

# THE PORTLIGHT

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

January 2024

Contents:

P.2 - Pastor's Letter

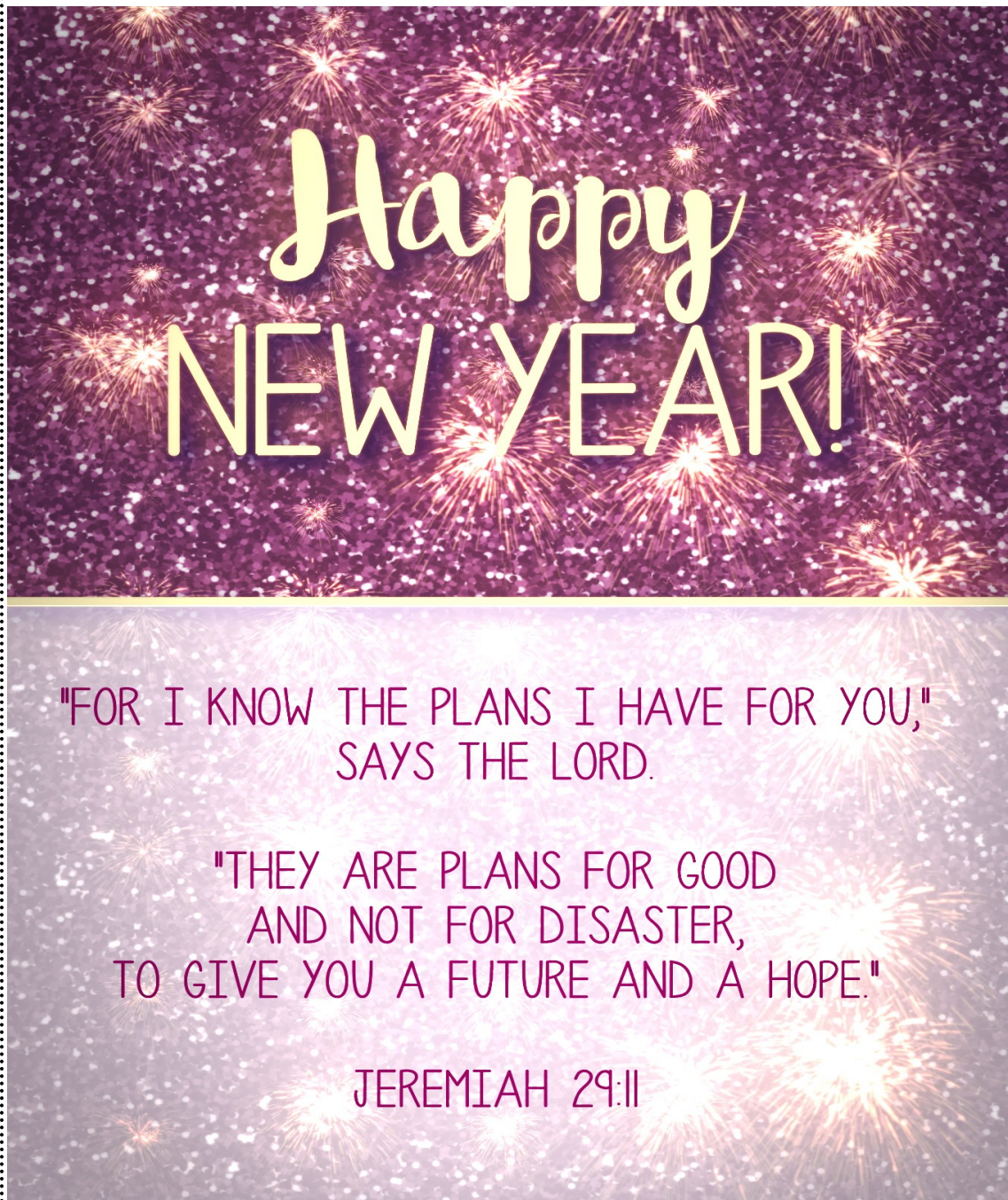
P.3 - January Volunteer Schedules; Birthdays

P.4 - Missions Outreach

P.5 - Family Ministries: Bethlehem Experience pictures

P.6 - Pictures of Kids' Christmas Program, and Worship Services

P.7 - January Calendar



**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,

Greetings in Christ!

It's a New Year, and a New Beginning! Are you excited? Are you worried? Are you anxious? Are you expecting? Are you thankful? Are you planning? Whatever you are feeling, Jesus Christ is still Lord. Enter the New Year with Jesus Christ. As you know, Jesus refers to Himself as the Alpha and Omega in Revelation 22:13 (NKJV), "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." I am thankful, we are still on this journey and Jesus Christ is on this journey with us.

Friends, new beginnings can be both exciting and intimidating. They represent a chance to start fresh and make positive changes in our lives, but they also require us to let go of the familiar and step into the unknown.

As we start a new year, it is a natural time to reflect on the past and set goals for the future. But as Christians, it is important that our goals are not just about achieving personal success or happiness, but rather about honoring God and living according to His will.

One way to set godly goals is to start by prayerfully seeking guidance from God. Take time to listen to His voice and ask for His direction in your life. The Bible says in Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." When we seek God first, He will lead us and give us the desires that align with His will for our lives.

Another way to set godly goals is to consider how they will impact others. As followers of Jesus, we are called to love and serve others. Therefore, our goals should be focused on how we can bless and serve those around us, rather than just seeking our own personal gain.

It is also important to remember that achieving our goals may not always be easy, and we may face challenges and setbacks along the way. But we can trust that God is with us and will give us the strength and guidance we need to persevere. The Bible says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who gives me strength."

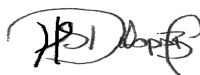
In conclusion, setting godly goals for the new year is about seeking guidance from God, focusing on how our goals can impact others, and trusting in His strength and guidance to help us achieve them. May God bless your journey towards living a life that honors Him.

PORT members, let's encourage one another to embrace the work of the church. Thanks to you all for putting in the time to serve The PORT. Also, we still need more volunteers to serve on the various committees this year. Please do not sit by and let the few continue to do the work. Some are getting burned-out. Pastor Henry will be coming to you to ask you to serve. Please don't say no. Thanks.

I trust you will have a Happy New Year!

In Christ,

Pastor Henry



Pastor Henry Dolopei II



## JANUARY Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Welcomer/ Greeter	Neil Anderson	Melinda Matton	Beth Cameron	Youth
Ushers	Bruce Benson* Laurette Lawson Melinda Matton Scott Swenson	Wayne Andersen* Sharon Beckler Greg Jurek Jocelyn Medzagoh	Scott Swenson* Greg Jurek Myron Karki Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson* Melinda Matton Pam Rose Kathy Soucy
Reader	Pam Rose	Kate Hagerty	Neil Anderson	Youth
Sound	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Dave Smith
Media	Barb Andrus	Dave Smith	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty
Livestream Tech	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Daisy Castro	Tim Hagerty
Closer	Clint Andrus	Steve Knopp	Tom Wellman	Don Anderson
Counters	Dave Smith JoAnne Volden	Pam Rose JoAnne Volden	Pam Rose JoAnne Volden	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy
Communion Stewards	Tracy & Dan Baker	Can YOU serve on a Sunday? Tell the office or any volunteer!		



## Congregational Care

### Happy Birthday to all of our JANUARY friends!

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         | 27- Daniel Wilson  |
| 02 - Don Anderson     | - Inge Lystad            | 28 - Traci Darnell |
| - Kathy Soucy         | 14 - Nancy Stinson       | 29 - Pastor Henry  |
| 03 - Viola Mitchell   | 15 - Merlin Gilbertson   |                    |
| 05 - Emma Mahre       | 22 - Dan Matton          |                    |
| 06 - Marilyn Anderson | 25 - Dale Miller         |                    |
| 08 - Megan Mahre      | - Dominick Wells         |                    |
| 10 - Jael Medzagoh    | 26 - Gregory Christensen |                    |



# Mission Outreach

## January Mission Outreach—Mitten and Glove Drive for Valley View Elementary

Heather at Valley View Elementary says the school is in need of Mittens and Gloves. This is the item that they go through the quickest and when I discussed it with her on December 4th, she wrote that they only had a few pairs left! They would prefer water & snow proof mittens and gloves, but even the stretchy inexpensive ones are needed! (For kids ages 5 to 11). Thank you in advance for your support!

Please bring your donations to worship or drop them off during office hours by Sunday, January 21st. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please write Valley View on the check memo or donate online at <https://paumc.org/giving>. We look forward to seeing how many pairs of mittens and gloves we can provide!

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

## Missions' Updates:

**VEAP:** After the Bazaar, Kathy Soucy dropped off items raised for VEAP and we donated just over 105 pounds worth of items! Great job everyone!

**Give a Little Gift:** The Port was able to donate \$200 to Walker Methodist for their Give a Little Gift Program. Thank you to all who donated!

## **NEW! Email address for Mission Outreach:**

To reach our Mission Outreach team with any questions or Mission Outreach ideas, please use our new email! [ThePortMissionTeam@hotmail.com](mailto:ThePortMissionTeam@hotmail.com)



## Scholarships Available from the Minnesota Annual Conference

The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's (GBHEM) Office of Scholarships is accepting applications for the general scholarship program. If you're an active member of The United Methodist Church and you're seeking financial assistance to help pay for your education, we encourage you to apply!

Each year, we award an average of \$5.5 million to help students in the United States and abroad pursue their dreams through higher education.

Our Scholarships Department administers over 70 scholarship programs with one general application. Students are permitted to submit one application per year where it will be screened for all possible eligible programs.

Scholarship programs are divided into three categories:

General Scholarships

HBCU Scholarships

Ministry as a Career Scholarships

The deadline to complete the application is March 13, 2024.

Please email [umscholar@gbhem.org](mailto:umscholar@gbhem.org) for more information.



# Pictures from the Bethlehem Experience held December 17:



Thank you to all who helped with the Bethlehem Experience and to all who came to “experience”. We ate, we played, and we created. The gingerbread nativity station was a big hit for young and older! Lots of creativity!



# Children's Christmas Program and Christmas Eve Service...



Above: Confirmation youth (Oliver, Henry, Jr., and Joshua) helping with Advent reading and candle lighting.  
Below: The beautiful Christmas Eve Candelight Service.

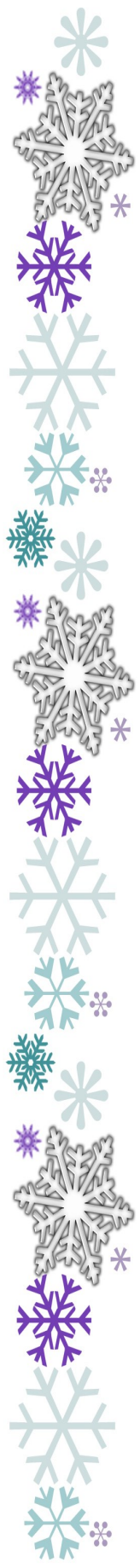


The Sunday School kids performed "The Night of Surprises" and blessed us with songs to share the hope of the season.



# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>	2	3 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Prayer Meeting 7:30pm Confirmation	4	5	6 <b>EPIPHANY</b>
7 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship/Communion	8	9 6:00 pm Trustees Mtg.	10 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal (Wesley Rm) 7:30pm Confirmation	11	12	13 Newsletter Deadline
14 <b>HUMAN RELATIONS DAY</b>	15 6:30pm Church Council (via Zoom)	16	17 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Confirmation	18	19	20 1pm-7pm Confirmation Event at Messiah UMC, Plymouth
21 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship and Sunday School	22	23	24 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal (Wesley Rm) 7:30pm Confirmation	25	26	27
28 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship and Sunday School	29	30	31 5:30pm Casual Dinner Together (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal (Wesley Rm) 7:30pm Confirmation	<b>TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch">https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch</a></li> </ul>		



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](mailto:hdolopei@paumc.org) 952-888-6070

Lori Livingston (Administrative Assistant) [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org)

Dale Miller (Accompanist) [miller.daler@gmail.com](mailto:miller.daler@gmail.com)

Judy Richardson-Mahre (SonRise Singers Director) [jembrm@charter.net](mailto:jembrm@charter.net)

Greg Jurek (Custodian)

---

Church Office E-mail: [PAUMC@paumc.org](mailto:PAUMC@paumc.org) PAUMC Website: [www.paumc.org](http://www.paumc.org)

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

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