

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



January 2025

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**Join us at The PORT for Family**

**G A M E N I G H T**

**Saturday, January 25th, 5:00–7:30pm**

Bring a friend, your favorite game, snacks to share,  
and your own beverage. Let's have some fun!

## 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.

# Meet Our Interim Pastor

## Announcement from the Minnesota UMC Conference Bishop:

It is the intention of Bishop Lanette Plambeck to appoint the Reverend Steve Reiser as interim pastor of the Portland Avenue United Methodist Church, and acting on behalf of the congregation, the Staff/Pastor/Parish Relations Committee has affirmed the Bishop's intention. Each church member's supportive prayers and acts of kindness during the transition period will be greatly appreciated by all the involved persons.

This is intended to be a six month appointment, and Pastor Steve will be with us on a half-time basis, as he is also serving another UMC community in Oakdale, MN. Pastor Steve will be leading our worship services starting January 5th, so please join us then to welcome him to The PORT.

## Get to know Pastor Steve:

### Family

My wife, Berri, and I have been married for 30 years. We've lived on St. Paul's East Side for 28 years. Berri is an elementary school academic coach at Central Park Elementary in Roseville. We have three children: Lillian – 25 year old, is a post-partum charge nurse at Regions hospital who married Jarrod just this October; Aaron – 22 year old graduate of UMD, who still lives in Duluth and is finishing a stint working with Conservation Corps; and William – 19 year old sophomore at UMD majoring in Mechanical Engineering who also plays lacrosse. We also have a golden doodle, Asher and a Dutch rabbit, Lola.



### What I Do for Relaxation and Fun

I would say that time spent with our dog is exercise, meditation, and fun. I also love spending time with my children. My wife and I follow our youngest son playing UMD lacrosse across the country. We enjoy spending time with our daughter and son-in-law playing board games. I enjoy learning about how to smoke meats and mixing spices.

### Education

- M.Div. – United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
- M.F.A. In Scenic Design – Indiana University
- B. A. in Philosophy – Hamline University

### Ministry History

- Silver Lake UMC dba Eastside Ministry, Oakdale – 2021 – Present
- Epworth UMC – Minneapolis, 2016 – 2021
- Non-Appointed – English Ministry Pastor  
Korean Evangelical UMC – Hopkins, MN, 2013 – 2016

### Employment

- Stagehand with Local 13 Minneapolis – 2018 – Present
- Building Maintenance, Safe Transitions – 2005 – 2012
- Technical Director, Instructor; St. Olaf College – 2001 – 2005
- Production Coordinator, Ordway Center – 1999 – 2001
- Technical Director, Illusion Theatre – 1996 – 1999

### Service and Community Involvement

- Thanksgiving Dinner connection/provision for Emma's Place
- Open Arms Meal Deliveries
- Kiwanis Malt Booth
- South Minneapolis UMC Food Distribution Collaboration
- First Aid Station at Epworth during Protests
- Deliveries with Path of Grace UMC & Mounds Park UMC  
Foods, Communion
- Multi-cultural Worship at Mounds Park UMC



## January Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Jan. 19	Jan. 26
<b>Welcomers</b>	Steve & Linda Knopp	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Kathy Bell & John Hepola
<b>Ushers</b>	Scott Swenson Greg Jurek Melinda Matton	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek Laurette Lawson	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Jocelyn Medzagoh	Scott Swenson Wayne Anderson Sharon Beckler
<b>Reader</b>	Neil Anderson	Frederick Wilson- Bahun	John Hepola	Kathy Bell
<b>Sound</b>	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Leo Castro	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre
<b>Media</b>	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty
<b>Livestream</b>	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Trent Olson	Tim Hagerty
<b>Closer</b>	Don Anderson	Scott Swenson	Clint Andrus	Steve Knopp
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Rose Trent Olson	Pam Rose Trent Olson	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Daniel & Tracy Baker			

## Congregational Care

### **Mark your calendars:**

Our Holiday Bazaar and Attic Treasures will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 14 & 15, 2025.

### **Address Correction:**

Fran Carpenter's address is missing the apartment number. Her complete address is 43 W. McKinsey, #123, Severna Park, MD, 21146. Please make this correction in your Membership Directory.

### **In Sympathy:**

Former Member John Perry passed away on 12/20/24. A private memorial service will be held in 2025. Cards can be mailed to the Perry Family at 1 Langer Circle, W. St. Paul, MN, 55118. Memorials to donor's choice.

Longtime member Jerry Solheim passed away on 12/23/24. The memorial service will be held at PAUMC on Saturday, January 18th, at 11:00 with a luncheon following in the Fellowship Hall. Visitation will begin at 10am.

# Congregational Care

## ***Birthday Blessings to our January Friends!***

- |                       |                        |                           |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 - Kumba Sheriff    | 12 - Chaz Brobst       | 25 - Dale Miller          |
| 02 - Don Anderson     | - Inge Lystad          | 26 - Gregory Christensen  |
| - Kathy Soucy         | 14 - Nancy Stinson     | 27 - Daniel Wilson        |
| 05 - Emery Mahre      | 15 - Merlin Gilbertson | 28 - Traci Darnell        |
| 06 - Marilyn Anderson | 22 - Daniel Matton     | 29 - Pastor Henry Dolopei |
| 08 - Megan Mahre      |                        |                           |
| 10 - Jael Medzagoh    |                        |                           |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



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

January's Mission Outreach Campaign is to collect new or gently used snowpants and snow boots for Valley View Elementary School, which is for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Donations can be dropped off in the shopping cart in the narthex or in the church office.

If you would prefer to donate funds please make your check payable to PAUMC and put Valley View School in the memo field.

As always, thank you for your generous giving and support.

Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose,  
Mission Outreach Co-Chairs

**WINTER DRIVE**

Help us **WARM UP** the children of Valley View Elementary by donating new or gently used **SNOWPANTS & BOOTS**

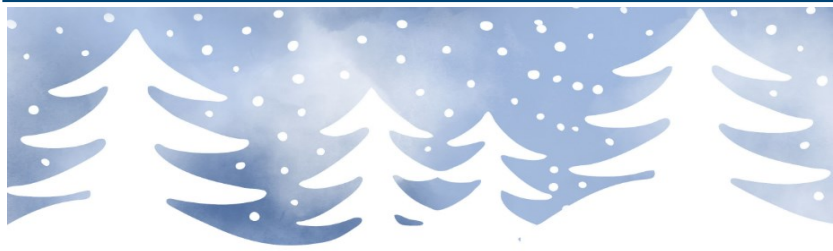
**JANUARY MISSION OUTREACH**

**SPECIAL SUNDAY**

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"  
- REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY**

A special offering will be received on Sunday, January 19, the Sunday before Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Day. It will contribute to building his vision of "the beloved community" by supporting ministries of advocacy and community engagement such as the Community Developers Program, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.



## Children & Youth Christmas Program

The children and youth led us through an interactive program called "The Christmas Light" on December 22nd during the worship service. It was a fun improv-style way to tell the Christmas story that got the congregation involved with easy costumes and props. It included lively music videos that had everybody singing and clapping along. Great fun was had by all! Thank you to all of the organizers and participants!



The two "Christmas trees" getting wrapped with lights.



The two shepherds and three angels.



The three wise men .



Mary and Joseph.

O Lord, let my  
New Year's resolution  
be to  
**follow you**  
**more closely**  
and to  
**trust in your**  
**loving guidance.**

# Our Beautiful Christmas Altar



# Pastor Henry's Goodbye "McParty"








After the worship service on 12/22 we held a goodbye "McParty" for Pastor Henry and his family, as he is heading back to Liberia to tend to some personal matters. Pastor Henry, we thank you for your ministry to the PORT these past 3 years. We wish you and your family all the best in the future and may God keep you safe in your travels.



# JANUARY

TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>5</b> 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>6</b>  EPIPHANY	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>  Happy New Year	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>12</b> 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> February Newsletter Deadline	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>19</b> Human Relations Day 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>20</b>  MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Day	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>  COMMUNITY DINNERS Support Monthly Dinner - 5:30pm - 7pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 11:00am Jerry Solheim Memorial Service
<b>26</b> 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> PORT Family Game Night, 5-7:30pm 

*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**

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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