

THE PORTLIGHT

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

Sabbath – Sundays were special in the Wesley house. The children "were very early made to distinguish the Sabbath from other days," Susanna wrote. They were expected to participate in the family prayers, "which they used to do by signs before they would kneel or speak."

Dining – Mealtime was family time. When the children were young, "At dinner their little table and chairs were set by ours," Susanna recalls, near enough to be supervised. Children graduated to the dining room table, "As soon as they could handle a knife and fork."

Naps – As infants, the children napped on a schedule. "This was done to bring them to a regular course of sleeping," Susanna reasoned.

Few moms know what it's like to raise 10 children, but that's what Susanna Wesley did. Her son John, the founder of Methodism, once published a letter in which his mom shared her "principal rules" for parenting. In honor of Mother's Day, we share some of them here.

Forgiveness – Susanna taught that a child should never be punished for the same offense twice, and "that if they amended they should never be upbraided with it afterwards."

Worship and Music – When the Wesley children were a little older, the day began with reading or singing a psalm, reading an Old Testament chapter, and saying private prayers—all before breakfast. At the end of the school day, they paired up to read a psalm and a New Testament chapter.

Focus – In the Wesley household, nine to noon and two to five were reserved for the children's education, a top priority for Susanna. "It is almost incredible what a child may be taught in a quarter of a year, by a vigorous application," she remembered.

Routine – The Wesley house ran on a tight schedule. "The children were always put into a regular method of living," she wrote. Times were assigned for naps, education, meals, and bedtime.

Choosing meals – Susanna expected the children to eat what was served. "They were never suffered [permitted] to choose their meat, but always made to eat such things as were provided by the family," Susanna wrote.

Polite speech – The children were given "nothing they cried for, and instructed to speak handsomely for what they wanted."

May 2021

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.

At the time of this writing, the CDC just released new guidelines to help residents of our country understand and choose “safer activities” relative to who is fully vaccinated (defined as two weeks after a single dose vaccine or two weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose series) and who is not yet vaccinated. A week before these new guidelines, our Church Council met at our quarterly meeting to discuss The PORT’s return to in-person worship plan. This pastor’s column will attempt to unpack the information that is available to us now.

First, a copy of the CDC “Choosing Safer Activities” document can be reviewed at [324153_choosingSaferActivities11 \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/324153choosingSaferActivities11). When you look at the CDC chart, it indicates relative safety without a mask for small outdoor gatherings where you are in contact with your household. However, there are varying degrees of compromised safety, even when masked, the more people there are at the event who are not members of your own household. For example, a non-vaccinated person attending a crowded outdoor event with a mask is marked one of the least safe situations. So is attending worship and singing for those masked but not yet vaccinated.

The good news is that being fully vaccinated, while also wearing a mask in those same situations (crowded outdoor event, worship, and singing) is deemed as much safer. The CDC document labels people masked and fully vaccinated in those situations to be “safest” in relation to non-vaccinated masked people at the same event.

So, what does all this mean for The PORT? I remain optimistic for our future and, like many of you, look forward to the day we will return to in-person worship. However, your Church Council and I must look at all the information available at the time to make the best decisions we can, and we have decided “not yet” to the question of returning fully to in-person worship inside.

Here in Minnesota, we are halfway to the 80% goal of vaccinated people set by our MN Department of Health (40% are fully vaccinated). That’s a great start! And I know it includes a number of folks from our church, which is very encouraging!

There are three pieces to the return to in-person worship plan. First is to evaluate what we know of community statistics (vaccination rates, transmission numbers, daily deaths reported).

Second is to consider the recommendations of the Minnesota Annual Conference. Our conference communications team as well as the Bishop and other key leaders are part of regular conversations with health officials in Minnesota to gain the best information available for their recommendations. We’ve talked about the phased re-gathering plan for churches and the “dial” indicator established by the Minnesota Annual Conference. The whole plan can be reviewed here: [Phased Re-Gathering Plan for Churches \(minnesotaumc.org\)](https://www.minnesotaumc.org/Phased-Re-Gathering-Plan-for-Churches). The dial is currently set to orange, which allows for small groups of 10 people to meet for a meeting or study while encouraging worship to be held online or outdoor (remaining in cars).

And the third consideration is a written plan that must be filed with the conference office. Your Church Council is working on its written plan in order to submit it, but has not submitted it yet for review. This written plan must articulate what alterations will be followed (greeting, ushering, flow of people in and out of the building, and music in worship must all be modified at this point). Once this plan is filed, we will be better poised to return to in-person worship once the “dial” is adjusted to from orange to yellow and then blue; and vaccination rates in Minnesota continue to increase.

When exactly will all this be? We do not know. But your Church Council is meeting more frequently to monitor the decision with the best information available. In the meantime, we are considering hosting 1-2 in-person worship services outdoors this summer, and would like to ask you what your interest level is for attending. Here is a poll to assess interest level in attending 1-2 in-person outdoor worship services this summer, so please, tell us your perspective:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KCJ6GTN>

If you do not have online access, you may call the church office at 952-888-6070 during office hours and Kathryn will make note of your responses. Depending on interest level, we will proceed with those plans. Otherwise, stay tuned as the Church Council continues to meet to determine our timeframe for returning to in-person worship inside. Keep the faith - the day will surely come!

Pastor Carol



Youth Group News

Sunday, May 16 from 6:00-8:00 pm

To avoid Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekend, we will have one meeting in May at church in-person, with safe social distancing practiced. Pentecost, which is considered the birthday of the church, is coming up so we'll talk about that. The story about it can be found in Acts 2:1-21. Come back to the church building – and bring your mask and a friend!



~Blake & Pastor Carol

Mission Outreach



VEAP Food Shelf Drive a Success

Thanks to all who donated to the March food drive for VEAP. Your generous donations provided 321 pounds of food and paper supplies for our neighbors who are in need. You also provided \$1,370 in cash donations. As you may know, VEAP has tremendous buying power with cash donations. Thanks again to all who participated in this annual event!

May Mission Outreach Project – Love Offering

The Outreach/Mission Project for May will be the annual Love Offering taken by churches in the MN Annual Conference. Each year the Love Offering is directed to missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session.

The theme of the 2021 Annual conference is “Jesus. Waymaker.” The love Offering provides the oppor-

tunity to experience the joy of doing way-making work with Jesus: feeding the hungry, reaching out to the migrant, and providing ongoing opportunities to touch lives with God's compassion and grace.

The offering will be split as follows:

- The Methodist Border Friendship Commission (50%) - Supports a number of immigrant and refugee service organizations along the Texas border.
- Ruby's Pantry host churches (20%) - There are 3 UMC's in MN who host the food distribution. Funds will be used to purchase supplies needed to facilitate the food distribution and to pay for shares for families who are unable to pay the \$20 requested.
- Matthew 25 Food Distribution (20%) - Once a month groceries are distributed to everyone who comes - no questions asked. Currently it serves 600 - 800 families a month. The funds will be used to purchase storage shelves, a pallet jack, refrigerators and packaging materials so that Matthew 25 can expand its ministry.
- Volunteers in Mission (10%) - Volunteers pay their own way when they participate in Mission projects. The funds go to help offset the cost for first time participants.

Please consider giving to the Love Offering. You can do this by writing a check and noting Love Offering on the memo line. You can also donate securely online at paumc.org/giving and select Love Offering.

~Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair

Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during MAY

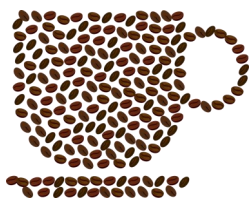
If you have a birthday during the month of May but your name isn't on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year.



- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 03 - Bob Deese | 14 - Laura Avery | 19 - Nathan Wells | 25 - Jim Louisiana |
| 05 - Tom Wellman | - Chuck Bartels | 23 - Evelyn Runck | 28 - Sharon Beckler |
| 06 - Amy Runck | 16 - Mike Moreland | 24 - Scott Swenson | 29 - Amelia Swenson |
| 10 - Janene Haugen | 18 - Rylie Rasmussen | - Shiloh Wilson | |

Virtual Coffee Fellowship

Join the Congregational Care Team for fellowship after online worship Sunday, May 16. We'll open the Zoom call at 10:30 am, and have casual conversation as a group for about 45 minutes. This has been a great blessing while we've been worshipping online, as it's enabled us to see one another and check in about how things are going. We'd love to see you this time around!



Join Zoom Meeting via web browser:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88312025023?pwd=eHQzRzhERTNtTVk5cDhINnpZdDBqdz09>

Join via Zoom App:
Meeting ID: 883 1202 5023
Passcode: 441659

Join via telephone (rates may apply):
(312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 883 1202 5023
Passcode: 441659

Holiday Bazaar

Holiday Bazaar Crafting Begins!

With the success of last year's online Bazaar we know that no matter what the situation is this year we will be able to hold the event again for the 47th year. It will be held on November 12 and 13, so now is the time to get to work!!



The evening workshop group will begin meeting on May 11 at 6:30 pm in the Wesley Room. All you need is a mask and a will to help create some fun and festive items for our customers! We will distance as we work. We were easily able to do it last year.

Our group usually consists of 6 or 7 ladies, but we would love to have more join us! We wrap things up at about 8:15 pm, so we are ready to leave by 8:30 pm.

We are a pretty easy-going bunch so if you would like to come a few times, great! If you decide you want to come more often, even better! No special skills are needed – we provide on-site training. But seriously, we have fun and would love to have you join us!

If you have any questions you can contact Lynn Livingston at 952-797-2645. Happy crafting!

~Lynn Livingston

Address Updates

Gregory Christensen
225 E. Center St. #401
Des Moines, IA 50309

Laura Avery
New Cell Phone: (612) 382-3967



Thank You from Bloomington Police

Dear Carol and Congregation,

Thank you so much for all the snacks and treats! That was so unbelievably generous of you! My partners and I have pretty much devoured everything. This means so much to us – the fact that you guys are thinking of us and have reached out to us. With everything going on in the world today, your act of kindness means more to us than you know. Thanks again!

♥Your Bloomington Police Department!



Thank You from Cornerstone

Hi Linda & Larry,

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, I would like to personally thank you both and Portland Avenue Methodist Church for your ongoing support of Cornerstone! The meals provided by your group last year were a tremendous help for our shelter families in a time of need and uncertainty.

We look forward to welcoming volunteers back into our buildings when it's determined safe to do so. In the meantime, enjoy the fresh air and spring blooms.

Thanks,
Crystal

Crystal Kokal
Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator
Cornerstone

Portlight Subscription Drive Update

In April, The PORT announced our goal of attracting 43 new subscribers to our monthly online newsletter, The Portlight. In the first 3 weeks of April we gained 5 new subscribers, who are also active church members! Thank you!



The Portlight is a large group effort each month with many church leaders contributing wonderful articles and pictures that help us stay connected and informed about what's happening at The PORT.

Help us reach our Labor Day goal of 150 subscribers. We need 38 more people to sign up. We can do this, but we can't do it alone!

Consider signing up yourself or sharing this easy sign-up link with a friend: <https://paumc.org/newsletter/>

~Kathryn Quam, Administrative Assistant

On the Lighter Side



Trustees

Trustees Busy at The PORT

Harvey brought his stump grinder to The PORT and ground out four stumps! Three from trees just taken down and one older stump on the northeast side of the church parking lot. Tom and Steve then removed the wood chips and raked the dirt back into the holes left behind.

~Tom Wellman, Trustee



Please Join Us for Spring Clean-up!

The Trustees are hosting a much needed Spring Clean-up **Saturday, May 22, 9:00 am-12:00 pm** here at The PORT. Your help is needed! Come see old friends as we clean up what winter left behind. We will rake leaves, remove debris from our shrubs and yard, and wash windows. You are welcome to come and go according to your schedule. Hope to see you there!

~Don Anderson, Trustees Chair

Spring Plant Fundraiser

Spring Plant Fundraiser Pick-up: Saturday, May 8 at 12:00 PM

If you ordered plants from the Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser, you can come to PAUMC on Saturday, May 8 at 12:00 pm to pick up your plants.

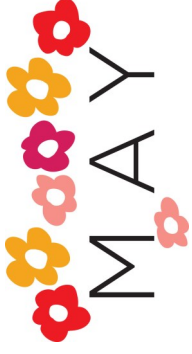
Plants will be delivered at 11:00 am that morning, and we will have volunteers sort plants into individual orders. Then you can pick up individual orders 12:00 - 1:00 pm. Just pull up into the turn-around closest to the church and we will help you load plants into your car.

If you are available to come help sort plants at 11:00 am, or are unable to pick up your plants that day,

please reach out to Judy directly via email at jembrm@charter.net or cell phone at 612-202-6457.

~Judy Richardson-Mahre





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/ 						
<p>2 MN Annual Conference Love Offering 10:00am Online Worship/ Communion</p>	<p>3 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group Videoconference</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 12:00pm Spring Plant Fundraiser Pick-up</p>
<p>9 MOTHERS DAY MN Annual Conference Love Offering 10:00am Online Worship 11:15am Mission Outreach Video-conference</p>	<p>10 7:00pm Hagerty Small Group Videoconference</p>	<p>11 6:00pm Trustees 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Newsletter Deadline</p>
<p>16 10:00am Online Worship 10:30am Virtual Coffee Fellowship 6:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:00am Spring Clean-up</p>
<p>23 10:00am Online Worship One Great Day of Music</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 Peace with Justice Sunday 10:00am Online Worship</p>	<p>31 MEMORIAL DAY</p>					

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

Blake Mahre (Youth Group Intern)

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>