

THE PORTLIGHT

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

Welcome Back



In-Person Worship Resumes July 18, 2021 at 10:00am

July 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.

Pastor's Message *Rev. Carol Zaagsma*

The time has come for me to write a farewell message to you for the newsletter. Like many things in ministry, it's not an easy thing to do, but it is important.

Long good-byes that drag on can be rather painful, but so can short ones! Charles Schulz once wrote, "Why can't we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess that wouldn't work. Someone would leave. Someone always leaves. Then we would have to say good-bye. I hate good-byes. I know what I need. I need more hellos."

Of course, "hellos" can be difficult as well, especially when people who haven't met take those first few tentative steps to introduce themselves. It's important to remind ourselves that those first hellos are what can lead to friendship and deeply meaningful relationships.

Perhaps we could say this of the hellos we shared seven years ago - that they led to friendship and deeply meaningful relationships. And that they did! But friendships built on the foundation of a professional relationship are slightly different from those that occur otherwise, so I want to share what that means for ours as my final month with you progresses.

My final Sunday worship service with you will be Sunday, July 25. We will resume in-person worship again starting July 18, so I'm grateful we will have the opportunity to worship together on my final Sunday. I hope you will plan to come!

Our professional boundaries are well-defined for clergy: I will not return for baptisms, weddings or funerals, or come back to finish goals created that we didn't quite get to. And yes, this causes sadness. But it is an important boundary in order to give you and your new pastor a chance for you to say your hellos. It also gives me the space I need to do the same thing where I am going.

With that, I wish to publicly explain how I intend to handle social media connections in this transition. This is a relatively new arena where the guidelines aren't quite as clear, so there isn't great consistency among clergy in handling this. For those of you who are friends with me on Facebook or other social media accounts, I plan to update them Friday, July 30. Using social media terminology, I will unfollow and/or un-

friend you. Please, please don't take this personally. My goal in doing this is to create a period of separation so that I can concentrate on building relationships in my new setting. I call this a "period of separation" because I also am extending the invitation to you now, completely of your own choosing, to friend or follow me again after one year. Relationships in ministry are not always cut and dried. I do personally care about your milestones in life and about what's happening with your children or grandchildren. Social media is a great way to keep up with such things, so it will be a joy to accept your friend request again after one year has passed.

We have shared many sacred times together in our seven years together. Despite the sadness that a good-bye inevitably carries, my heart is full of gratitude for each and every one of you, and for my time with you here at The PORT. Please talk with me if you have any questions or concerns in the remaining weeks of this transition.

John Wesley's final words have become one of my favorite quotes: "The best of all is, God is with us." I wholeheartedly believe this, and share it here in the hope that it will bring a little comfort in this transition, as well as a sense of purpose and presence for us all.

Pastor Carol



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

August Mission Outreach Project - Back to School Supply Drive

During the month of July The PORT's Mission Outreach team will be collecting school supplies for Valley View Elementary School. Below is a list of needed items. You can drop items off at church during office hours or bring them on Sunday mornings once we return to in-person worship. Valley View teachers have asked for these items:

- Plastic water bottles: empty bottles for the kids to fill at the drinking fountain
- Boxes of tissues
- Clorox wipes
- Crayola markers
- 24-count Crayola crayons
- Colored pencils
- Dry erase markers
- Glue sticks
- Student-sized scissors

Thank you in advance for your generosity to these kids!

~Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair

Our May Love Offering

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the annual Love Offering. This special offering is directed to missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference. The theme of the 2021 Annual Conference is "Jesus. Waymaker."

This Love Offering provides the opportunity to experience the joy of doing way-making work with Jesus: feeding the hungry, reaching out to the migrant, and providing on-going opportunities to touch lives with God's compassion and grace.

In June, PAUMC collected \$780 to share with four special organizations that do this way-making work!

Congregational Care

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 | 25 - Linda Knopp |
| 07 - Katy Fischer | 26 - Jocelyne Medzagoh |
| 10 - Bea Batchelor | 27 - Wayne Andersen |
| 16 - Dorothy Baker | - Tim Madsen |
| 22 - Steven Johnson | |



Address Updates

Susan Plant
Summit Hill
1824 Old Hudson Road #601
St Paul, MN 55119

Finance

Contribution Statements Are Coming

PAUMC is sending out contribution statements early this month for the first half of 2021. These statements will arrive via email if we have your email address and via paper mail if we do not. Your estimated delivery date is July 5-9. The sender of the emailed statements will be dsmith1482@aol.com.

Once you receive your statement, you can check your pledge and contribution numbers. Also, some folks have a remaining balance on their RRR pledge, which is coming to an end. Contact information will be on your statement if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your generous giving to PAUMC.

~Dave Smith, Treasurer

Church Council

Updates Related to the Pandemic

The Church Council met June 24 and made the following decisions related to ministries at this point in the pandemic:

- Face masks are optional inside the church building for fully vaccinated people, unless otherwise noted by an event's sponsor or leader. Please continue wearing a face mask if you are not fully vaccinated.
- In-person worship resumes Sunday, July 18 at 10:00 am. Note that the section closest to the stained glass windows will be designated as a "face mask and social distancing required" section. Once in-person worship resumes, the weekly "Worship While Away" notices will discontinue, and the pre-recorded online worship services will no longer be available right at 10:00 am on YouTube and Facebook. Instead, the live worship service will be recorded and uploaded by Monday night, allowing you

to watch throughout the week if you've missed worship on Sunday morning due to travel or illness.

- In-person ministries will be phased in throughout the fall and winter. Sunday School will resume as soon as your teachers are ready in the fall. The plan is for Sunday School to be scheduled at the same time as worship, so watch for more exciting news about this as plans are firmed up. Masks will be required for both students and teachers.
- Congregational Care will discern how and when to resume coffee fellowship. Watch for more news from them as plans are firmed up.
- The Fellowship Hall is open again for social events. Plans are already underway for the Annual Holiday Bazaar.

I'll admit that navigating the pandemic has been a "learn as you go" situation, and I do think overall we've done rather well. As we ease our way back into these in-person ministries, please continue to offer patience and grace with one another. ~Rev. Carol Zaagsma

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Pastor Search

As you now know, Pastor Carol will soon be leaving The PORT. This news has been a sudden shock to everyone and surely you have questions. It is very early in the process, but we thought we could provide some answers and let you know we're working hard on adapting and not letting this hinder our opening back up for in-person services.

The Staff Parish Ministry Group consists of Barb Andrus, Kathy Swenson, Nancy Hagerty and Dave Smith. We have added several new people to this group temporarily to make up a "Pastor Search Committee."

New committee members include Lori Livingston, Janene Haugen, Bruce Benson, Jocelyne Medzagoh, and Blake Mahre. The purpose of this committee is to discern the pastoral needs of our congregation as they are today and, to the best of our ability, what we will need in the future. The SPRC has already met with Rev. Dan Johnson, our District Superintendent, to get guidance for the process to begin.

It is unlikely that we will have a new pastor at the beginning of August. The Conference will help us to have ample coverage for ministerial services until we are back fully staffed. The Church Council has completed a church profile which will be helpful in understanding our needs. Through discussions with the search group and various other gathered information, Rev. Johnson will take our wishes and concerns back to the Cabinet, and they will select the person who most closely aligns with our vision. The search committee will then have an opportunity to interview that prospect and make a decision whether or not they think that person would be a good fit for us.

We are all new to this process. Please feel free to contact any one of us with questions you have or suggestions that would help our search team. These changes happen in the life of a church and we will come through the darkness to see that shining light once again.

Please pray for the PORT, for success for Pastor Carol, and for those people who are working hard to find her successor.

~Dave Smith,
Pastor Search Committee Coordinator

Help Wanted

Your Church Needs Your Help

The PORT needs your help. We are shorthanded in many areas of our ministry teams and Sunday service needs. Every member of this church can do something. We have small jobs and we have big jobs, but none of them require that much work. Yes, we have jobs for young people too.

Here are some of the areas that you could work in:

- **Nominations** – You do what I'm trying to do right here; help recruit good people for needed areas of the church.
- **Staff Parish Relations** – Right now you would be helping to find that next perfect minister. (They will have big shoes to fill.)
- **Finance** – No, you don't get to take the money home; but, you might be helping to count it and make plans for its use.

- **Trustees** – Help out in keeping our building and grounds in tip-top shape.
- **Evangelism and Church Growth**– Help keep track of our members and new member prospects.
- **Audio/Visual** – Learn about the sound system, work with the media slides or help create the video for online services.
- **Mission Outreach** – Plan and implement mission projects.
- **Congregational Care** – Help plan events, participate in putting on lots of fun activities. Right now we need 3 people to help in the kitchen area during funeral luncheons.

When we signed up for membership, we signed on for service. **We** are the church. Without **you**, it cannot survive. If you see something you would want to know more about, contact Dave Smith or Kathryn in the office and one of us will get you more information.

Guest Column

Longtime PAUMC members Myron & Ginny Karki were featured in *Waconia Living Magazine* for Veteran's Day. The article is reprinted in *The Portlight* courtesy of the magazine's editor Heidi Nessa.



Honoring our Veterans: Meet Vietnam Veteran Myron Karki and his wife Ginny

By Kim Funk

Photos: Lynn Laumann Photography

Myron Karki is known around town as the Seatfixer. He can often fix any kind of upholstered seat imaginable or refer you to an upholstery shop. Whether it's on your boat or in your car, he's got you covered. But did you know he is a proud Vietnam veteran? This month, *Waconia Living Magazine* is celebrating veterans. In that spirit, we're featuring Myron Karki and his wife, Ginny. And sharing some stories from Myron's time on the front lines in Vietnam.

Myron and Ginny met on the dance floor during their Sophomore year at Bemidji State College. After dating

for a year they went their separate ways. Myron left college in 1964 and enlisted in the Navy. He believed the training and experiences military service provided would help him in his career. With the Vietnam conflict just heating up, he also wanted to have some say in where he was deployed. Enlisting gave him options, while the draft would leave him fewer choices. One month shy of 21, he enlisted. Myron served as a U.S. Navy hospital corpsman and operating room technician. Eventually, he was assigned to the U.S. Marines field medical school at Camp LeJeune. In 1966, he shipped out of Camp Pendleton, CA to Vietnam.

As an operating room technician on the front lines in Vietnam, Myron witnessed humanity's worst and best as the team of surgeons and nurses he worked with defied the odds and saved countless lives.

Life in Vietnam couldn't be further from life in Minnesota. Men added chlorine tablets to water they took from the river before drinking it. Soldiers had a 2 beer per day limit, but men who didn't drink shared theirs with those who did. Two 300-400 gallon "water buffalos," trailers supplied the shower water to a tank near the shower facility. Marine helicopters flew in casualties.



"Every generation has the responsibility and opportunity to serve this country."


~ Myron Karki

At one point, at a battle aid station near the DMZ, Myron stood within arms-length of South Vietnam Vice President General Nguyen Cao Ky as he inspected bodies and assessed captured Viet Cong soldiers. And, as Christmas 1966 approached, Myron thought of Ginny and the dance floor at Bemidji State College.

Ginny lived with roommates in 1966 when she got a Christmas Card, out of the blue from Myron. When she told her friends he was stationed in Vietnam, they urged her to write him back. She did and the couple corresponded for the rest of his tour. He came home for a month before leaving again for his final duty station in Beaufort, SC in late October of 1967.

Ginny almost missed the boy she had dated in college when he arrived at the MSP airport because he had grown into a man.



 Ginny and Myron picked up where they left off in Bemidji. They were engaged in December of 1967 and married on March 16, 1968. In 1968 he took a management job at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and saw many of the on-campus anti-war demonstrations first hand. Despite the opposition to the war, Myron remains a proud veteran. “Every generation has the responsibility and opportunity to serve this country. Those of us who served during the Vietnam era soon experienced the frustration of not being allowed to take action in order to win and the lack of support for the effort within the civilian populace,” he told the Chanhassen Villager in October 2009. “For me, my role was to help save lives and our medical unit did so despite high odds against it. Volunteering for the front line areas in Vietnam as an operating room tech was a way to improve the odds of the Marines surviving.”



Transitioning to civilian life wasn't easy at first; wartime conditions caused Myron to flinch at loud noises and watching July 4th fireworks was difficult. But, with Ginny by

his side, they managed. The couple has two adult children, David and Andrea. After ten years at the U of M, Myron worked in healthcare materials management at HealthPartners Methodist Hospital. Later, he started his own business repairing car and boat interiors.

Today he still does repairs as The Seatfixer LLC. Ginny worked as a medical secretary for various doctors while raising David and Andrea before moving on to pre-school prescreening in the Minnetonka school district. She retired in 2006.

The couple lives at Old Orchard Townhomes where they've both served on the association board and committees. They enjoy townhome life – where someone else plows the snow and mows their lawn. They actively volunteer in the community. Myron served on Waconia's City Council, Planning Commission, and Carver County's Parks Commission. Until COVID arrived in March, Myron volunteered with Ridgeview Ambulance and the Carver County Sheriff's Department as a reserve deputy. Ginny sews ice pack covers for Ridgeview Medical Center's Joint Center and volunteers at the Minnesota Landscape Arboreum in the outdoor gardens. And you might still find the pair on the dance floor. Ballroom dancing remains one of their favorite activities. They served as chairpersons for the Linden Hills Dancing Club and participate in the U of M Faculty Dance Club.

Despite the odds, he saved countless lives. And despite the animosity he faced when he got home, he continues to volunteer his time for his country and community.

You can learn more about Myron and all of our veterans by visiting the exhibits at the Carver County Historical Society. Myron's photographic slides are part of the Society's veteran's display at First Street West across from Bayview.



Waconia Living Magazine and The PORT would like to thank Myron and all of our veterans for their service and sacrifice on this Veteran's Day, and always.

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



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DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 am (in-person starting July 18, 2021)
~~Sunday School (9:00 am) and Coffee Fellowship (9:30 am)~~ suspended until further notice

Staff

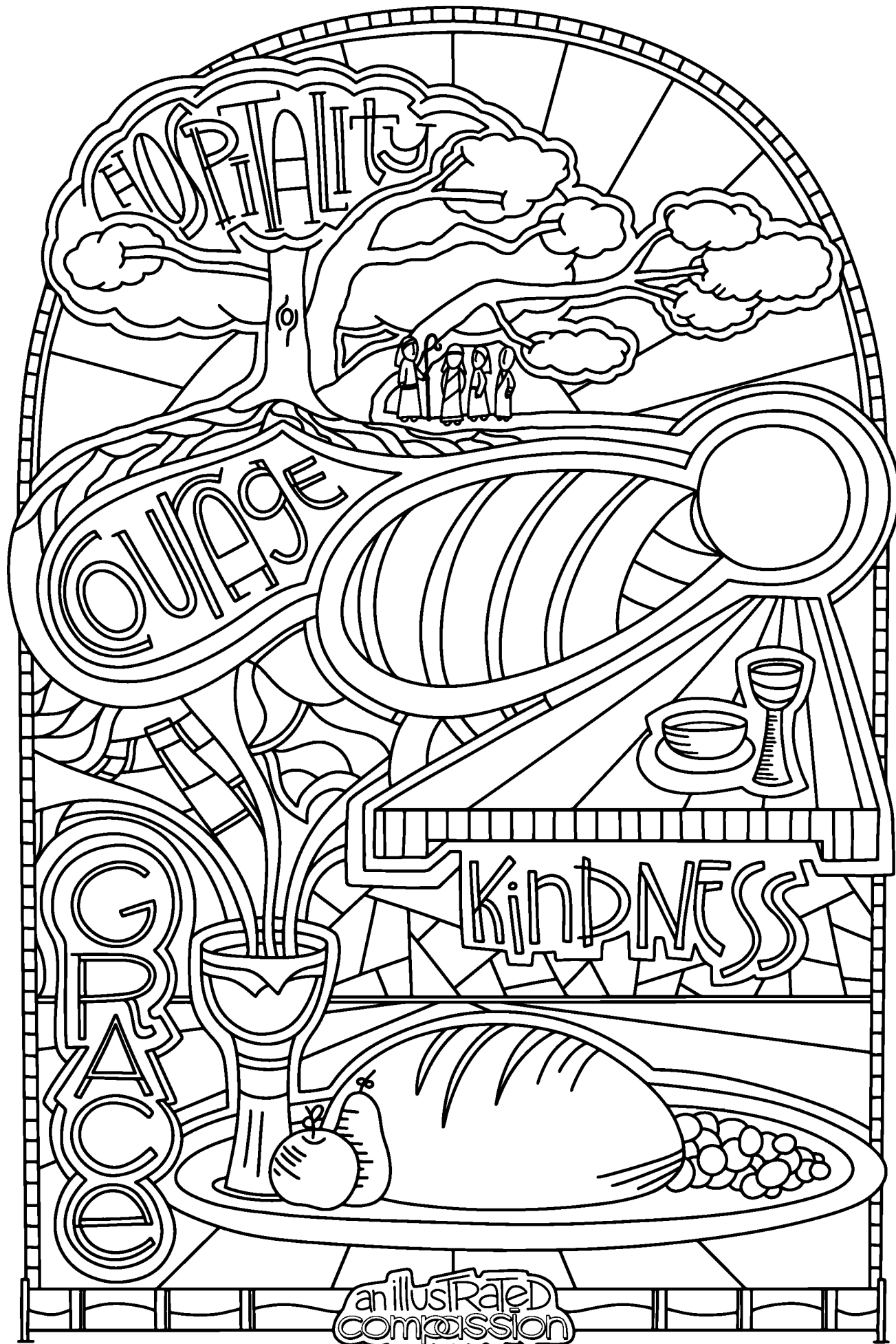
Rev. Carol Zaagsma (Pastor) carol.zaagsma@paumc.org (cell phone for emergencies 651-329-7878)
Kathryn Quam (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org
Blake Mahre (Youth Group Intern)
Peggy Larson (Music Director) peggylarson@comcast.net
Dale Miller (Accompanist) miller.daler@gmail.com
Judy Richardson-Mahre (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>



JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES AVAILABLE HERE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch • https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/ 						
	5	6	7	8	9	10
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 10:00am Online Worship/ Communion		6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp				
11 10:00am Online Worship	12	13	14	15	16	17
		6:00pm Trustees Mtg 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp		Newsletter Deadline		
18 10:00am Worship (In-Person) 11:00am Mission Outreach Meeting	19	20	21	22	23	24
		6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp				
25 10:00am Worship (In-Person) Pastor Carol's final Sunday	26	27	28	29	30	31
		6:30pm Bazaar Wkshp				



an illustrated
compassion