30am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Worship / Communion 10:00pm Plant Sale Order Deadline	6 6:30pm Church Council (Zoom)	7 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	8 12:00pm Noon Prayers 6:30pm Sunrise Rehearsal	9 No Bible Study this week	10 7:00pm Good Friday Service at Hillcrest UMC	11
12 10:00am Worship/Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	13 May Newsletter Deadline	14 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	15 12:00pm Noon Prayers 5:30pm SupPORT Monthly Dinner 6:30pm Sunrise Rehearsal	16 6:30pm Bible Study	17 6:30pm Bible Study	18
19 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	20 12:00pm Noon Prayers	21 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	22 12:00pm Noon Prayers	23 6:30pm Bible Study	24 <b>Arbor Day</b> 	25
26 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	27 12:00pm Noon Prayers	28 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	29 12:00pm Noon Prayers	30 6:30pm Bible Study		

Could you serve on Sunday mornings? Please ask any volunteer or contact the church office.

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church  
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420



**GIVE+**  
Electronic Giving Options



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE EXPEDITE



Easter Blessings

Join us for in-person and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am.  
Sunday School classes for Kindergarten through 8th grade are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

**Staff**

Rev. Steve Nuessle (Pastor) [PastorSteve@paumc.org](mailto:PastorSteve@paumc.org) Office: 952-888-6070. Cell: 952-210-0409  
Lori Livingston (Administrative Assistant) [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org) Office: 952-888-6070  
Judy Richardson-Mahre (Sonrise Director) [jembrm@charter.net](mailto:jembrm@charter.net)  
Greg Jurek (Custodian)

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>