

THE PORTLIGHT

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

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

*Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,*
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

*Blessed are those who are
persecuted for righteousness' sake,*
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:3-10)

January 2021

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

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

The  RT
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor's Message *Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

I need not even say how the year 2020 brought a number of personal and global challenges that required creativity and resolve. In some ways this was invigorating, while in other ways it was completely disorienting and perhaps even defeating. It's times like this when I'm particularly grateful for a fresh start; and the arrival of a new year provides a natural opportunity for this.

And yet the attempt at a fresh start won't happen magically with the turning of a page on the calendar - it will require some intentional effort. Peg Streep wrote an article with a helpful list of steps to take toward a fresh start:

- 1) Manage your regrets. Write them down. Look at them. Evaluate whether they come from action or inaction. And offer some measure of forgiveness for yourself when trying to put them into perspective.
- 2) Deal with your rumination. Take steps to get off your carousel of repetitive thoughts. Make an effort to talk with others about your worries, or even set a "worry time" where you devote yourself to worrying during that period alone; but then set them aside when the time allotted is up.
- 3) Think about new goals in abstract terms. Move away from the specifics of a situation or goal to a more nuanced or deeper understanding of your wants and needs. Instead of a goal to lose weight, make a goal to live a healthier lifestyle - then you can make choices from there rather than riding a roller coaster with each pound gained or lost.
- 4) Adopt the right mindset. A deliberative mindset helps you weigh your choices and strategies while an implemental mindset helps you focus on your actions. Be flexible enough to shift between the two and adjust to how God's Spirit is working.

- 5) Motivate yourself. Be creative about this. Also remember that you are a child of God and worthy of fresh starts in life. God is a God of fresh starts!

Of course, there are many different aspects of life one might want a fresh start at - a relationship, a job or career, a hobby or leisure activity, healthy living, spirituality, or any number of other areas of life.

As far as your spiritual life goes, we've provided two ready-made fresh start opportunities as the new year arrives. If you want to make a commitment to read the Bible through in one year, we have a schedule available to help you accomplish this. Call the church office for a copy of you'd like one (more info on the next page of this newsletter). I also included a "Star Word" for each person in your household in this year's March to the Manger/ Christmas letter. Your Star Word was chosen completely at random from over 200 different words and placed in your envelope; so you are the only one from The PORT to receive your word this year. Embark on 2021 with an open spirit to what God may be growing in you relative to the unique word you received.

John Wesley is known for having said, "The best of all is, God is with us!" No matter what your fresh start looks like this year, or how rotten the outgoing year was for you, please know that you are loved and cared for by me and others at The PORT... and even more importantly: "The best of all is, God is with us!" Let's walk into 2021 with this truth firmly in our hearts.

Pastor Carol



All Church Conference

Our Annual All Church Conference is Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 pm. At this meeting, 2020 year end reports will be received while the 2021 budget will be presented for discussion and adoption.

All are invited to this meeting. It is a great way to be informed about The PORT's ministries and financial outlook for the future.



The meeting will take place using Zoom. Use one of the following to connect to the call:

Join via web browser:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87638463159?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87638463159?pwd=M09OZHhmVmlhdkdseHdCY05qWkgxUT09)
[pwd=M09OZHhmVmlhdkdseHdCY05qWkgxUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87638463159?pwd=M09OZHhmVmlhdkdseHdCY05qWkgxUT09)

Join via telephone (rates may apply):
(312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 876 3846 3159
Passcode: 793140

Youth Group News



January 10 - 6:00 pm Videoconference.

Topic: "What Are We Really Doing with Our Time?"

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85196552381?pwd=M3dZVzU0dGxOOHhFVE8valhzejhsZz09>

or call (312) 626-6799 Meeting ID: 851 9655 2381 Passcode: 041753

January 24 - 6:00 pm Videoconference.

Topic: Social Hour Check-in

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83627495415?pwd=Wm5HT1orbTRoT20wSm9GNTNGVC9nUT09>

or call (312) 626-6799 Meeting ID: 836 2749 5415 Passcode: 491128

Star Words



The 2020 March to the Manger Christmas Letters contained a Star Word for each person in your household with a brief explanation and invitation to watch worship January 3 to hear more about it.

If you didn't receive enough stars for members of your household, please call the church office and we'll mail additional Star Words to you. You may also generate a personal word for yourself online at <http://www.wordoftheyear.me/>

Read Through the Bible in a Year

Have you always wanted to read through your Bible but don't know where to start?



Pastor Carol included in the December 27 "Worship While Away" email a schedule that identifies an Old Testament and New Testament reading for each day of the year. If you stick with the daily schedule, by the end of the year you will have read through the whole Bible. It's a big commitment, but very much worth it!

If you missed it but would like a copy of the reading schedule, please call (952) 888-6070 or email the church office at paumc@paumc.org and a copy will be either mailed or emailed to you at your request.

VEAP Food Basket and Flower Chart

The 2021 VEAP Food Basket and Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex.. If you'd like to recognize a loved one or honor a special occasion in this manner, please email paumc@paumc.org or call the church office at (952) 888-6070 with the date and details regarding your recognition. Your \$15 contribution for the VEAP Food Basket can then be made at the time of the recognition, and will be sent to VEAP on your behalf.

January Worship Themes

The Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7, is a collection of sayings and teachings by Jesus. Near the beginning, in Matthew 5:3-10, we find eight radical sayings by Jesus that contain both values for living and promises of blessing.

Throughout this series, we will explore how we can take these beatitudes, which means "being blessed," and live out their message in our daily lives. Here's the schedule for the coming Sundays, starting January 10:

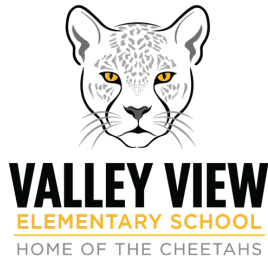
- January 10 - Living Well
- January 17 - Living Openly
- January 24 - Living Purposefully
- January 31 - Living Lovingly
- February 7 - Living Differently

Be sure to tune in Sundays at 10:00 am on our YouTube Channel or Facebook Page. And remember, if you're not able to tune in at 10:00 am, the recordings remain available to watch anytime after their initial showing.

Mission Outreach

January Mission Outreach Project - Valley View Elementary School Teacher & Staff Appreciation

We have an opportunity in January to say “thank you” to the teachers and staff of Valley View Elementary School as a way to offer encouragement and a blessing in what is a rather challenging year.



The Mission Outreach Team is coordinating two specific ways to say “thank you” on behalf of The PORT. First, we’re planning to supply individually wrapped snacks for the staff break room on their first day back to in-person learning on January 19. Having access to a salty, sweet or even healthy snack that day for teachers and staff members during their prep time or lunch break will undoubtedly be a great day brightener. It’s like we’re saying, “We know you’re here and we appreciate you.”

Secondly, provided we have enough support and participation for this project, we’d like to say a more personal “thank you” to each teacher and staff member with a card and a small gift card (enough to buy a special coffee drink on the way to work... probably \$5 each). We know this is a big goal with 90 teachers and staff at Valley View Elementary, but we also know that our members and friends have a big heart for this school that is just blocks away from The PORT.

If you’d like to participate in this project for January, please give securely online at either the Vanco GivePlus+ App on your smartphone or on our website at paumc.org/giving and select “Valley View School;” or mail your contribution to the church office with “Valley View School” in the memo line.

Please note that because of strict protocols at the school related to the snacks and a desire to be consistent in how we thank each person with the gift cards, we’re not asking for material donations at this time...just financial contributions from those who wish to support this endeavor. Thanks for your understanding and your help in spreading encouragement.

Simpson Shelter Donation Drive Recap

December’s Mission Outreach Project was to collect new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks for guests of Simpson Shelter. Your response was tremendous to round out a year of giving from The PORT!



We collected 73 pairs of warm socks, 31 hats or other headgear items, 7 children’s mittens, and 27 pairs of gloves. These items will surely be of great help this winter to those who are experiencing homelessness, while also serving as a sign of God’s grace and love.

Cornerstone Dinner Meal Recap

In July, the Mission Outreach Team put out a call to provide approximately 25 meals to Cornerstone Shelter for August. Because of the coronavirus, Cornerstone could not allow groups in to serve meals, but they were asking help in having boxed meals delivered to them. We asked you to sponsor a meal at \$14 each to cover the food, tax and delivery fee.

Your response was so great that we have been able to provide not only a meal in August, but also September, October, November, AND December! We have had meals from Jimmy John’s, Davanni’s, and Pot Belly’s delivered to them. The Mission Outreach Team would like to thank all who helped to make this possible. Cornerstone Shelter is very appreciative of this.

~Linda Schesso



Virtual BINGO!

Saturday, January 9, 2021
2:00 - 3:15 pm

Join the Congregational Care Team in playing BINGO together virtually, hosted by Lynn Livingston. We'll be playing over Zoom, so create your own BINGO card or two (or use one you have at home or create one at a site you find on the internet), grab some beans or coins to cover your squares as they are called, and join in the fun!

Here's the link to participate:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89440887518?pwd=b052bWd2U0pYMC9wdDhYTXhYdDNxZz09>

or

Or call (312) 626-6799 (rates may apply) Meeting ID: 894 4088 7518 Passcode: 819595

B (1-15)							
	I (16-30)						
		N (31-45)			FREE SPACE		
			G (46-60)				
				O (61-75)			

Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during JANUARY

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



- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 01 - Kumba Sheriff | 06 - Marilyn Anderson | 14 - Carol Cox | 25 - Dale Miller |
| 02 - Don Anderson | 08 - Megan Mahre | - Nancy Stinson | - Dominick Wells |
| - Kathy Soucy | 10 - Jael Medzagoh | 15 - Merlin Gilbertson | 26 - Gregory Christensen |
| 03 - Viola Mitchell | 12 - Chaz Brobst | 19 - Neil Livingston | 27 - Daniel Wilson |
| 05 - Emma Mahre | - Inge Lystad | 24 - Peter Anderson | 28 - Traci Darnell |
| | | | 31 - Linda Dicks |

Caregivers Support Group

The next Caregivers Support Group meeting is Thursday, January 14 from 6:30-8:00 pm. This group is open to new members and is particularly helpful for those who find themselves in the role of a caregiver, whether it be a declining spouse, aging parent, or special needs child. We are currently reading *Self Compassion* by Kristin Neff, and will be discussing chapter two this month. Contact Linda Schesso for more information or to be included in the meeting reminder.

We will be meeting via Zoom. Details for joining the call are as follows:

Join via web browser:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83788797267?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83788797267?pwd=bzBVSUhSRmFNN1ZtMDYvcFZPZmh5dz09)
[pwd=bzBVSUhSRmFNN1ZtMDYvcFZPZmh5dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83788797267?pwd=bzBVSUhSRmFNN1ZtMDYvcFZPZmh5dz09)

Join via telephone (rates may apply):
(312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 837 8879 7267
Passcode: 541366

Virtual Coffee Fellowship



Plan now to log in and say "hi" to your friends from The PORT during our Virtual Coffee Fellowship to be held Sunday, January 17 from 10:30-11:15 am.

We will be meeting via Zoom. It truly is a casual check-in and conversation that is open to everyone, so please join in the fun.

Here are the details for joining the videoconference:

Join via web browser:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85942563341?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85942563341?pwd=bEtmaVY4R1ZuYnJvaWVpblhILbXNaUT09)
[pwd=bEtmaVY4R1ZuYnJvaWVpblhILbXNaUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85942563341?pwd=bEtmaVY4R1ZuYnJvaWVpblhILbXNaUT09)

Join via telephone (rates may apply):
(312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 859 4256 3341
Passcode: 770424

From the Mailbox

Address Updates

Trenton Olson
3109 4th St SE #202
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Steven & Katy Fischer
11008 Shoreline Ct
Chisago City, MN 55013



Thank You

Many thanks to you all for the kind cards and generous year end Christmas gifts. Your thoughtfulness during this difficult year is very much appreciated.

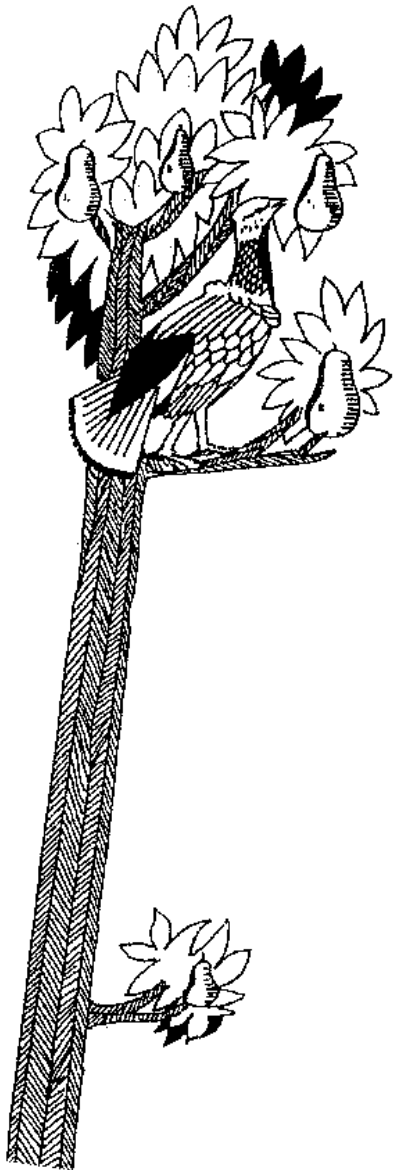
~Dale, Kathryn, Paul,
Peggy & Pastor Carol



2020 Online Holiday Bazaar Recap

Greetings PORT Family! The 2020 Online Bazaar was a virtual Success!

Under the circumstances of a very challenging year, with a global pandemic in our midst, we formed a Bazaar Sub Committee to see how we could proceed with our Bazaar. For the past 46 years, so many people in our community look forward to attending the PAUMC Bazaar on the 2nd weekend of November. They arrive looking for the "staples" of our sale - the traditional personalized ornaments, kitchen towels & needlework, holiday decorations, pottery, woodworking and too many more to name. The Bazaar has a reputation for always providing quality handmade and creative items, and this year was no exception.



Over the years our specialty items have changed - from hundreds of loaves of bread from the Robinson's Bakery to the Silent Auction that the Soucy's have spearheaded. Through the years we've forged ahead with providing a well organized, festive Bazaar who's quality remains top notch!

The challenges of 2020 will be a year that most of us will not soon forget. We needed to plan a Bazaar which included distancing, sanitation, masks and gloves, limited number of people in the building, and no home-made edibles!

The committee had a plan in place, but then the Governor's directive came down,

and it didn't look like we could do an "in person" Bazaar at all.

We quickly shifted gears, and started searching for an online alternative. We found an option, started taking pictures of every item, assigning item numbers and categorizing items into groups. It was a time consuming endeavor, but we were excited to see it through! We developed our "system" for curbside pickup, set up a PORT Bazaar website, phone number and email address, and with a few awesome yard signs that Scott Rice donated, we opened for business.

We are excited to say our online Bazaar was greatly received, positively reviewed and it brought a tiny bit of normalcy to our patrons that shopped. To date, we have made approximately \$4,000 (a fraction of our normal Bazaar proceeds, but all things considered, pretty great)! We are pleased with how it all turned out.

We missed the bakery, lefse, candy and holiday food items that have been a staple at our Bazaar for years, but under the circumstances the customers understood why, and they were just happy we were having our sale. For many of the faithful followers of our bazaar - this year's online version truly became living proof of The PORT - a safe harbor along life's journey.

We want to thank everyone who contributed in whatever way they were able. Although we missed being surrounded by our PORT family, we had immense help and support from many people in our congregation (who understandably were not able to be working at the church), but shopped, provided items to sell, called to provide moral support and those who left us sweet notes of appreciation on the website.

Now we hope you'll join us in anticipating and looking forward to our traditional Holiday Bazaar returning in 2021.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

The 2020 Holiday Bazaar Sub-Committee:

Kathy Swenson
Lori Livingston
Lynn Livingston
Barb Andrus
Judy Richardson-Mahre

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
<p>TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch • https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/ 						
3 10:00am Online Worship/ Communion	4	5	6	7	8	9 2:00pm Virtual BINGO!
10 10:00am Online Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach Videoconference 6:00pm Youth Group Videoconference	11	12 6:00pm Trustees Videoconference	13	14 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group Videoconference	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 10:00am Online Worship 10:30am Virtual Coffee Fellowship	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:00am Online Worship	25	26	27	28 7:00pm Virtual All- Church Conference	29	30
31 10:00am Online Worship	