

THE PORTLIGHT

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



December 2024

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Blessed ADVENT

We direct *our hearts*
and *our worship* now toward
the coming of Jesus
at Christmas. Join us as
we celebrate this
beautiful season
together.



The Advent season begins on Sunday, December 1st and we will be gathering to decorate The PORT at 8:00 am before our worship service. Join us as we decorate the trees, hang the wreaths, and set up our wooden nativity. Refreshments will be provided.

To help us prepare our mind and spirit for Christmas there are some fun activities in this newsletter. Refer to the Advent Reading Plan that offers bible passages for each week of Advent. And don't miss the Advent Calendar that contains simple things to do each day leading up to Christmas. We hope that by taking a few minutes to enjoy these activities you will feel the spirit of the season fill your heart with hope, joy, peace and love.

Please join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00am and on Christmas Eve for our beautiful candlelight service at 10:00pm. We wish you all a very happy, healthy and Merry Christmas!

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

The PORT, Christmas Greetings!

I trust this letter finds you and your family enjoying the Christmas Season as it descends upon us! It brings with it a time of reflection, joy, and profound gratitude. In this season of Advent, we are reminded of the greatest gift ever given – the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time to celebrate the hope, peace, love, and joy that comes from God.

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) “For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” This is one of my favorite scriptures in the Bible. Messages have been shared, songs sung, and devotions read with this scripture at the center of discussion. Here in this scripture, we see the amazing, giving heart of the Father with a glimpse ahead into John 3:16 from the prophet Isaiah in which it says that God “gave His only begotten Son”. As the scripture states, this Gift is for US!

Wonderful – We live in a day when it seems so easy to lose the sense of “wonder”. Between television, the internet, GPS, microwaves, airplanes and automobiles, and a myriad of other things at our fingertips, we must ask the Holy Spirit to open that sense of wonder as we once again consider the Birth of our Savior. This cannot be conveyed through a letter such as this, but only in prayer and reflection in His Word.

Counselor – The Bible is not against counselors, and as a matter of fact lets us know that in a multitude of counselors (Godly ones), there is safety. Proverbs 11:14 (NKJV) “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” Yet, remember who the “Counselor of counselors” is! It is Jesus! In your times of sadness, fear, worry and confusion, I encourage you to go to Him for guidance, and simply sit in His presence listening for His still small voice.

Mighty God – I realize it may be difficult to think of this Baby born in a manger as “mighty God”, but in fact that is exactly what He is! Mighty in meekness! Of course, we know He is no longer the child in a manger, but following His death and resurrection, the Bible declares that now He is seated at the right hand of God the Father making intercession for us! Romans 8:34 (KJV) “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again,

who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

Everlasting Father – In a world where the only thing that really stays the same is change itself, isn't it good to know that we serve a God who is the same yesterday, today and forever? Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Prince of Peace – In all of the wars and rumors of wars around us, it seems like there is so much fighting and difficulty that “rumors of peace” seems more realistic for our day! We know that the ultimate peace in this world will never be accomplished until Jesus takes His rightful place during the Millennial reign. Yet, is this the peace being talked about here? Possibly, but I am so thankful that Jesus is a “peace giver” in the here and now in the Spiritual realm. Luke 2:14 (KJV) “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

May your Christmas be filled with the joy and peace that comes from knowing and loving God. And may the coming year bring you and your loved one's happiness, health, and abundant blessings.

Join us for Advent and Christmas Services this month!

- Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, December 24 at 10:00 pm (Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship)

I trust you have found these words to be an encouragement to you during this busy Christmas Season, and that you will truly continue to keep Christ on the throne of your heart!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Henry S. Dolopei, II



December Schedule for Sunday Volunteers - Christmas Eve is below

	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
Welcomers	Heather Anderson Neil Anderson	Heather Anderson LaVonne Robinson	Heather Anderson Greg Jurek	Greg Jurek	Steve & Kathy Soucy
Ushers	Bruce Benson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson Trent Olson Don Anderson	Bruce Benson Laurette Lawson Pam Rose	Bruce Benson Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler	Trent Olson Kathy Soucy Scott Swenson
Reader	Neil Anderson	Katelyn Hagerty	Melinda Matton	Trent Olson	Pam Rose
Sound	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Leo Castro	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus
Livestream	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Daisy Castro	Tim Hagerty	Scott Swenson
Closer	Wayne Andersen	Wayne Andersen	Harvey Erstad	Don Anderson	Steve Knopp
Counters	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Trenton Olson	Pam Rose Trenton Olson	Pam Rose Trenton Olson
Communion Stewards	Daniel & Tracy Baker				

Volunteers for Christmas Eve, Dec.24, 10:00pm

Welcomer/Greeter	Tim & Katelyn Hagerty
Ushers	Scott Swenson, Pam Rose
Reader	Kathy Soucy
Sound	Tim Madsen
Media	Tim Madsen
Livestream Tech	N/A
Closer	Scott Swenson
Counter	Pam Rose

Our 50th Annual Holiday Bazaar Results

Thank you to everyone who helped with our 50th Annual Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures! We cannot express how grateful we are to have so much support for this huge event. We had 40 gift baskets for the silent auction this year! You were very busy baking goodies for the bake sale, and you made so many beautifully handcrafted items at home and in our workshop groups. You are all so talented! The community really loves our Bazaar and we have a strong reputation for being one of the best around. That's all thanks to you, our fantastic PORT family!

We are very pleased with the results, as we brought in just over \$9,000 from the bazaar, bake sale, and silent auction. Thank you all for your hard work, dedication and support!



Congregational Care

Birthday Blessings to our December Friends!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 02 - Steve Knopp | 18 - Karen Groth |
| 04 - Frederick Wilson-Bahun | |
| 12 - Leo Castro | 24 - Lori Moreland |
| 15 - Daisy Castro | 24 - Mary Murphy |

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



Mission Outreach

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>

A sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome Desk later in the month when it's closer to the event.



Thank You's

We want to extend a huge thank you to our Master Gardener, Melinda Matton, for sharing the last of her garden's flowers for the season with us! She took the time to make over a dozen bouquets that graced our altar and then they were able to be taken home by our members. So beautiful! Thank you Melinda!



We would like to thank our "PORT" family for the huge amount of love and support we've received since the passing of our father, grandfather, great grandfather and partner, Paul Richardson. We thank you all for the notes, visits, kind words and memorials. The loving arms of this church family have greatly touched us all.

Deeply dedicated to PAUMC, Dad spent many years on the trustees taking care of things down at church. In going through his (MANY) church files at his house, he had saved everything - drawings, research and plans for the many projects that he was involved in dating back more than 60 years.

Dad LOVED this church, and the Richardson family consid-

ered the PORT, a HUGE extension of our biological family. You have all been there for us through the good times as well as the difficult times and for that we are thankful.

As a new generation, who keep losing the intricate founders of this church, we have a huge challenge ahead of us..... to pick up the mantle left behind from SO many amazing people, and carry it forward in faith, hope and love.

With sincere and deep love and appreciation, we thank our entire family at the PORT and we thank God for the life of Dad.

The Entire Paul Richardson Family





Children & Youth Christmas Program

The children and youth will be helping with an interactive Christmas program on December 22nd during the worship service at 10am. You will not want to miss "The Christmas Light" program!

Please join us!



For
to us
a child
is born,
to us
a son
is given.



Isaiah 9:6

The Youth and Family Ministries Team would like to thank everyone who helped make the Attic Treasures a successful sale this year. We donated numerous items to families in need and still exceeded all prior sales. (Note: A reminder that we will not be having a spring sale in 2025.)

Our 3rd graders received their Bibles during worship on November 10. Congratulations!



Nativity Word Scramble

- STBALE _____
- HEEPS _____
- NLGEA _____
- TSAR _____
- GAMREN _____
- JHPOES _____
- OENYDH _____
- EUSSJ _____
- SHNGI _____
- YMAR _____



Word Search

H	R	L	Y	V	E	L	A	B
O	B	L	E	S	S	O	A	R
L	R	G	I	F	T	V	S	A
Y	E	G	F	P	S	E	B	T
J	O	Y	A	T	A	E	B	S

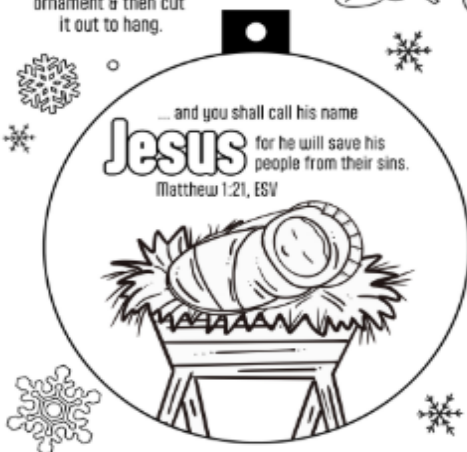
JOY, LOVE, GIFT, HOLY, BLESS, STAR



Help Mary & Joseph find the way to Bethlehem.



Color the Christmas ornament & then cut it out to hang.



Merry
Christmas

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Advent Activities for All - Read, Pray, Give, be Kind

The Season of *Advent*
READING PLAN

Hope

- ◊ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◊ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◊ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◊ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◊ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◊ Day 6: Titus 2:11-3:8

Joy

- ◊ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◊ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◊ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◊ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◊ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◊ Day 18: John 15:1-11

Peace

- ◊ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◊ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◊ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◊ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◊ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◊ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

Love

- ◊ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◊ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◊ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◊ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◊ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◊ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5
- ◊ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10

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Advent Word Search

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

ANGEL
ANTICIPATION
CANDLES
EMMANUEL
FOUR
HOPE
JESUS

JOSEPH
JOY
LIGHT
LOVE
MARY
PEACE
PINK

PREPARATION
PURPLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
WAITING
WREATH



Use this Advent Calendar as it is written or to spark some creative ideas of your own. It's a great way to sprinkle in some random acts of kindness for others each day. Have fun and challenge your family members to do it with you! Just think of the positive ripple effect this could have around you!




advent CALENDAR

Perform a random act of kindness 1	two Donate food to a local food bank	Have a coloring contest 3	four Buy socks for a homeless shelter	5 Watch a favorite holiday movie
Make or buy a new Christmas ornament 6	Let someone go in front of you in line seven	8 Clean out and donate outgrown toys	Build a snowman out of cotton balls 9	Take cupcakes to your local fire department 10
Decorate a gingerbread house eleven	Help wrap a Christmas present 12	thirteen Leave a happy note for someone to find	Have a game night in your PJs 14	Make paper snowflakes 15
Drink hot cocoa 16	17 Make Christmas cards	18 Bake Christmas cookies	Sing Christmas carols 19	Take a family photo in front of the Christmas tree twenty
Read your favorite Christmas story 21	22 Take a car tour of your local light displays	Deliver Christmas cards to your neighbors 23	Watch or attend a Christmas Eve service twenty four	Read the Nativity story 25



NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1st Sunday of Advent: Hope 8:00am Hanging of the Greens 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	2 6:30 pm Worship Planning Meeting (Wesley Rm)	3	4 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	9	10	11 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	12 January Newsletter Deadline	13	14
15 3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	16	17	18 COMMUNITY DINNERS SUPPORT Monthly Dinner - 5:30pm - 7pm	19	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent: Love 10:00 am Worship / Children & Youth Christmas Program 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	23	24  10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25  Christmas DAY	26	27	28
29 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	30 6:30pm Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	31	 Happy New Year			

Could you serve on Sunday mornings? Please ask any volunteer or contact the church office.

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420



GIVE+
Electronic Giving Options



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Merry
Christmas*

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for in-person and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am.
Sunday School classes for children and youth are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Staff

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