

THE PORTLIGHT

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

Easter Plant Sale

Plants are available for purchase for The PORT's traditional Easter Garden. A choice of the following will make up our Garden:

Easter Lilies \$9.00

Red, Purple, or Yellow Tulips \$8.50

Purple, Yellow, or White Mums \$9.00

Pink Hydrangeas \$16.25

12" Assorted Pansy Bowl \$16.00

The plants will adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and may be taken home after the service.

The deadline for ordering plants is March 13.

See further details on page 7.

March 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

Greetings Family,

I hope you are feeling the blessings and love from God. I am truly blessed to be here. The PORT will continue to be a place “To grow followers of Jesus who change the world.”

Recently, you were introduced to the “Love Never Ends” series. This series encourages us to see the light of Christ through the lens of love. It invites us to let the light shine around you, and in you, and then from you as we seek to continue to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Importantly, to let others see Jesus Christ through our loving presence.

This month, we enter the season of Lent. Lent begins on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 and ends on Thursday, April 14, 2022. The beginning which marks the Lenten season is Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, we recall the biblical custom of covering ourselves in ashes. By doing this, we mark ourselves in two ways: as those who are in mourning for our crucified Christ, and as those who are filled with a heart of sorrow for their sins.

The season of Lent is the forty days before Easter, which represents the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, continually tempted by Satan. Scripture says “And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the Good News.” – Mark 1:12-15 When Jesus emerged from the wilderness, He knew it was time for the prophesy of His death and resurrection to be fulfilled.

While our Advent celebrations are filled with joy as we remember the birth of our King, Lent is when we focus on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as a way to go into our own wilderness of sorts; we pray, we fast, we mediate, we worship, we focus on God. Traditionally, many believers choose to participate in some sort of fasting during this time—people have been known to fast from various foodstuffs as well as television and internet usage. Others decide to study the Bible more closely or experience a time of solitude. Perhaps you will commit

to attending services from now until the glory of Easter, or dedicating a larger portion of your day to a time of prayer.

Whatever your personal preference, Lent can be the time when you decide to let go of old habits and develop a more joyful, Christ-filled way of living.

So ready yourselves for the grief of Christ’s death and take joy in the gospel of His rising again. We are granted eternal life through Christ; the Messiah lifted up.

I would like to invite you and your family to join me as we prepare for a time of tremendous spiritual growth and renewal.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Henry



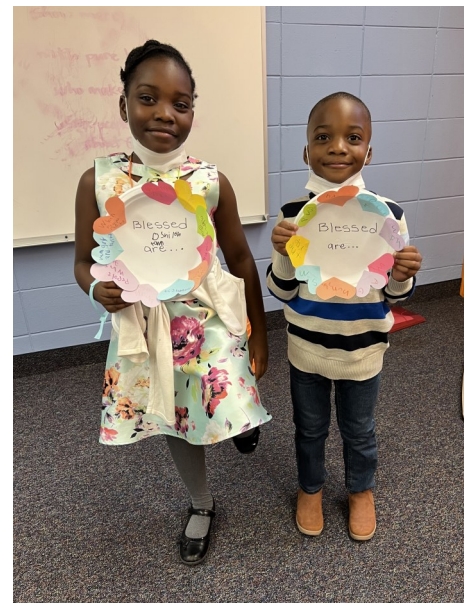
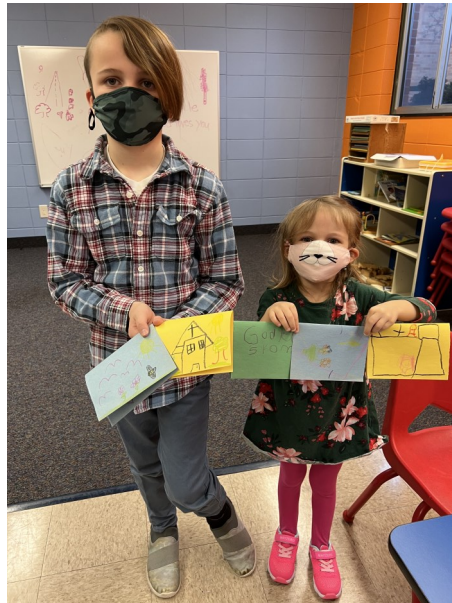
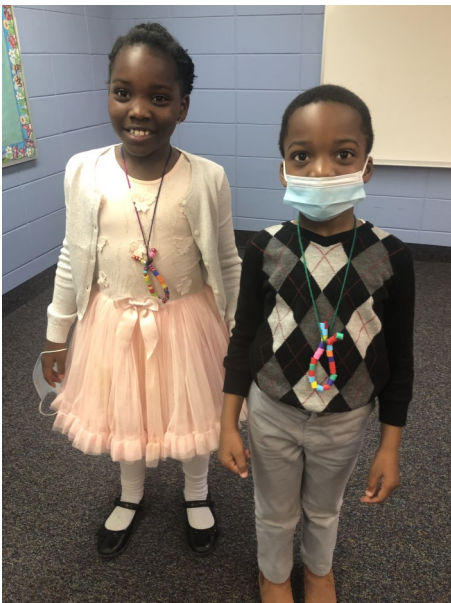
March Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Ushers	Scott Swenson Kathy Soucy Linda Schesso	Bruce Benson Trenton Olson Mike Moreland	Pat Ekstrom Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler	Trenton Olson Myron Karki Ginny Karki
Reader	Tim Hagerty	Scott Rice	Neil Anderson	Trenton Olson
Sound	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Dave Smith	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen
Livestream	Blake Mahre	Clint Andrus	Daisy Castro	Scott Swenson
Closer	Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman
Counters	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen

We Love Our Sunday School Kids!

Our Sunday School classes are meeting the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month during worship service. We have been learning about fishing for people, love, and being helpers. We resumed our card ministry and are learning how we can all serve God. We have fun, learn about Jesus, do crafts, and sing. Join us!

~Janene Haugen, Sunday School Teacher



Mission Outreach

March Mission Outreach Project: VEAP Food Shelf

During the month of March we will be accepting donations for VEAP food shelf. We are focusing on items that cannot be purchased through food assistance programs. These items include diapers, toilet paper, tissues, etc. Also, all non-perishable food items will be accepted.

If you would like to make a cash donation, you can write a check to PAUMC and put VEAP on the memo line. You can also go to [PAUMC.org/giving](https://www.paumc.org/giving) and select VEAP.

Donations can be dropped off at The PORT during regular business hours: T, W, Th 9:00am-1:00pm. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Thank You from Simpson Shelter

Thank you for your donation of one box size-6 diapers, razors and shaving cream, bar soap, and t-shirts on Thursday, January 13, 2022. Your generosity matters more than ever during this pandemic. Thank you for being a part of our community and helping to end generational poverty and homelessness.

We could not do this work without you. Please contact me at aramos@simpsonhousing.org for more information about our efforts or if you have any questions.

*Yours in gratitude,
Aaron Ramos
Volunteer Engagement Manager
Simpson Housing Services*

Valley View Elementary Drop-off

The picture below is a sampling of the large amount of bleach wipes and tissues collected for Valley View Elementary School. Along with these items, we dropped off snacks of mini muffins, granola bars, chips, cookies, popcorn, and candy bars for the staff at Valley View. When the items were received all they could say was "WOW!" And of course, "thank you." All non-food items were labeled with a sticker that said, "This gift is from your friends at The PORT." Along with our address and website. Thanks to Lynn and Lori Livingston for attaching the labels to the many items.

~Linda Schesso, Mission Outreach Chair



Thank You from Valley View Elementary

Pastor Henry and Linda,

Thank you so much for the generous donation to our school. While always welcomed, this year in particular, the staff greatly appreciate any fun treat or surprise that suddenly shows up in the staff lounge! It is a day brightener for sure! The tissues and sanitizers will disappear quickly! Those are items always needed at a school and for sure this school year as we try to keep students and staff healthy! Again, many thanks! It is a blessing to work with your faith community.

*Sincerely,
Joan MalandPrincipal
Valley View Elementary
jmaland@isd271.org*

New Portlight Series: “Getting to Know Us Better”

We see each other at church frequently but most of us don't know each other very well. I hope to change that with this regular feature where I will be asking a few “dinghy” questions of our PORT mates. These casual questions are meant to be conversation starters. I pray that as we learn more about our PORT family, we will deepen our connections with each other and thereby enrich our church's mission to be a safe harbor along life's journey. Enjoy!

~Lori Livingston

Pam Rose

Please tell us about your family and where you live.

My husband Rudy and I live five minutes from church on 86th St & 13th Ave. We have lived in Bloomington for close to 40 years. We have two grown sons. Our older son, Nathan is married to Linda and they have three daughters, Harper (7), Lucy (2) and Nora (5 months). They live in Shakopee. Our younger son, Colin is married to Kyuree and they are both in the Air Force and stationed in Germany currently.

In what ways have you volunteered or served at The PORT?



Since transferring my membership from Simpson UMC in Minneapolis in early 2020, I did very little at first because the pandemic started almost immediately. However, since we reopened, I serve as a reader during some services, have joined the Finance team and just became the Finance

Chair with the able support of Dave Smith and Merlin Gilbertson. I am also on the team that counts the offering after the service. By the way, we could use a few more on our team, so let me know if you are interested in getting more information about it. I also volunteer in the church office one day a week for an hour or two and assist Kathryn with various tasks.

What makes you laugh the most?

Visiting with good friends.

What was a favorite vacation and why?

In the fall of 2018, Rudy and I went to Japan to visit Colin where he was stationed at Misawa in the north-east area of Honshu. We were there for two weeks and we met his then good friend, Kyuree. They both took leave and were our excellent tour guides for the whole time. It was a great trip and we did a wide variety of activities. We went as far south as Sendai and attended a baseball game there.

If you could have dinner with any living celebrity, who would it be?

Paul McCartney

Do you have a favorite musician, group or style of music?

I like a variety of music from classical, rock to bluegrass, and listen to 'Bluegrass Saturday Morning' on KBEM, FM88.5 from 7:00am - Noon. I also enjoy listening to the Del McCoury Band, among many others.

Do you collect anything?

Besides PartyLite candles and accessories, I have many angels.

What's the most interesting thing you can see out of your kitchen or living room window?

I love watching the birds at our feeders and we have a fox that lives in our immediate area. I have seen it in our backyard in the middle of the afternoon.

What's the tallest building you've been to the top of?

The IDS Tower in Minneapolis.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

I spent most of my career working as a software developer. I worked for 21 years at Allianz Life (formerly North American Life & Casualty) in Minneapolis, then 3 years as a consultant working mostly in Denver and Newark. I worked at the University of Minnesota for 17 years, retiring in April of 2018. I am involved in several organizations: Daughters of Norway, Sons of Norway and St. David's Society of MN (a Welsh heritage group).

Congregational Care

Mike Moreland

Please tell us about your family and where you live.

Lori, my wife, and I live in Richfield. We are both retired. I worked as an Accounting Clerk for several retailers and Lori was a house cleaner.



In what ways have you volunteered or served at The PORT?

Lori and I usher and I help the main counter with the offering. Recently, I'm part of the "Praise Band" playing bass guitar with Dale, Tim, Peggy and Sam. We play the first Sunday of the month.

What makes you laugh the most?

I enjoy making other people laugh. I like watching the "Jason Show." That makes me laugh.

What was a favorite vacation and why?

Lori and I drove an RV to Yellowstone. It had its share of humor and thrills.

If you could have dinner with any living celebrity, who would it be?

Tom Hanks. He used to be on Late Night shows making fun of old Elvis movies.

Do you have a favorite musician, group or style of music?

This is always changing. Right now, it's Cumbia music from Mexico and South America. I also like YouTube videos of "My Analog Journal." They feature music from around the world.

What's the most interesting thing you can see out of your kitchen or living room window?

The neighbor's dog. He's a barker. He terrorizes the squirrels and rabbits. I call him "Ninja." When I mow the lawn, he will be right there behind me in seconds. Fast dog!

If you came with a warning label, what would yours say?

Don't take me too seriously.

Have you ever met a celebrity, and if so, who?

I wouldn't say met, but I ran into Larry "The Axe" Henning, the wrestler. I was a teenager spending a Saturday in downtown Minneapolis. I saw him walk into a bank, and I followed him in. I just wanted to see him, not get his autograph. Well, as I was going into the bank entrance, he was already going out. Not much room to get past him. At this point I had to go into the bank. It would have been strange to turn around in the entrance.

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

I volunteer to teach English to people from other countries. I'm a tutor in a classroom. I help out the main teacher. I volunteer at two different schools in Richfield. I recently learned how to speak Spanish, so now I can speak Spanish with my students. They love to correct me. I try to bring some humor into the teaching. I found some videos which are sung in English, but they have English/Spanish subtitles. I even had the class singing along with "Stand by Me" by Ben E. King.

We celebrate YOU during March

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

Happy Birthday to you!

02 - Amelia Fischer	17 - Lori Livingston
04 - Judy Richardson-Mahre	18 - Myron Karki
05 - Katherine Minks	24 - Linda Gilbertson
16 - LaVonne Robinson	28 - Ellen Smith



Church Finance News

Thank you to all who participated in the Annual Church Conference on Sunday, January 30. The year end finances were presented and 2021 finished up with a surplus. Total income for the year was \$227,459. Our total expenses were \$190,620. This resulted in a positive cash flow of \$36,839. We also were approved for the forgiveness of our Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. We were then able to move \$23,238 from our payables to income, which gave us a total surplus of \$60,077.

Again this year, the Council approved moving 10% of that surplus to Mission Outreach. \$6,000 will be transferred and used as directed by the Mission Outreach Ministry and the Church Council.

The 2022 Budget was also introduced. The expense figures were once again based on back-to-normal figures. We have found that during the pandemic, the church's expenses have been a lot less than the expenses we were incurring pre-pandemic. By using expense figures based on more normal times, our hope is that everyone will be aware that our income is dropping to a point that may not be able to sustain our typical activities. Our projected income this year is approximately \$20,000 less than in 2021. The new budget reflects this with a \$27,000 shortfall.

The Finance Team (Church Council) is hopeful that we will see expenses more in line with what we saw in 2021, which will improve our position at year end 2022. But, as a whole, we need to understand the seriousness of the decline in membership and income.

~Dave Smith, Treasurer

More from The PORT



"Easter Plant Sale" Continued:

Please order early and help make The PORT and your home beautiful. If you are not attending in-person worship at this time, plants can still be ordered and picked up at the Smith's home on the Saturday before Easter (April 16).

Order blanks are available at the usher table in the sanctuary. Order forms can be filled out and given to Dave Smith on Sundays or given to Kathryn in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during usual office hours. You can also feel free to call Ellen Smith at 952-884-8609 to place your order.

~Ellen Smith, Church Council

That Special Band at The PORT

Our recently formed Praise Band has been playing at Sunday worship the first Sunday of each month since December. The Praise Band will continue to be a part of worship on the first Sunday of the month through May.

The goal is to introduce a few modern hymns as well as do different takes on familiar hymns.

~Dale Miller
Accompanist



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; Cell: 203-508-4874 (when urgent)
Kathryn Quam (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org 952-888-6070
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>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM: https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch</p>	1	2	3	4	5 9:00am-1:00pm "Pop-up Sale" in the Wesley Room: books, games, puzzles, CDs and DVDs
6 10:00am Worship/ Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
6:00pm Youth Group	6:00pm Trustees	6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm Ash Wednesday mmService	7:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Henry (Zoom)	7:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Henry (Zoom)	7:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Henry (Zoom)
13 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00am Worship/ Sunday School 11:15am Mission Outreach	Newsletter Article Deadline	6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm Caregivers Support Group	7:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Henry (Zoom)	7:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Henry (Zoom)	7:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Henry (Zoom)
20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00am Worship			6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			
6:00pm Youth Group			6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			
27 UMCOR SUNDAY	28	29	30	31		
10:00am Worship/ Sunday School			6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal			