

THE PORTLIGHT

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



September 2024

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***JOIN US FOR
RALLY SUNDAY,
9/8/24, 10:00***

**We're excited to welcome everybody
back from the summer break!**

**Join us at 10:00am for Worship with
Communion and Sunday School
for kids & youth.**

**Stay for Coffee Fellowship at 11:00am.
We can't wait to see you there!**

Our Mission

*"To grow followers of Jesus
who change the world."*

Our Vision

*"To be a safe harbor along
life's journey."*

ThePORT
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor's Message

Greetings in Christ!

Once again, we are coming to the close of another Summer. For many, it seems the summer days go by way too fast. During the month of September, as many are settling back into their schools and jobs following vacations, it is good to come back together and remember who we are and what we believe.

We are united under the Gospel of Jesus Christ as one body. We have common beliefs, purposes and goals, and spending time together strengthens our bonds, drawing us closer together and helping each of us to sharpen our faith "...as iron sharpens iron." (Proverbs 27:17 NIV)

Also, during the close of summer, this is a time for people to look to the church once again for inspiration and fellowship. Thus, Sunday, September 8, 2024 is Rally Sunday and we are so excited! We are kicking off our Fall season with this special service and time of fellowship. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your family and friends as we explore what it means to be a part of the church, and why we feel that it is so important.

Here at The PORT, we want to be a welcoming church so that when people are looking for a church to attend, their search stops right here! While we would love to see our church grow, this is far from being the only reason to be a welcoming church. We live in a day and age that people need to hear the truth of the Word of God which is constant and true even in a world of relativism regarding moral truths.

We are created to be in fellowship and community, and it is our desire to reach out and encourage people to become a part of the fellowship of believers in Jesus Christ. The early church was built by people who invited their friends and family to come and hear the Good News... and we have the opportunity to do that today.

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2: 46-47)

As we come back together after our vacations, it is our fervent prayer that we will be of "one mind", and will seek not only to reengage in the church but also to remind ourselves of the hope that we have and the privilege that we share to worship freely which is denied to so many around the world.

Blessings,



Pastor Henry



PORT Happenings

The Good Lord provided us with a beautiful morning for our annual Outdoor Worship Service and BBQ Lunch on August 18th. We had a large turnout and it was great to catch up with friends and hear about how everybody had been spending their summers. Thank you to all who helped by praying, planning, setting up, cooking, and cleaning up! Our PORT Family sure does hospitality well!



IMPORTANT HOLIDAY BAZAAR NEWS:

Did you know that our church is famous? We are known throughout the Minnesota Methodist Conference and our local community as the church with the “great Holiday Bazaar”! This November 8th & 9th will mark the 50th anniversary of this big event. We should be very proud of this longstanding heritage and labor of love! 50 years!! Not many things last that long in this world anymore, particularly in retail sales! Any and all items sold at our bazaar are handmade by our church members and we staff it ourselves too. So you can see how this requires a full group effort.

Friends, as our Wesleyan Heritage teaches us, we ask EVERY one of YOU to help us as much as you can, as often as you can, in as many ways as you can, and for as long as you can. And this particular ask is not a long commitment! We have less than 12 weeks to go, so here are some ways you can jump in to help:

- ~ Attend either the Thursday morning or Tuesday evening workshop groups to help make goods in assembly line fashion. You don't need to be “crafty”. We can guide you! You also can come when you can, no weekly commitment required.
- ~ If you are “crafty”, consider making and donating some items for our sale. Wood items, like accent signs or shelves, plant stands or foot stools, or toys and small useful items are always in demand.
- ~ If you can sew, knit or crochet, we can use blankets, winter gloves, hats, scarves, kitchen towels, baby items, dog bandanas and blankets, etc.
- ~ Can you paint, make jewelry or pottery, do photography or floral arrangements? All of those items would make great home accessory gifts. And for our bakers, please plan now for what you can contribute to our bake sale!
- ~ You could put together a themed gift basket of new, non-perishable items that we can put out in our silent auction. We will provide the basket and make the display, we just need the goods.

One more big ask – please set aside some extra time the week of the bazaar to help us carry out this important event, including working extra shifts on Friday and Saturday. We can use any and all time you are able to give! Watch for more specific details in the October Portlight. Questions? Please ask Lynn Livingston, Lori Livingston, or Kathy Soucy. Thank you in advance.

September Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Sept 1	Sept 8 Rally Sunday	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29
Welcomers	Lori Livingston	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Kathy Soucy Steve Soucy	Heather Anderson LaVonne Robinson	Heather Anderson - Pat Ekstrom
Ushers	Trenton Olson Kathy Soucy	Scott Swenson Pam Rose	Trenton Olson Myron & Ginny Karki	Bruce Benson Kathy Soucy	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler
Reader	Pam Rose	Trenton Olaon	Christine Hortenbach	Katelyn Hagerty	John Hepola
Sound	Leo Castro	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Leo Castro	Eric Richardson- Mahre
Media	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus
Livestream	Clint Andrus	Tim Hagerty	Daisy Castro	Tim Hagerty	Clint Andrus
Closer	Harvey Erstad	Scott Swenson	Don Anderson	Steve Knopp	Tom Wellman
Counters	Merlin Gilbertson Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	Daniel & Tracy Baker				

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars

Suppers @ The PORT, 5:30pm-7pm on the third Wednesday of each month: 9/18, 10/16, 11/20, 12/18. Free to community and PORT members.

Trunk or Treat on Sunday, 10/27, 4:00 to 6:00pm
(3pm setup in the parking lot)

50th Annual Holiday Bazaar on Fri., 11/8, 9am-6pm,
and Sat., 11/9, 9am-3pm.

We need all of you to take part in these events!
Please invite your friends and neighbors and spread
the word on your social media pages.

Introducing Free Community Monthly SupPORT Dinners

Starting September 18, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, our church will host a free community dinner from 5:30 to 7:00pm. We need YOUR HELP to make this a success! The first dinner, generously funded by the Dolopei Family, will feature spaghetti, garlic bread, and salad.

Please SupPORT this dinner by signing up for the following volunteer opportunities at the Welcome Desk:

- Provide bars or cookies
- Dinner prep (shopping, chopping, cooking)
- Setting tables on Wednesday
- Serving our guests
- Clean-up following the meal

We also hope you will invite your friends and neighbors and bring your family to enjoy this dinner too! Let's get to know our neighbors and show them what a great church we have!

Mission Outreach

Collecting Supplies for Kennedy High School Nurse's Office

For September we are helping the nurse at Bloomington Kennedy's High School stock their closet for kids in need. These items are frequently needed and often difficult to replenish:

- Feminine pads (not super thick but not panty liners, the thin type with wings is the most popular)
- "Regular" tampons
- Granola bars, breakfast bars (Nutrigrain or similar)
- Juice boxes
- Reusable water bottles (for the kids to fill & keep) - gently used, clean bottles are fine
- Black leggings for girls (sizes S-XL, any quantity) - gently used, clean ones are fine
- Socks (ankle or no-show style)

Donations can be dropped off at church in the shopping cart in the narthex.

Thank you, as always, for your generous giving and support.

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



Valley View Elementary School Supply Drive was a SUCCESS!

We were thrilled to deliver the school supplies to Valley View Elementary that were so generously donated during our July School Supply Drive. The chart below is an inventory of everything YOU donated. This year, we also raised \$190 in monetary donations to support students in need. **All of you did an incredible job! THANK YOU!**

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

Item	Count	Item	Count
12 Pack Color Pencils	24	Highlighters	15
12 Pack Pencils	8	Index Card Packs	2
2 Pack Glue Sticks	36	Lead Packs	3
24 Pack Color Pencils	4	Marker Packs	9
24 Pack Crayons	21	Mechanical Pencils	24
Bottle Elmers Glue	1	Pencil Cases	4
Boxes of Tissues	12	Pencil Sharpeners	7
Composition Books	3	Pens	20
Disinfecting Wipes	9	Rulers	3
Dry Eraser Packs	6	Scissors	13
Eraser Packs	7	Sharpies	2
Folders	44	Spiral Notebooks	26



Feed My Starving Children

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Please join us for our annual food packing event at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC). Your hands are so essential in the fight against world hunger – you make it possible for us to keep sending nutritious meals to starving kids worldwide.

WHEN: December 28th

TIME: 9:30-11:15 AM

WHERE: Eagan Packing Center - 990 Lone Oak Road, Suite 136, Eagan, MN 55121

REGISTER ONLINE: Using the Join Code WW8YK1, please register at: <http://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=WW8YK1>

Sign up sheet will be located in the Narthex later in the fall when it's closer to the event.

Congregational Care

Happy Birthday, September Friends!

If you have a birthday during the month but your name isn't on our list, please let us know, so we can update our records for next year.

04 - Ardy Anderson	18 - Oliver Darnell	25 - Clara Haugen
08 - Joaquina Lawson	20 - Travis Runck	27 - Jerry Janes
13 - Hezekiah Dolopei	21 - Joy Plourde	28 - Barb Andrus
15 - Steven Fischer		

Birthday Blessings!



Coffee Fellowship Needs Volunteers!

Please help us keep the coffee time going by signing up to provide treats on a Sunday or two. Plan for about 40 people and arrive early to have the food set out before worship. After fellowship time please clean the tables and sweep the floors. This is a great way to serve The PORT!

Sign up on the clipboard in the Wesley Room. Thank you for volunteering!

C'mon PORT Friends, it's time for some FUN!

Join us on Sunday, 9/22, at 1:00pm, for "The PORT Open", a fun and slightly competitive mini golf outing at The Links at Dred Scott in Bloomington. This is an award-winning 18 hole course with beautiful water features and flowers throughout. Adults are \$11.00, Children 12 & under \$9.00, Seniors 62+ and Veterans are \$9.00. If we get 15 or more players the fees will drop by \$1.00 per person.

The deadline to sign-up is Wed., 9/18. Please do so at the Welcome Desk or call the church office, and include the number of golfers who will be attending.

Questions? Call or text Lynn Livingston at 952-797-2645. We hope to see you there!



Youth & Family Ministries



Sunday School Classes for Kids & Youth Resume on September 8, 2024. Please Join Us!

Classes are offered the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month during worship (September to May). Children from Pre-K (age 4) to 5th grade meet downstairs. Youth in grades 6 to 12 meet in the youth loft.

The Fall 2024 curriculum for the elementary ages focuses on Bible Verses. We will explore key Bible verse meanings and learn about living its message in our everyday lives. We learn through stories, interactive talking, crafts, music, and prayer.

Youth in grades 6 to 12 meet and discuss lessons from the Cokesbury Living in Christ curriculum.

All of us teachers look forward to seeing your children!

~ Janene Haugen, Chair, Youth & Family Ministries

SEPTEMBER

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	2 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	3 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	4	5 9:30am Bazaar Workshop 6:30pm SPRC (Zoom)	6	7
8 Rally Sunday 10:00am Worship/Communion, Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	9 6:00pm Trustees Meeting 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	10	11	12 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	13	14
15 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	16 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	17	18 5:30pm - 7pm SupPORT Monthly Dinner	19 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	20	21
22 10:00am Worship, Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Fellowship 1:00 pm Mini Golf @ The Links at Dred Scott in Bloomington	23	24 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	25	26 9:30am Bazaar Workshop	27	28
29 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	30 6:30pm Church Council (Wesley Room)					



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.
Sunday School is on the 2nd & 4th Sundays during worship.

Staff

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