

THE PORTLIGHT

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



Virtual Coffee Fellowship Sunday, July 19, 2020 from 10:30-11:30 am

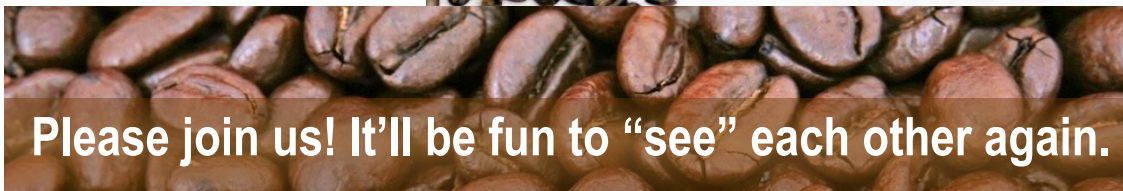
The Congregational Care Team and Pastor Carol will host a Virtual Coffee Fellowship via Zoom on Sunday, July 19, from 10:30-11:30 am. You provide your own coffee; and we'll all provide the virtual fellowship!

There are several different ways you can participate:

To access the call via a web browser, click on this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86764454665?pwd=QXFYUkRFb0luZXRBalFSQ1VVMFp2UT09>

To access the call via Zoom app on tablet, smartphone or pc: enter the Meeting ID: 867 6445 4665; and Password: 149820.

To call in via telephone without video access (rates may apply): Dial 1(312) 626-6799 and follow the prompts. Meeting ID is 867 6445 4665 and Password is 149820.



Please join us! It'll be fun to "see" each other again.

July 2020

Our Mission

"To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."

Our Vision

"To be a safe harbor along life's journey."

The **P**  **ORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

What I have been feeling most over the last month or so is heartbreak. Most people associate heartbreak with a romantic relationship coming to an end. Pat Benatar's song "Heartbreaker" was pretty popular when I was a teenager, so I certainly get that. And I've surely experienced that kind of heartbreak before.

Heartbreak is a metaphor for the intense emotional stress or pain one feels at experiencing great and deep longing. At least that's one description from Wikipedia.org. So this means heartbreak can be triggered by a communal crisis as much as the end of an individual relationship; and it's the former that I've been feeling.

This particular season of heartbreak began with the global pandemic, as it brought sudden, significant and prolonged loss that fuels a "great and deep longing," not only for me, but for everyone I know. The pandemic is responsible for these types of losses:

- the loss of physical proximity in the church community with the suspension of in-person worship, which fuels the longing for a hug or a handshake and a song or a prayer.
- the loss of work for so many in our communities, which leads to longing for the economy to recover.
- the loss of flexibility to come and go as we please, which leads to longing for freedom and the ability to make personal decisions about where and when to go somewhere, and with whom.
- the loss of a sense of security, which leads to a longing for certainty and predictability once again.

This season of heartbreak was exacerbated by the killing of George Floyd, which has awakened a great and deep longing for racial justice in our neighborhoods and within the structures around which we organize our societies, especially on behalf of people of color.

And then just a week ago, someone experiencing homelessness and staying at a nearby park stopped by for help in calling her credit card provider to report a lost or stolen card. Her cell phone wasn't working and she asked to use our phone, which began a frustrating impasse in trying to report her card missing because she was calling from an unfamiliar number (ours) and the only way the company was willing to verify her identity was by sending her a code via text or email (neither of which she could access since her phone was

broken). More heartbreak and longing for the end of the barriers that make it nearly impossible for those experiencing homelessness to accomplish basic goals without moving mountains to do it.

So, there's been a lot of heartbreak, so I'm learning not to run from it, but rather to hold it for a time, knowing that "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)



Kintsugi is a Japanese method for repairing broken ceramics with a special lacquer mixed with gold, silver or platinum. The philosophy behind the technique is to recognize the brokenness of the object's past while repairing it to a work of beauty.

I believe God works this way in our lives...taking our broken hearts and filling the cracks with that which will make them beautiful and strong again.

I broke my ankle some years ago, and needed surgery to repair it. Immediately following the procedure to insert one small screw, the surgeon reported that my ankle was now stronger than it was before the accident. Go figure. So maybe there is something to be said for more beautiful days to follow those in which we experience heartbreak.

Through trust in God and the hope of these things to come, I can recognize the heartbreak of this season, and look forward to what is ahead. Most of us would rather run from the heartbreak; and to do everything possible to instantly relieve that pain. But then perhaps there isn't time for the lacquer to set and then become stronger like in the Kintsugi method. So whenever you find yourself in a season of heartbreak (perhaps you're there with me now), please do not dismay, for we can trust in the Psalmist's words: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Thanks be to God.

Pastor Carol



We celebrate YOU during JULY

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

01 - Nancy Hagerty	22 - Steven Johnson
07 - Katy Fischer	25 - Linda Knopp
10 - Bea Batchelor	26 - Jocelyne Medzagoh
16 - Dorothy Baker	27 - Wayne Andersen
21 - Betty Belk	- Tim Madsen



Address Updates

Amelia Liu
608 S 9th St #309
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Russ & Carol Cox new home
phone number: (952) 388-1278

Congregational News Related to COVID-19

Sign Up for PORT Pals

We miss you! At least until we can return to our usual in-person worship and activities, the Congregational Care ministry would like to put in place "PORT Pals."

PORT Pals is intended to connect, by telephone only, one member with another. If you are interested in socializing via telephone with another PAUMC member, call the office at (952) 888-6070 to sign up. Then you will be paired with someone who also signs up. Perhaps you'll call once a week just to check-in and say "hi." However often you decide on, it'll be a nice way to stay in touch.

We're all missing our church gatherings, but that doesn't mean we have to miss our church friends. Please consider participating in this opportunity.

Phased Re-opening Plan

Many have been wondering when we will worship again in-person on Sunday mornings. While we don't know have a specific date at present, it will not be before Labor Day weekend. Perhaps a more pressing question than "when" is actually "how" to do it.

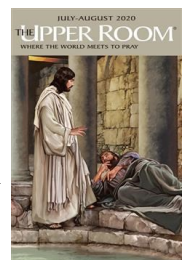
As each organization prepares to worship in-person again, a written plan for how to do it safely is required. Your Church Council and Board of Trustees, along with Pastor Carol, are responsible for developing and implementing this plan. The following questions are imperative in creating a plan:

- How will you continue to offer online worship and small group experiences for those who are not able or do not feel comfortable meeting in-person?
- What would it look like to offer multiple small group, in-person worship experiences rather than one or two large gatherings?
- How will you make the gradual transition to larger in-person gatherings?
- How will you thoroughly clean and disinfect surfaces between each gathering?
- How will you handle greetings, passing the peace, the offering and Holy Communion without person-to-person contact?
- How can you minimize the number of items that need to be touched, including doors, hymnals and bulletins?
- How will you provide music safely?
- How will you handle fellowship time?
- What additional precautions will you take?

We learn more all the time about this virus and how it relates to larger gatherings. Please pray for your leaders and for one another as we navigate the days ahead.

Upper Room Devotional Books

July-August Upper Room daily devotional books are here! Each day includes a scripture reading and a very short reflection and prayer. Please contact the church office at (952) 888-6070 or email paumc@paumc.org if you would like a copy mailed to you.



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 online worship on Sundays at 10:00 am
~~Sunday School (9:00 am) and Coffee Fellowship (9:30 am)~~ suspended until further notice

Staff

Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) carol.zaagsma@paumc.org (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)

Kathryn Quam (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org

Open Position (Youth Director)

Peggy Larson (Music Director) peggylarson@comcast.net

Dale Miller (Accompanist) miller.daler@gmail.com

Judy Richardson-Mahre (SonRise Singers Director) jembrm@charter.net

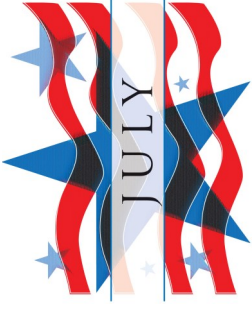
Mary Nelson (Handbells Director) nelsonc2m@aol.com

Paul Herrmann (Custodian) 612-916-3376

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/ 			7:00pm Vital Conversations on Racism Small Group Videoconference			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10:00am Online Worship with Communion			7:00pm Vital Conversations on Racism Small Group Videoconference			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:00am Online Worship 11:00am Mission Outreach Videoconference		6:00pm Trustees Videoconference	Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Vital Conversations on Racism Small Group Videoconference			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:00am Online Worship			7:00pm Vital Conversations on Racism Small Group Videoconference	7:00pm Church Council Videoconference		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:00am Online Worship			7:00pm Vital Conversations on Racism Small Group Videoconference			



WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.



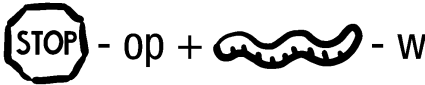
Water changes to _____

JOHN 2:1-11



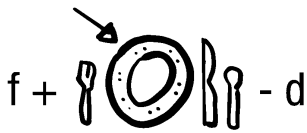
Heals a man born _____

JOHN 9



Calms a _____

MATTHEW 8:23-27



Catch of _____

LUKE 5:1-11

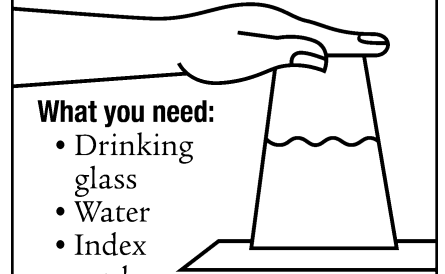


Walks on _____

MATTHEW 14:22-33

UNSEEN BUT *active*

This experiment illustrates that although God is invisible, we can see his work all around us.



What you need:

- Drinking glass
- Water
- Index card

What you do:

1. Practicing over a sink, fill the glass halfway with water. Then press the index card snugly atop the glass with one hand.
2. With the other hand, hold the base of the glass and carefully flip it over.
3. Remove your hand from the card. It should stay on the glass, without spilling the water! The invisible air in the glass creates a suction with the card, preventing the water from spilling out. Research air pressure to learn more.
4. After perfecting the trick, amaze others with it. Then talk about how God, like the air in the glass, is unseen but active.

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water