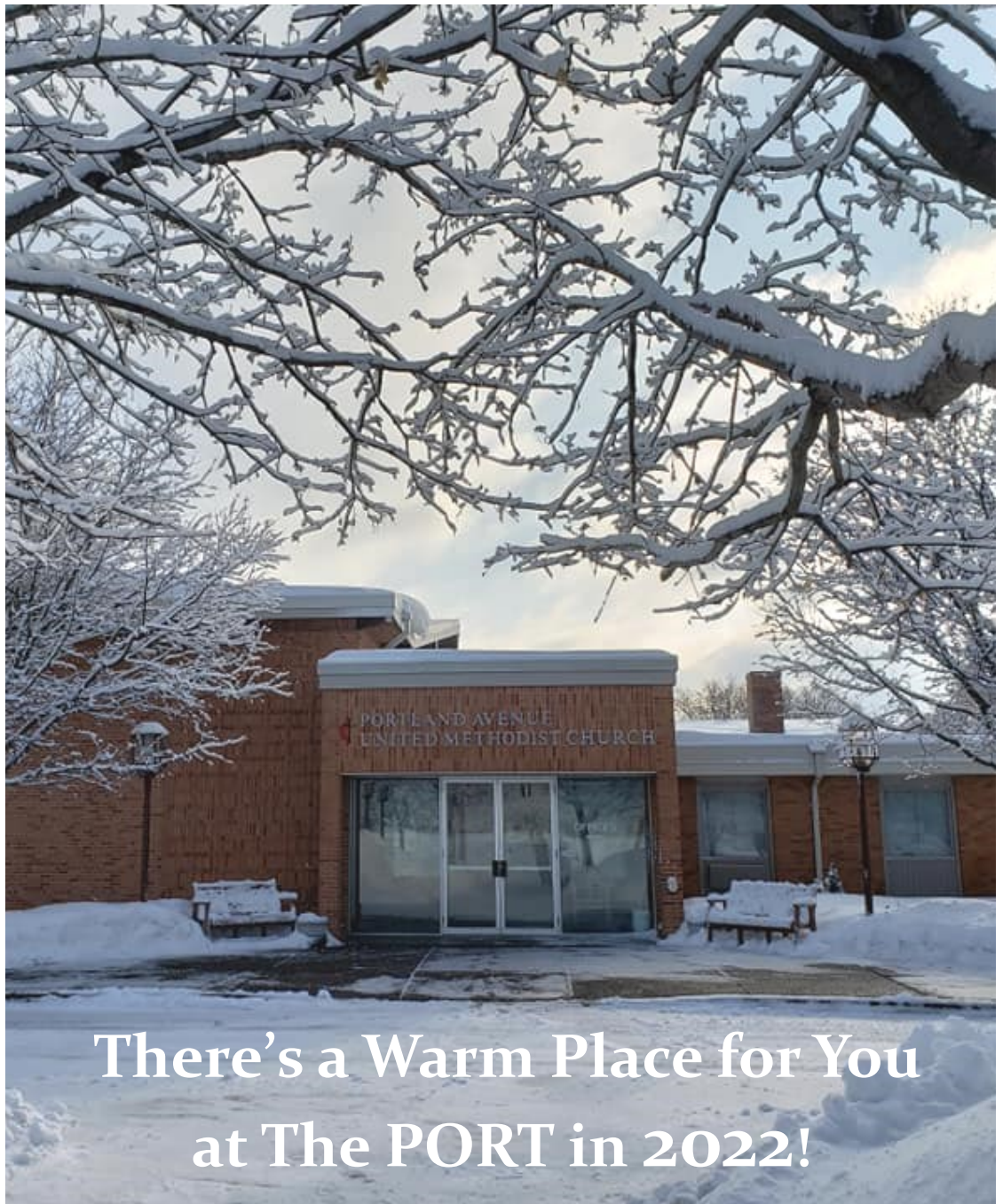


THE PORTLIGHT

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



There's a Warm Place for You
at The PORT in 2022!

January 2022

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,

Warm Greetings!

As we embark upon a New Year, we once again find ourselves dealing with the pandemic in this area and in the U.S. But, as you know, the entire world is going through much the same struggle.

I don't know about you, but perhaps there was a sense of hope last year at this time that as we turned the page on 2020, this would all be behind us within a few months. But that is not the case despite peoples best efforts with masks, vaccines, and mandates.

While humanity can only do what we can in our strength, I want to remind you today that God is still on the Throne regardless of where we have been or where we are going! There is a wonderful verse of scripture which serves as a reminder of who God is, found in Revelation 22:13 (NKJV): "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

While we cannot possibly know what the future holds, we know who holds the future! We are not even gifted enough to know what tomorrow will bring to us, but as Christians, we need to rest assured that God does! When I understand just a bit of how much God loves me, it puts my mind at ease about His plans and purposes.

This New Year will unfold as God has planned it to happen. Not one thing will take place that does not first sift through the loving hands of an almighty God.

There are many times I don't understand the ways of God, but that's really not something we should concern ourselves with. We must only trust Him!

Isaiah 55:8 (NKJV): "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

Moving forward into this New Year, I want to encourage you to live your life to the glory of God. We can live in confidence and not timidity! We can live our lives in boldness and assurance because God is on the Throne!

There's a beautiful song, written by Bill Gaither many years ago, and the lyrics are as powerful today (maybe more so) as when they were written:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know, yes I know, He holds the future.
This life is worth the living, just because He lives!

This New Year the focus is Growth for The PORT. We need to grow. I believe that with our collective effort The PORT will grow spiritually, physically, and financially. I want to encourage your participation. Your suggestions are welcome. Thank you for your prayers, presence, service, gifts, and witness.

Keep God first in this New Year, and you will be amazed at the things God will do in you, through you, and for you!

Blessed and a Prosperous New Year!

Blessings in Christ,



Pastor Henry

We are now livestreaming worship on YouTube! Sundays at 10:00am

Come in and watch Pastor Henry's sermon in person or watch live from the comfort of your home. The link to watch on YouTube is on the enclosed calendar.

Spiritual Growth

JANUARY Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
Ushers	Trent Olson Linda Schesso Pat Ekstrom	Bruce Benson Myron & Ginny Karki	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson Pat Ekstrom Trent Olson	Scott Swenson Myron & Ginny Karki
Reader	Pat Ekstrom	Steve Soucy	Trent Olson	Neil Anderson	Neil Anderson
Sound	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Dave Smith
Media	Barb Andrus	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith
Closer	Steve Knopp	Tom Wellman	Scott Swenson	Harvey Erstad	Wayne Andersen
Counters	Dave Smith Steve Soucy	Dave Smith Mike Moreland	Pam Rose Mike Moreland	Pam Rose Mike Moreland	Pam Rose Darlene Wicks

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	12 - Chaz Brobst	26 - Gregory Christensen
02 - Don Anderson	- Inge Lystad	27- Daniel Wilson
- Kathy Soucy	14 - Carol Cox	28 - Traci Darnell
03 - Viola Mitchell	- Nancy Stinson	29 - Pastor Henry
05 - Emma Mahre	15 - Merlin Gilbertson	
06 - Marilyn Anderson	24 - Peter Anderson	
08 - Megan Mahre	25 - Dale Miller	
10 - Jael Medzagoh	- Dominick Wells	



Phone Number Updates

Linda Schesso has discontinued her home number and is now only using her cell number:
(952) 212-0466

Melinda Matton's new cell number:
(952) 888-1986

Finances

Gift Card Program Update

With thanks to the gift card program participants, we are excited to report that PAUMC earned \$184.43 from the holiday gift cards. The total income from gift cards for 2021 was \$367.43.

We hope to increase this amount in 2022!

~ Ellen Smith, Gift Card Coordinator



Mission Outreach

January Mission Outreach Project— Tissues and Wipes for Students, Teachers, and Staff

During January we are collecting tissues and bleach wipes for the staff and students at Valley View Elementary School, so they can more safely keep their classes moving forward.

If you wish to make a monetary donation, it will be used to purchase snacks for the staff at Valley View. Monetary donations can be made through the PAUMC website at PAUMC.org/giving or by writing a check and writing Valley View in the memo line. Thanks for supporting Valley View Elementary!

~ Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair

“Give a Little Gift” Holiday Supplies

Walker Methodist Health Center received PAUMC’s donations and was able to create personalized gift bags for the Center’s residents this holiday season. The staff were so grateful for all the donations.

One of our volunteers dressed up as Santa and helped with the distribution. Residents were truly thankful.

~ Sue Wells, Mission Outreach



Kennedy High School Request for Assistance Answered

The Outreach/Missions team received a request from Kennedy High School for some gift cards to help economically vulnerable students and their families during the holiday season. We decided to use some of the 10% budget surplus monies on this. The cards were delivered to Kennedy and below is the note we received from them:

Many thanks to the Portland Methodist faith community for your donation of the twenty \$25 Walmart gift cards. Your donation will make a difference for several of our economically vulnerable families during the nearly two week Winter Break. I am overwhelmed by your generosity, kindness and desire to serve the community and I appreciate your support in our outreach at Kennedy.

Please feel free to share this message with your faith community

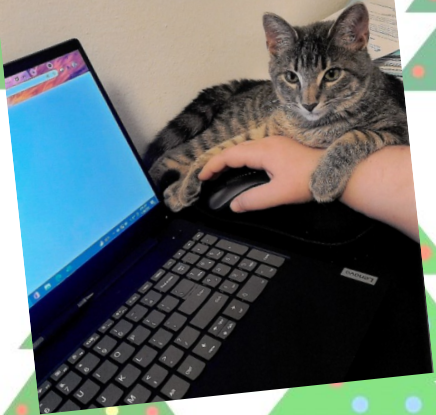
*Melissa Riebel
School and Community Engagement Coordinator
Kennedy High School*



Christmas Wishes from the Mailbox



Merry Christmas



I want to say thank you to the people of PAUMC. The people who made the church my "safe harbor along life's journey." I know God had a hand in putting me in a hotel just a few block from the church. This congregation welcomed me with open arms. I have felt the warmth from that warm embrace ever since. My PAUMC church family means so much to me and I look forward to every trip I make back to the cities.

I have come a long way since I have left Mpls. I work as a Peer Support Specialist. I work mostly with the crisis team. I also am the secretary for two non-profits. One is a peer run Mental Health group and the other a self-advocacy group. Ever since I got my shunt in June life has been so much easier living headache free. Life is just falling into place.

Thank you to the people of PAUMC for always praying and being by my side through my journey.

Chaz

Confirmation

Welcome The PORT's Four Newest Confirmands: Janea, Katelyn, Luke, and Rylie

It was a Blessing. God is indeed Great. Thanks Confirmands, for the opportunity. Congratulations on this major milestone! Remember that God is always with you. He's ready to support you in all of your efforts, missteps, and successes. May you find strength and perseverance through him and with his guidance.

God has given you so much, and I hope you continue to discover and develop those talents and abilities. You are each a Blessing. The PORT loves you.

~ Pastor Henry







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 					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
2 10:00am Worship/ Communion 6:00pm Youth Group	3	4	5 6:15pm Sonrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6 EPIPHANY	7	8
9 Epiphany Sunday 10:00am Worship and Sunday School 11:15am Mission Outreach Meeting	10	11 6:00pm Trustees	12	13	14	15 Newsletter Deadline
16 HUMAN RELATIONS DAY 10:00am Worship and Sunday School	17	18	19	20 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (via Zoom)	21	22
23 10:00am Worship and Sunday School 11:15am Evangelism & Church Growth	24	25	26 6:15pm Sonrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	28	29
30 10:00am Worship and Sunday School 11:00am All Church Conference	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 and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am
with Sunday School during worship.

Staff

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

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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 Singers 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>