

THE PORTLIGHT

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

December 2023

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ADVENT

A Season of Preparation



December 17: 10:00 am Children's Christmas Program & March to the Manger
12:00 pm Bethlehem Experience Event for All
December 24: 10:00 am Christmas Eve Worship Service
10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

Season's Greetings,

It's here! The season of waiting we've all been waiting for is here! Advent.

The season of Advent is a highlight of any congregation's life. It is a time of joy, color, light, and anticipation. And it is a time of worship. This is a season that calls us to fall to our knees in worship of the awesome God. Advent is the season where we remember that God chose to put on flesh and dwell among us. God reached down from incomprehensible heights to touch the life we live. And God chose to be born in the humblest of ways, in a manger, in a barn, or a cave, or on the side of the road. The Creator God Almighty crying in the prickly hay, fodder for animals. There is no proper response, other than worship.

At the same time, Advent is a reminder that there is more to come, that we are on a journey toward a new reality, a new way of being. Advent, from the Latin "venio" – coming and "ad" – to, is more about what is next than what was before. It is less a remembrance of the first coming and more an anticipation of the completion of the promised kingdom. Yet, the seeds of the return and reign of Christ were planted in the first coming, which is why the power of Christmas is so strong. Our constant struggle is to pay attention to the need of the church to anticipate the return of Christ and the fulfillment of the promised kingdom, when our congregations are longing to celebrate Christmas and all the beauty and tradition and sentiment of that season—especially since our culture has been pushing Christmas on us for months now. So, how do we live in the balance? How do we anticipate what is to come, even as we celebrate the traditions and the excitement and the wonder that is Christmas?

We suggest a journey. You've made journeys before in this season: the journey to Bethlehem; perhaps, the journey to Christmas. Perhaps this year, our horizons are a little farther and a little broader. Perhaps this is a journey to a place you have longed for and yet have never quite reached. Perhaps this is a journey you have heard about since you first became a

follower of Jesus. And you are not alone; many have been on this journey and longing for this destination since the beginning of the people of God. So, they will be our partners on this journey, companions as we travel.

In addition, the journey toward and beyond the manger is one of reversing expectations, encountering what we thought we already knew in brand new ways, and receiving good news in unexpected places. So, with one foot in the prophets and another in the Gospels, we journey together as our spirit waits to welcome the Christ child and carry hope, peace, joy, and love as we live as disciples who anticipate the now-and-not-yet kingdom of God.

This year, I invite us to notice something new in the midst of our familiar preparations for Christmas. Isaiah 9:6 says "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Pastor Henry S. Dolopei



The PORT's First 'Trunk or Treat' was a Success!

Members of The Port decorated their vehicles for a first ever 'Trunk or Treat' on Saturday, October 28th. Kings, queens, fishermen, Cookie Monster and many other characters greeted all of the kids and families that came for "treats"! It was great to see a few families walk over from the neighborhood. The bonfire helped keep everybody warm. It was a fun event for all and a great way to "love our neighbors"! We estimated about 60 kids and their families attended. Thank you to all who helped plan and organize this fun fall event!



Bring your family and friends to the Bethlehem Experience

Please join us for a Bethlehem Experience on **Sunday, December 17th from 12 to 2 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We are inviting you to come and help us put on a fun and unique family Christmas event. It is the re-telling of the story of Jesus' birth through games and activities in a carnival-like setting.

Volunteers are still needed for a few games/stations. This entails planning, organizing, setting-up and running the station during the event. If you need help we are here for you! Prizes will be provided by Youth & Family Ministries. We just ask that you bring the supplies for the station you're going to lead.

These games/stations still need volunteers: Sheep Herding, Stable Bowling, Prophecy Bean Bag Toss, Where is Jesus?, and Gift of Christmas. Descriptions and instructions for each one can be found at the Welcome Desk or in the email that was sent on 11/28.

There will be a light lunch for all and prizes will be provided for each station. Invite your friends and grandkids! Please sign up on the RSVP sheet at the Welcome Desk so we know how many are coming to play! Any questions or to volunteer please contact Janene Haugen at 612-940-4408 or jane-nahaugen@charter.net.

Spiritual Growth

DECEMBER Volunteer Schedules for Sundays - 12/31 is below

	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24 10:00 am	Dec 24 10:00 pm
Welcomer/ Greeter	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler	Jeff Chamberlain Mary Nelson	Julie Rasmussen Joanne Volden	Nora Joaquim Jocelyn Medzagoh	Tim Hagerty Kate Hagerty
Ushers	Bruce Benson Melinda Matton Pam Rose Kathy Soucy	Trenton Olson Myron & Ginny Karki	Scott Swenson Greg Jurek Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Jocelyn Medzagoh	Trenton Olson Melinda Matton Pam Rose
Reader	Mary Nelson	Paul Richardson	John Hepola	Greg Jurek	Neil Anderson
Sound	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Dave Smith	Eric Richardson- Mahre
Media	Nancy Hagerty	Dave Smith	Barb Andrus	Dave Smith	Nancy Hagerty
Livestream Tech	Tim Hagerty	Daisy Castro	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	No Livestream
Closer	Steve Knopp	Tom Wellman	Harvey Erstad	Wayne Andersen	Harvey Erstad
Counters	Pam Rose Mike Moreland	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose JoAnne Volden	Dave Smith JoAnne Volden	Pam Rose



Volunteers for Sunday, Dec 31

Welcomer/Greeter	Bryan & Traci Darnell
Ushers	Bruce Benson, Myron & Ginny Karki, Curt Willhite
Reader	Youth
Sound	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Barb Andrus
Livestream Tech	Clint Andrus
Closer	Scott Swenson
Counters	Dave Smith, Mike Moreland



December Mission Outreach Project— Feed My Starving Children

Date: Saturday, December 30, 2023

Time: 9:00 am - 10:45 am

Location: 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136,
Eagan, MN, 55121

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

A Thank You from Cornerstone

The PORT's \$500 donation in June was appreciated!

Dear Friends at Portland Avenue United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Cornerstone in support of meals for our families. We are so grateful – your gift allowed us to host a cook-out for over 50 people this past week as we said goodbye to summer and geared up for the new school year.

We thank you for all the ways you support Cornerstone!

Courtney Poja



So thoughtful of you!



We want to extend a big “thank you” to Melinda Matton for blessing our altar with these beautiful bouquets. Melinda is an award-winning master gardener and at the end of the growing season she took the time to create 25 bouquets for our church and then she invited people to take them home after the service.

Thank you, Melinda, for sharing your beautiful flowers with us!

March to the Manger

The 2023 March to the Manger Christmas mailing will be prepared soon. The offering will be received during worship on December 17. Please consider a special Christmas donation to complete the calendar year. Contributions may also 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.



Holiday Bazaar Thank You

Bazaar Raises over \$10,000

Our Annual Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures was another great success! We continue to be amazed at how our church comes together for this event. If this was your first time participating, we hope you had a good time and will volunteer again!

We want to thank Sue Wells for her leadership of the Thursday morning workshop group. Those ladies are talented and dedicated. They lost Carol Cox and Marcie Huser this year out of their group and still produced so many adorable items! Thank you for your handiwork ladies! Our Tuesday evening group is small but mighty too and we had a really good time creating our items. You are all just great, and we love that we share ideas for projects or how to improve on an idea we have found. Both groups are seeking members for next year's crews, so consider joining us. We will take a break until around March when we will begin again.

Nancy Hagerty, Barb Andrus and Kathy Swenson took charge of the Bistro and made such delicious food. One couple came for lunch and dinner on Friday and came back for lunch again on Saturday! Our food is a big draw, and adds so much to the atmosphere. Thank you ladies for all you made, and to Clint Andrus for making the yummy pulled pork.

Pam Rose kept track of the money and our earnings and she did it well. It's a big job, Pam, and we appreciate you!

Thank you to Janene Haugen, Traci Darnell, Becky Rice, Beth Cameron and their families for running the Attic Treasures. You have these sales down to a science, and it really is impressive.

The bakery is a big job, run handily by LaVonne Robinson and Sue Wells. You both worked the entire event, and a long day on Thursday as well. We would be lost without your expertise on how to price and package things. The table always looks beautiful.

Huge thanks to our Port family for all of your delicious baking! We put out a plea on Friday for more baked goods and boy, did you all answer so we were able to have a nice assortment of goods for Saturday. Our guests were very happy!

We had a lot of help setting up and running the event, too many to mention! Thanks to all of you for taking some time out to help put our best foot forward and show off the PORT's talents. Again we received comment after comment on how nice everything looked, on how good the food was, and expressed gratitude for having the event. That is something to be proud of, for sure.

Our mom, Donna, lived the Bazaar 24/7 and 365, as have so many other folks in the church. Our team has taken up the torch and plans are underway for next year's event, which will be our 50th!! We hope to have our best Bazaar yet!

Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

Lynn and Lori Livingston

Get Your Lefse and Fruitcakes Here!

We still have Freddy's lefse in the freezer that we'd love to sell. Our prices are about 30% less than retail.

Large packs have 10 sheets (20 ounces) - \$10.50

Small packs have 6 sheets (8 ounces) - \$6.50

We also have some Claxton Fruitcakes available for \$7.00 each, which is also about 30% less than retail.

They'll be available after church or you can call the office to pick them up during office hours.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

K F A M I L Y T R N K B J L H
Y M U T J C O R B S X G O J H
Y U P L R C A R O L S I Y I F
Y C M R R E Q N W E E V E N N
L H F E E P E H D N D I J G O
S R B T D S C S S Y W N G L R
Y I Q M T Y E R C M C G S E T
U S T O C K I N G S J A E I H
U T L I G H T S T G S D N W P
L M F L I O V S M S N J S E O
K A V F X B I Z G I I G D T L
B S R E B Z S L E I G H X C E
F K Y O L Q H R N S N O W R U
X N L R J F Z C D N D E X X V
H S T A R W S A N T A T L V M

BOW	FAMILY	NORTH POLE	SNOW
CANDY CANE	GIVING	PRESENTS	STAR
CAROLS	JINGLE	REINDEER	STOCKINGS
CHRISTMAS	JOY	SANTA	TREES
ELF	LIGHTS	SLEIGH	

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

Address Correction:

Pat & Floyd Ekstrom
15380 Garret Ave., Apt. 406
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Hanging of the Greens and Bingo!



Join us this Saturday, December 2 at 10am for our "Hanging of the Greens", as we decorate the church for Advent. We would love to see you all there! We will have trees to decorate and we will make some new ornaments as well. More hands make light work, as they say.

After the work is done, it will be time for fun! We will enjoy hot dogs and nachos for lunch! We're providing the hot dogs, buns, chips and nacho cheese sauce. If you wish, you can bring something extra to dress up the nachos or hot dogs, and bring a holiday treat or dessert to share as we play Christmas Bingo from 12:00 - 1:30. Win some prizes!! If you can only come for bingo, come hungry! Contact Lynn Livingston with questions at 952-797-2645.

Tis the season to share our greetings! Bring your Christmas card to hang on our narthex bulletin board to share your greetings with our PORT family. Merry Christmas!



Order Your Gift Cards by December 3

An order for gift cards will be placed December 3. Order forms are on the Welcome Desk. Completed order forms can be given to Dave or 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.



TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 ADVENT: JOY 10:00am Worship/ Communion 11:15am Confirmation	4 6:30pm Church Council	5	6 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Prayer Meeting 7:30pm Confirmation	7	8	9
10 ADVENT: LOVE 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School 11:15am Congregational Care Meeting	11	12	13 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Worship Lead- ers' Rehearsal 7:30pm Confirmation	14 Newsletter Deadline	15	16
17 ADVENT: PEACE 10:00am Worship/ March to the Manger/ Children's Program 12:00pm Bethlehem Experience in Fellowship Hall	18	19	20 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Confirmation	21	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 10:00am Worship 10:00pm Candlelight Worship 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 10:00am Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 	26	27 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Worship Lead- ers' Rehearsal 7:30pm Confirmation	28	29	30

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

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>

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