

THE PORTLIGHT

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

ADVENT

A Season of Preparation



December 18, 10:00 am Children's Christmas Program & March to the Manger

December 24, 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 25, 10:00 am Christmas Day Service

December 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 to The Port!

This month we celebrate Advent and Christmas, reflecting on Jesus Christ. Can you think of some of the Biblical themes of this season? I would think the love and faithfulness of God our Father is high up there, but have you ever considered the ideas of *hope, love, joy, and peace*? Although it may not be the first thing that comes to mind during the Christmas season, there is much to consider in these themes. I will briefly reflect on Hope and Peace.

Hope is a very prominent theme in Advent. The anticipation of the coming Messiah is always in light of the hope we have for his return. Just as the Israelites hoped for their deliverance, we too look forward to the final deliverance, his return in glory where he will create a new heavens and a new earth. As the prophet Isaiah proclaims: *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)*

God has promised he will deliver us. He encourages us by his Holy Spirit to cling to his promises, to love his word and to cherish his statutes. He makes clear paths for our feet so that we continue to press forward in a world which is often so dark. We eagerly anticipate the coming of our Lord, who “shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:4). Let us rejoice in the hope of our Lord.

Furthermore, let the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the world, make us come to the realization that God is in our midst. As the prophet says: *The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty Savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in His love, He will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals. (Zephaniah 3:17)*

The fourth week in Advent is traditionally the week of peace. Christians often refer to Jesus as the “Prince of Peace,” and the Psalms are full of references to God bestowing peace upon his people, as the Psalmist writes: *May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace! (Psalm 29:11)*

What is this peace that we celebrate this Christmas season? To be sure, we look ahead to the “peace on earth” that is promised to us at the end of the age. However, there is a deeper peace that is being spoken of here, a

peace that can only come from a clear conscience before God. This is the peace of justification that is won for us on the cross where Jesus took our sin upon himself and suffered the penalty of our transgression. We tend to think of this on Good Friday, but we also meditate on his life and passion as we ponder the son of God’s incarnation.

Friends, celebrate our wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ who came to be not only *a* light to the world but *THE* light that would be needed to guide us! Not only does His life show light to our darkened paths, but He is filled with purity as He washes us whiter than snow. Yet, this washing can only come if we accept what Jesus did on the Cross for us, as He shed His blood for us so we could be forgiven.

Jesus Christ should be the center of everything! He wants to be the center of our church, families, and of course, our individual lives. We know today that He should be the center of our worship as we gather together as the body of Christ!

Therefore, let us humbly anticipate his incarnation, his passion, and his imminent return in glory! Amen.

Blessings on this Season,

Pastor Henry





So many things fall under “spiritual growth” at The Port. One of the biggest of those is our efforts to help children and youth learn about spiritual principals, learn what it means to belong to the United Methodist Church, and learn how to live a Christ-centered life.

Pictured above, Oliver Darnell takes his turn leading Children’s Sermon during worship. Below, Pastor Henry presents Shiloh and Elizabeth with their personally engraved Bibles, as we do when our kids reach the third grade. Thank you to all who support our young members. And to our young members, thank you for allowing us to share in your journey. God loves you, and we do too!



Spiritual Growth

DECEMBER Schedule for Sunday and Christmas Eve Volunteers

	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 24 4:30 pm	Dec 25
Welcomer/ Greeter	Lynn Livingston	LaVonne Robinson	Judy/Eric Richardson-Mahre	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Ushers	Trenton Olson Jocelyne Medzagoh Kathy Soucy	Scott Swenson Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson Laurette Lawson Kathy Soucy	Scott Swenson Melinda Matton Pam Rose	Trenton Olson Jocelyne Medzagoh Pam Rose
Reader	John Hepola	Paul Richardson	Tim Hagerty	Melinda Matton	Mary Nelson
Sound	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Livestream Tech	Tim Hagerty	Blake Mahre	Clint Andrus	Daisy Castro	Scott Swenson
Closer	Steve Knopp	Tom Wellman	Steve Knopp	Harvey Erstad	Paul Richardson
Counters	Dave Smith JoAnne Volden	Dave Smith Mike Moreland	Dave Smith Mike Moreland	Volunteer Needed	Dave Smith Mike Moreland



Help Wanted Sound Operator

The Sound Department is looking for another sound system operator to set up and break down the microphones and other sound equipment for the Sunday service. Your workload would include running the sound board during the service too. No experience necessary. On the job training—easy to learn.

This job requires approximately 1.5 hrs to complete. Your services would be scheduled approximately once per month.

Contact Dave Smith for more information.

Help Wanted Money Counter

The Finance Ministry is looking for help to count and record the Sunday offering after church. No experience necessary. On the job training—easy to learn.

This job requires approximately 5 hrs to complete. Your services would be scheduled approximately 12 Sundays throughout the year.

Contact Dave Smith for more information.

December Mission Outreach Project— Feed My Starving Children

Date: Sunday, December 18

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan

Please contact Nancy Hagerty to be added to the volunteer list for this packing event. If you are unable to physically volunteer, we are accepting donations to help fund the event. Just write FMSC in the memo line of your check, or you can give cash to Nancy.

For questions, email, call, or text Nancy at (612) 280-0955 / nancyhagerty@hotmail.com

~ Nancy Hagerty, Mission Outreach Co-Chair



October Mission Outreach Recap— Sandwiches for The Dignity Center

Our congregation-wide sandwich making outreach project in October was a great example of how fast things get done when many hands are involved and how FUN helping others can be. We got all 190 sandwiches made and bagged up during worship service by working in shifts.



Holiday Bazaar Thank You

Bazaar Raises over \$10,000

It is hard to believe that our annual Holiday Bazaar is behind us! Our workshop groups began working in late march and April, and others worked on their own projects at home. It always amazes us that small ornaments and baked goods can add up to such a large amount but that is also due to those friends who donated art, wood, needlework goods and Silent Auction baskets. The Committee wishes to thank everyone who contributed in any way to this year's event. From the bottom of our hearts, we appreciate all of the hours of work you spent cooking, baking, setting up, advertising, decorating the space and tables, working at the Bazaar, tearing down and praying for The Port. We have a long and storied history with this event and we feel that holding it is a way to honor all of those members who have passed on, as it was important to them also.

It was great to have the Bistro back this year, providing yummy food and a warm atmosphere for everyone. Thank you to Kathy & Scott Swenson and Barb & Clint Andrus for your delicious recipes and never-say-die attitudes. That part of the Bazaar had been greatly missed! We have to extend a special thank-you to Pam Rose who stepped in as our treasurer and very deftly handled all of the finances after the passing of our dear Joell Anderson. It is not an easy job, Pam, but you did it well! Our bake sale was expertly handled by LaVonne Robinson, Carol Cox, and Sue Wells. Thank you, ladies, for your hard work!

We have many packages, small and large, of lefse left to sell. The small are \$6.50 and the large are \$10.50.

If you would like any, we will have them available after church for the next few weeks. If you aren't able to come to church, contact Lynn Livingston (952) 797-2645 or Lori Livingston (612) 240-2640 and we may be able to arrange a delivery! We will be seeking avenues to sell the remaining packages soon.

Blessings to all of you! The Committee is already generating plans and ideas for next year! We will take some time off and begin again in the spring. However, several people mentioned they will begin their projects while they are hunkered down for the winter. What a great idea! Think of the sale we could have in 2023!

~ Your 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
- 04 - Frederick Wilson-Bahun
- 12 - Leo Castro
- 15- Daisy Castro
- 18 - Karen Groth
- 24 - Lori Moreland
- Mary Murphy

Address Update

Mary Lou Johnson
Box 2172
Lewisburg, TN 37091
Email: traileast@gmail.com



Dear Port Family,

I'd like to thank you all for your prayers, cards, calls and kindnesses during these past few weeks since my husband, Philippe, suddenly passed away. This Port family is sure special. You truly provided a safe harbor for me and held my hands through these difficult days. I truly cannot imagine how I would have gotten through this time without you. Thank you all from the bottom of my broken heart.

With my love,

Lori Livingston

Rides to Church

If you "NEED A RIDE" or can "GIVE A RIDE" to church on a Sunday, please call or text Kathy Swenson at (612) 209-4559 or call Pastor Henry at (952) 888-6070. Give us some advance notice please. We will do our BEST to match you up. Put your name on the list to help out with driving or if you're in need! The more people able to give a ride – the more people we can help get to church.



Order Your Gift Cards by December 4

An order for gift cards will be placed December 4. Your order can be given to Ellen Smith any time prior to that date.

Go to <https://www.raiseright.com/brands> and click on "Brands" at the top to see which vendors participate and their denominations. If you have any questions, call Ellen at 952-884-8609.



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM: https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch</p>			
4 10:00am Worship/ Communion	5	6 6:30pm Mission Outreach Meeting (Zoom)	7 6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	8	9	10
11 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School 11:15am Congregational Care Meeting	12	13	14 6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Confirmation Class (Zoom)	15 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Church Council (Zoom)	16	17
18 10:00am Worship/ March to the Manger/ Children's Program 1:00pm Feed My Starving Children Event (Eagan)	19	20	21 6:15pm Sunrise Rehl 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24 4:30pm Candlelight Worship Service
25 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School	26 CHRISTMAS DAY	27	28 (No choir practice)	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 and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am
with Sunday School during worship.

Staff

Rev. Henry Dolopei, II (Pastor) hdolopei@paumc.org Office: 952-888-6070;
Cell (If urgent): 203-508-4874

Kathryn Quam (Administrative Coordinator) paumc@paumc.org Office: 952-888-6070

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) Cell: 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>