

THE PORTLIGHT

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

February 2024

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Lent

*Create in me
a clean heart,
O God, and
renew a right
spirit within me.*

PSALM 51:10, ESV

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, February 14. Join us on this day of love to renew and prepare your heart for the journey through the Lenten Season.

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 in Christ!

Grace and peace to you as we embark on a journey of reflection, meditation, worship, and service over the course of the next several weeks in February and March. We are invited to embrace the Lenten season.

Lenten Season starts on February 14, 2024 which is called Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is about refocusing and realigning ourselves in relationship to God and one another. We must encounter our sinfulness and frailty not with shame and blame but with honesty and truth, trusting that God receives our confession.

The Season of Lent is a time of self-reflection, of spiritual examination. While that is a healthy and necessary exercise, we don't examine ourselves in isolation. Instead, we are invited to lay our lives alongside the life of Jesus. It is a sobering exercise to say the least. And yet, what we discover in this examination of his life and ours, is not condemnation or recrimination. Instead, we are overwhelmed, the farther we go on this journey with him, by the depths of love he has for all of us. Lent is a time for getting our spiritual house in order, that is true. But above all, it is an invitation to once again commit to love like Christ loves.

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."—Romans 12:1-2

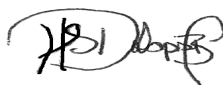
Paul writes to the Romans that we believers are called to study, worship, and renew our minds and in so doing, we may know the perfect will of God. Just as we marvel over the circumstances of Christ's entrance into our world during Advent, we can also find ourselves amazed at the ability, creativity, and love of God. During Lent, we ponder how Jesus left this world only to rise from the grave to sit at God's holy, heavenly hand.

After spending forty days being tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Jesus stayed busy. During His last week on earth: he cleared the temple, cursed the fig tree, teaches the Sermon on the Mount—and that's just the first two days. In fact, the majority of the Gospels focus on this latter part of Christ's life.

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 decided 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. I would like to invite you and your family to join me as we prepare for a time of tremendous spiritual growth and renewal in learning more about our Savior—His last earthly days and the glory of the days to come. I will have a signup sheet in the narthex for members to pray and read scripture.

Blessings in Christ,



Pastor Henry



Lenten Schedule at The PORT:

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. We will have our worship service of scripture, music and ashes at 7pm. Please join us.

Mark your calendar for the following Lenten worship dates, with more details coming in the March Portlight and during our Sunday worship services:

- Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday/Good Friday with communion on March 28th, 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, March 31, 10:00 a.m.

We will be taking orders for our Easter garden plants starting Sunday, 2/4 and throughout February. Order forms will be on the Welcome Desk.

FEBRUARY Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
Welcomer/ Greeter	Megan Mahre	Barb & Clint Andrus	Greg Jurek	Trenton Olson
Ushers (*denotes head usher)	Trenton Olson* Wayne Anderson Sharon Beckler Mike Moreland	Bruce Benson* Greg Jurek Kathy Soucy Curt Willhite	Wayne Andersen* Sharon Beckler Ginny Karki Myron Karki	Bruce Benson Laurette Lawson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy
Reader	Kathy Bell	Melinda Matton	John Hepola	Youth
Sound	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Barb Andrus	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty
Livestream Tech	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Daisy Castro	Tim Hagerty
Closer	Tom Wellman	Steve Knopp	Harvey Erstad	Don Anderson
Counters	Tom Wellman, Steve Soucy	Dave Smith Steve Soucy	Dave Smith Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose, Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	Dan & Tracy Baker	Important: If you have a conflict and cannot serve, it is your responsibility to find a replacement and to notify the church office of the change. Thank you.		

Media Volunteers Needed

Do you have a knack for creating interesting documents? If so, we have the job for you! We are looking for volunteers to transfer the weekly bulletin into PowerPoint documents and to present them during Sunday morning worship. You will need access to a computer and knowledge of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. (If you don't have Office 365 access, the church can provide online access to it.) Depending on your skill set, it can take from 1 to 3 hours to create the PowerPoint slides. The work can be completed between Thursday and Saturday and then you would click through the slides during Sunday worship.

Currently, the Media Staff is Barb Andrus, Dave Smith, Nancy Hagerty, and Tim Madsen. With the new volunteer we can maintain a schedule of about once per month, unless we need to cover for somebody with a scheduling conflict. Please reach out to us with any questions or to express your interest in joining our team. This is a great way to be of service to the church.

Address Changes: Please update your Member Directory.

Chasity (Chaz) Brobst
615 N. 7th St., Unit 2
Bismarck, ND 58501

Gregory Christensen
2815 44th Street
Des Moines, IA 50310



The staff at The PORT would like to thank each of you for your kindness and thoughtfulness.



Our Christmas cards and gifts of appreciation were heartfelt and meant so much to each of us. We are very happy to be working with so many wonderful people!

With our gratitude,
Pastor Henry, Lori and Dale

Feed My Starving Children & Care Packages

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

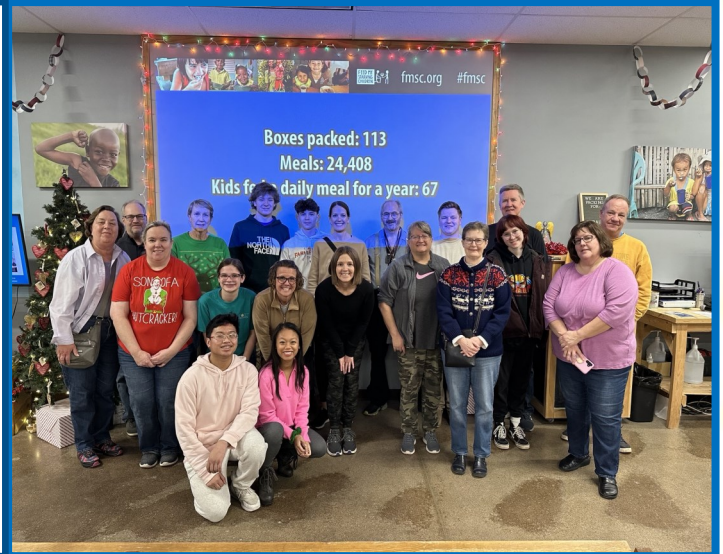
On December 30, 2023, individuals from PAUMC went to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan. The overall session packed 25,056 meals which will feed 69 kids for a year.

Our table, which had 21 volunteers, made 5,262 meals that will feed 14 kids for a year! Our boxes were shipped to the Philippines and Zambia.

Our \$500.00 cash donation will also provide 1,724 meals to hungry kids around the world.

Thank you to all the Volunteers and to those who donated to help fund the event! We had a great time!

~ Nancy Hagerty, Mission Outreach Co-Chair



Care Packages for the Homeless

The idea of the care packages came from a conversation with Lori Livingston as she told a group of us that she gets 1-3 individuals seeking help each week, and she wanted to have something to give them instead of just sending them away. That one comment sparked interest in creating a care package that included some essential supplies and a resource list. The Brazilian Church of Hope, who worships in our Fellowship Hall every Sunday, offered to partner with us in purchasing and assembling the supplies.

On Saturday, January 20th, members from The Port and the Brazilian Church came together to create over 60 care packages for the homeless. Each bag contains handwarmers, socks, fruit snacks, crackers, a small flashlight with batteries, lip balm, disposable toothbrush with toothpaste, alcohol prep pads and 2 large bandages along with a small laminated card with our church logos that includes helpful resource numbers in the community.

After the packing was done, the Brazilian Church treated all of those participating to pizza and we continued socializing with each other. It was a fun way to get to know the other church and we're looking forward to the next event!



Baptism:

Wyatt French was baptized during worship on January 14th. Wyatt is 18 and from Somerset, WI. He was not baptized as a child due to having parents of different beliefs. He came to the Port after starting to date Emery (Emma) in July.

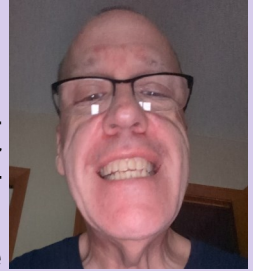
Wyatt felt at home at PAUMC and one Sunday Pastor Henry was talking about remembering our baptism. When Wyatt heard that he started to reflect on never being baptized as a child and made the decision to talk to pastor about being baptized. Pastor Henry was happy to help Wyatt with this very important step in his Christian journey. Wyatt is going to continue to worship at the Port as often as he can.

Please welcome this ice-cream-loving member of the Christian faith when you see him at the PORT!



Welcome our New Custodian!

We are excited to announce the addition of our new Custodian, PORT member Greg Jurek. Greg took over the position late last year and has been working diligently to keep our church looking clean and fresh. The next time you see Greg take a minute to welcome him to his new position.



We want to thank Greg, for his hard work and for his service to the Port.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

- John Wesley

A Note from Staff Parish Relations Committee:

PORT Members - As we begin the new year, we are dedicated to reaching out to our community and actively working to grow our church. We are partnering in faith with the other churches we share space with to attract new members to each of our unique ministries.

When we each committed to joining the Methodist Church one of the vows we took is to share our time and talents. One of the goals of our Leadership Team is to encourage each member of the Port to find an area where you can contribute your time and talents. Each and every one of us has unique gifts and ideas to contribute that will help us to grow our church. Sometimes, the idea of committing to a committee sounds overwhelming or too time consuming. I assure you when we all contribute and work together it helps reduce that overwhelming commitment and you can help determine your level of service. Through my time serving on various committees my relationships with other members has grown, we've had fun in the process, and we've all grown in faith and fellowship together.

In the coming month we will be listing areas of need and talking about specific groups that are in need of members. I encourage you to reach out and ask questions about areas you may be interested in; inquiry doesn't equal commitment. Join in a meeting or two to understand what it's all about and where you might be able to share your gifts. Most importantly, pray on it and listen to where God may be leading you in service to the PORT. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Barb Andrus
bcandrus80@gmail.com



February's Mission Outreach Project — Sandwiches for the Dignity Center

On Sunday, February 11th, we will participate in making sandwiches for Dignity Center during the Worship Service. Dignity Center is based at Hennepin Avenue UMC. Rev. Margaret Kelly advised that they go through about 100 sandwiches per week!

How to prepare the sandwiches:

Bread: 2 slices of white or whole wheat (no multigrain or seeded breads or heels of bread). Each 1½ pound bread loaf will make 9-10 sandwiches.

Meat: Oven Roasted Turkey Breast (no other types of meat please)

Cheese: Cheddar or American

Spread: None (no butter, margarine, or condiments)

Put each sandwich in a resealable sandwich bag and place all bags back into the original bread loaf bag.

So we can plan how many people will help and/or bring items, please sign up at the Welcome Desk. This will help us identify additional items that will need to be purchased. If you wish to make your own bread bag(s) of sandwiches at home, please let one of us know, and we will work out a meet-up time. Thank you!

~ Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose, Mission Outreach Co-Chairs

Valley View Elementary Mitten and Glove Drive Donations

Thanks to your generosity, our January Mitten and Glove Drive for the kids at Valley View school was a huge success! We dropped off 58 pairs of mittens, 4 sets of hats and gloves, 4 headbands, 5 scarves and 1 hat. They were thrilled to receive our donations!

The Mission Outreach Team thanks all who participated in this fundraiser!

~ Nancy Hagerty, Mission Outreach Co-Chair



Congregational Care

Join Us for Football Lovers' Bingo!

Congregational Care invites you to join us for "Football Lovers' Bingo" on Saturday, **February 10 at 1:30pm**. That weekend is both Superbowl and Valentine's weekend, so we're combining the two themes!

Invite a friend, bring snacks to share, and come for fun bingo games and prizes. Dress for football or Valentine's Day, if you wish. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk so we know how many people to expect. Call Lynn Livingston (952-797-2645) or Kathy Soucy (612-226-2085) with any questions. Hope to see you there!



Happy Birthday, February Friends!

- 05 - Trenton Olson
- 08 - JoAnne Volden
- 09 - Audrey Bartels
- 11 - Delton Krueger
- 18 - Rod Anderson
- Henry Fischer
- 21 - Kay Livingston
- Lexi Wells

Blessings on your birthday!





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

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

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Communion	5 6:30pm SPRC (Zoom)	6 6:30pm SPRC (Zoom)	7 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Room) 6:30pm Lenten Book Study 7:30pm Confirmation	8	9	10 1:30pm Football Lovers' BINGO!
11 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School 11:00am Confirmation	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17
18 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship	19	20	21 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	22	23	24
25 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/ Sunday School	26 6:30pm Church Council (Zoom)	27	28 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Room) 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal 7:30pm Confirmation	29 Leap Day 		

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: 203-508-4874
Lori Livingston (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org Office: 952-888-6070
Dale Miller (Accompanist) miller.daler@gmail.com
Judy Richardson-Mahre (Sonrise Director) jembrm@charter.net
Greg Jurek (Custodian)

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