

THE PORTLIGHT

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

Dec 5, 10:00am 2nd Sunday of Advent & Confirmation Sunday
Dec 19, 10:00am Worship, Children's Christmas Program,
& March to the Manger
Dec 24, 4:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Join us in this season of hope, love, joy, and peace!



**Advent and Christmas Eve
at The PORT**

December 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

Dear Members and Friends of The PORT,

November was special. A month dedicated to thanksgiving. I am thankful for all that God is doing among us. I am thankful for you and our church. I am so thankful for my first Bazaar. Thanks for making it rewarding. Volunteers and supporters, your service continues to make ministry at The PORT meaningful.

Now let us turn our attention to December, a month to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A season, many churches call Advent and Christmas. Advent is the time of waiting. But what are we usually waiting for? Presents? Parties? Santa Claus? Winter vacation from school? Travel to Grandma's house? Dinner with family? The after-Christmas sales? The answer is yes, and no. It's "yes" because that's what our culture tells us Advent and Christmas are really all about. The answer is "no" because we are Christians first, and consumers second. We wait for Jesus. The answer is yes and no because we are always pulled in these two directions.

How distressing that Christians have allowed our culture to refocus Advent into a season primarily of buying. We have taken our Lord's holiday and turned it into a marketplace. But scripture and spiritual disciplines help refocus us on what's really important.

Dear people of The PORT, everything changed on that unexpected first Christmas more than two thousand years ago. The trajectory of history—the future, even eternity—were transformed when God became man. Jesus the Son of God became the Son of Man, fully divine yet fully human. As the prophet Isaiah foretold long before, Jesus came to earth as Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14).

God with us. Not God out of reach, out there somewhere, above us and unattainable. Not God cold and aloof, beyond us and distant, unengaged and disinterested. Not God angry and condemning, overbearing and vengeful, eagerly awaiting our fall. But God with us.

God come near, where we are, in the here and now, where we breathe and live, laugh and cry, love and hate, hope and despair, hurt and heal, create and destroy.

God made flesh. God one with us. God with Us, Forever. God with Us.

As we move toward the Christmas celebration of Jesus's momentous arrival, you are invited to join in an Advent journey of discovery—of hope, love, joy, and peace—as we draw near to Jesus Christ, the light of the world, *God with Us*.

Advent is also a season that links the past, present, and future. Advent offers us the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, to celebrate His birth, and to be alert for His second coming. Now that's worth waiting for!

Rev. Henry S. Dolopei, II



Spiritual Growth

DECEMBER Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 26
Ushers	Linda Schesso Myron Karki Ginny Karki Jocelyne Medzagoh	Bruce Benson Mike Moreland Lori Moreland	Bruce Benson Kathy Soucy Ellen Smith	Linda Schesso Mike Moreland Jocelyne Medzagoh
Reader	Mary Nelson	Neil Anderson	Russ Cox	Pam Rose
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith	Dave Smith
Closer	Harvey Erstad	Steve Knopp	Wayne Andersen	Wayne Andersen
Counters	Dave Smith Wayne Andersen	Dave Smith Wayne Andersen	Dave Smith Wayne Andersen	Dave Smith Wayne Andersen

A Special Thank You to Our Volunteers Serving on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 4:30pm

Ushers

Scott Swenson
Mike Moreland
Myron & Ginny Karki



Reader Melinda Matton
Sound Tim Madsen
Media Tim Madsen

Mission Outreach

December Outreach Project - Simpson Shelter

During the month of December we will be collecting items for Simpson Shelter. Please consider purchasing an item or two from the list below and bring it to church on Sunday. All items should be new and in original packaging. Thank you!

Size 6 diapers
Women's crew and ankle socks
Men's boxers - S, M, L, XL
Men's T-Shirts - S, M, L, XL, XXL
Razors and shaving cream

Deodorant
Dental floss
New pillows
New twin sheet sets



October Scholarship Drive Recap

During the month of October, we collected donations for scholarships for black students pursuing a career in education. The funds will be distributed to students through the Education Foundation of Bloomington. We received \$2,915.00. Thanks to all who contributed to this worthy cause.

Holiday Bazaar

Holiday Bazaar 2021 a Big Success

Dear Port Family, thanks to YOU we are excited to report that the 47th annual Holiday Bazaar was a great success! Even though we had a modified year due to Covid, and our traffic was down, we still made over \$8,000 for our church! We were so happy to see our regular shoppers lined up before 9:00am, just waiting for the doors to open. Time and again we heard thank you's from the shoppers for being back in-person this year. They regularly told us they love to shop with us because we have the most adorable and unique ideas, and because our Holiday Bazaar is the kick-start to their holiday season!

There are so many people to thank for the success of this labor of love:

- To the Tuesday evening and Thursday morning workshop groups who met throughout the year to make many decorations and ornaments. Your many talented hands sure did great work!
- To the individuals and families who made crafts at home that they generously donated to the bazaar. We have some very talented artists in our midst!
- To those who baked goodies that our guests gobbled up. We sold out of everything on Saturday!
- To the Education Team for organizing and running the Attic Treasures to benefit our youth programs. Welcome back to the bazaar!
- To those who donated goods and funds for the adorable themed gift baskets. They all sold!

- To those who came to move furniture and helped us set up the room, display everything, and then tore down and cleaned the room on Saturday afternoon.
- To those who spread the word about our bazaar by inviting friends, family, and neighbors.
- To Linda Schesso who generously made food for the workers to enjoy during their breaks.
- To Dave Smith and Joe Anderson for their work with the finances and processing the income.
- To Pastor Henry and all who prayed for the success of the bazaar. Thank you!

We still have plenty of Freddy's Lefse available. We will be selling lefse every Sunday after church until it's gone. Please spread the word to help us move them.

~ Bazaar Leadership Team





Congregational Care

We celebrate YOU during DECEMBER

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

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 02 - Steve Knopp | 12 - Leo Castro | 18 - Linda Schesso |
| 04 - Frederick Wilson-Bahun | 15 - Daisy Castro | 24 - Lori Moreland |
| 10 - Russ Cox | 18 - Karen Groth | 24 - Mary Murphy |




Finance

Stewardship: 2022 Pledge Drive

Stewardship Drive Annual pledge letters were mailed out in November with a letter from Pastor Henry. If you have not done so, please return your completed 2022 pledge card to the church office as soon as possible as our Church Council is finalizing the 2022 budget. Thank you for your commitment to support The PORT's essential ministries in the coming year.

March to the Manger



The 2021 March to the Manger Christmas mailing will be prepared soon. Please consider a special Christmas donation to complete the calendar year. Contributions may be dropped off during office hours (T-W-TH 9:00am - 1:00pm) or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your generosity during the holiday season.



Gift Cards for the Holidays

If you are interested in giving gift cards as gifts for your friends and loved ones, PAUMC can do your shopping for you! Gift cards are available to us through Great Lakes Scrip. You can find them online at www.shopwithscrip.com. Check this site for companies participating in this program and denominations available. Denominations differ from company to company.

Please note, some companies do not provide physical gift cards; but rather electronic cards, so make sure your order is for physical gift cards only.

Our order will be placed on December 5 and will be available for delivery to you on December 12. If there are any shipping delays due to high volumes for FedEx


or severe storms, this timeframe will ensure that if there is a delay, we will still have them by December 19.

Please use an order blank which can be found at the Welcome Desk near the Sanctuary or create your order including your name, telephone number, quantity of each card, denomination, and company name. Pam Rose will be collecting orders, with payment, on Sunday, December 5.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Smith at 952-884-8609 or dsmith1482@aol.com.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15pm Sonrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4
5 10:00am Worship/ Communion & Confirmation Sunday	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:00am Worship & Sunday School 11:15am Congregational Care Meeting	13	14	15 Newsletter Articles Deadline	16	17	18
19 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, March to the Manger, & Children's Program	20	21 6:00pm Trustee Mtg	22 6:15pm Sonrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	24  4:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day
26 10:00am Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

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 in-person worship on Sundays at 10:00am
and Sunday School during worship.

Staff

Rev. Henry Dolopei, II (Pastor) hdolopei@paumc.org 952-888-6070

Kathryn Quam (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org

Blake Mahre (Youth Group Intern) bmahre@paumc.org

Peggy Larson (Music Director) peggylarson@comcast.net

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

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

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>