

THE PORTLIGHT

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



February 2025

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Valentine's Day Is for Christian Love

Valentine's Day is for honoring love;
To show those we love we care.
Red hearts with tender sentiments
We send, our love to share.

So on Valentine's Day we're reminded
Of our very first Christian goal:
To love the Lord with all our heart
And all our mind and soul.

To love our neighbor as ourselves
We are also told to do,
So let's live our love by the Bible;
It's God's word, flawless and true.

If we give this Christian Valentine
first,
We'll never run out of love,
For infinite love will come to us
From God in heaven above.

By Joanna Fuchs



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

Hello New Friends,

I've been with you for a whole month. We've worshipped together four times and connected during a few meetings. I had the privilege to serve a couple of families in their loss and grief as they celebrated the life of a family member. Unfortunately, I got sick and missed a couple of other events and activities during January. In short, it has been quite a whirlwind.

In February, we start month two together. I'm looking forward to it. Are you? Early in February, I have my Ordination Interviews with the Board of Ordained Ministry. I would appreciate your prayers. Also, I encourage you to be in prayer for the Minnesota Annual Conference search for your future appointed Pastor. Continue, also to be in prayer for the Portland Avenue UMC family, for the city of Bloomington, for the state of Minnesota, for the nation, and for the whole world.

We've been encouraged by our bishop to read one chapter each week of Luke, followed by the chapters of Acts. As we move through February, we'll make it up to chapter 8. In worship, we'll be moving through parts of Luke in the lectionary and if you are reading along, you'll be ready to engage with those lectionary texts. Also, you can check out the Minnesota Annual Conference Facebook page for posts about each chapter. If you have questions or observations that you would like to share with me, please connect with me after worship on a Sunday or email me eastsidepastorsteve@gmail.com.

In addition to prayers and readings, I have questions for you all. I'm interested in the story of the PORT and how your story connects to that story and how the story of the PORT is connected to the story of Jesus. Another way for me to ask: how did you come to PAUMC? Why have you stayed? What does the future of PAUMC look like?

What are the members of PAUMC passionate about? How do you follow God's leading in caring for the people in Bloomington?

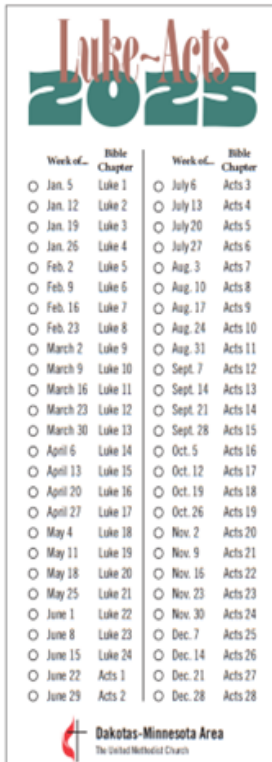
Returning to Luke, we are discovering that there is an emphasis on good news. In Luke 2, the angel brings the shepherds "good news of great joy". In Luke 4, Jesus says that he is "anointed to bring good news to the poor". What is this good news? We too have been sent to bring the good news. How are we bringing good news?

Blessings,


Pastor Steve




For the bishop's challenge, to assist us with keeping track of which Bible chapter needs to be read each week, we have bookmarks available at the Welcome Desk, or one can be mailed out upon request by contacting the church office. Here's a sample:



Week of...	Bible Chapter	Week of...	Bible Chapter
○ Jan. 5	Luke 1	○ July 6	Acts 3
○ Jan. 12	Luke 2	○ July 13	Acts 4
○ Jan. 19	Luke 3	○ July 20	Acts 5
○ Jan. 26	Luke 4	○ July 27	Acts 6
○ Feb. 2	Luke 5	○ Aug. 3	Acts 7
○ Feb. 9	Luke 6	○ Aug. 10	Acts 8
○ Feb. 16	Luke 7	○ Aug. 17	Acts 9
○ Feb. 23	Luke 8	○ Aug. 24	Acts 10
○ March 2	Luke 9	○ Aug. 31	Acts 11
○ March 9	Luke 10	○ Sept. 7	Acts 12
○ March 16	Luke 11	○ Sept. 14	Acts 13
○ March 23	Luke 12	○ Sept. 21	Acts 14
○ March 30	Luke 13	○ Sept. 28	Acts 15
○ April 6	Luke 14	○ Oct. 5	Acts 16
○ April 13	Luke 15	○ Oct. 12	Acts 17
○ April 20	Luke 16	○ Oct. 19	Acts 18
○ April 27	Luke 17	○ Oct. 26	Acts 19
○ May 4	Luke 18	○ Nov. 2	Acts 20
○ May 11	Luke 19	○ Nov. 9	Acts 21
○ May 18	Luke 20	○ Nov. 16	Acts 22
○ May 25	Luke 21	○ Nov. 23	Acts 23
○ June 1	Luke 22	○ Nov. 30	Acts 24
○ June 8	Luke 23	○ Dec. 7	Acts 25
○ June 15	Luke 24	○ Dec. 14	Acts 26
○ June 22	Acts 1	○ Dec. 21	Acts 27
○ June 29	Acts 2	○ Dec. 28	Acts 28



February Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Feb. 2	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 23
Welcomers	Tim and Katelyn Hagerty	Heather Anderson Lynn Livingston	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Heather Anderson LaVonne Robinson
Ushers	Bruce Benson Don Anderson Pam Rose	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek Kathy Soucy	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Laurette Lawson	Bruce Benson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy
Reader	Katelyn Hagerty	Trent Olson	Kathy Bell	Neil Anderson
Sound	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Leo Castro	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	Nancy Hagerty
Livestream	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Trenton Olson	Tim Hagerty
Closer	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Harvey Erstad	Don Anderson
Counters	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Trent Olson	Pam Rose Trent Olson
Communion Stewards	Daniel & Tracy Baker			

Congregational Care



Birthday Blessings, February Friends!

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

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.

In Sympathy:

Ardy Anderson passed on Friday, 1/10/25. The family is planning a celebration of life service in the spring or summer. Cards can be sent to the family in care of Wendy Anderson, 23326 France Circle, Lakeville, MN, 55044.

David Karki passed on Sunday, 1/26/25. He is survived by his wife, Vernessa, and their 4 year old son, Ian, his father, Myron, and his sister, Andrea and her family. A memorial service is tentatively planned for February 22. More details will be available soon.

Spiritual Growth

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Over the past year we have lost several stalwart members who served as greeters and ushers on Sunday mornings, so we have fewer people filling those roles. I would like you to prayerfully consider whether you might be able to serve one Sunday every couple of months. Job descriptions below.

Usher

- Arrive at church by 9:30 for volunteer meeting and prayer with Pastor Steve.
- Stand by sanctuary door and give bulletins to parishioners, greeting with a smile!
- Perform other duties as directed by the head usher, and as the service warrants.
- Walk through the Sanctuary after the service to remove bulletins or other items that were left behind, and ensure the space is clean and ready for the next worship service.

Greeter

- Arrive at church by 9:30 for volunteer meeting and prayer with Pastor Steve.
- Stand at the church entrance and greet parishioners and guests, providing simple direction for new guests (i.e. time of service, location of coat racks, restrooms, etc.), and invite them to coffee fellowship after the service.

If you would like to be added to the schedule for these important roles, please send your contact information to Lynn Livingston. Text at 952-797-2645, email: lynnliving@yahoo.com.

With many thanks,
Lynn Livingston

Mission Outreach

For February, we will be using some of our existing Mission Outreach funds to help combat homelessness by purchasing items for Simpson Housing Services. Founded in 1982 as an emergency overnight shelter, Simpson has since expanded to include extended-stay shelters and supportive housing programs. Annually, they support over 2,000 individuals experiencing homelessness.

While there is no obligation for you to contribute, if you feel called to do so, you can either visit their wish list websites (links are below) and place an order yourself, or write a check to PAUMC with "Simpson" in the memo field.


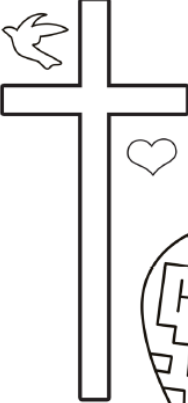

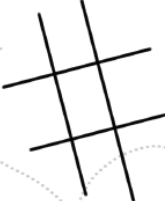

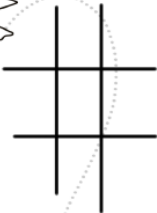
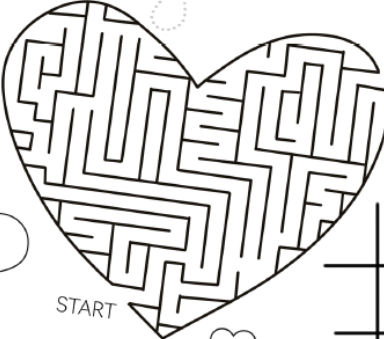

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/urgent-supply-and-program-needs>




https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/C35LK0DOTB35?ref=wl_share




Thank you, as always, for your generous support.

Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose,
Mission Outreach Co-Chairs



JESUS         **FINISH**






LOVES   **ME** 


THINGS I LOVE...   

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

REJOICE
HEART
LOVE
FOLLOWS
ANGEL
HOPE
GENTLE
JESUS
KIND
JOY

SPY...
Find & color the below images on the page

 [3]  [2]  [1]  [2]  [1]

How many  can you find on the page?
a. 12 b. 14 c. 9

 AS THE FATHER HAS **LOVED ME,** 
SO HAVE I LOVED YOU. **NOW REMAIN IN MY LOVE.** 

John 15:9, NIV

COLOR THE BOOKMARK & THEN CUT IT OUT. 



A friend **loves** at all times.
Proverbs 17:17



There are a couple things present in my life which help me persevere in difficult or challenging... or even apathetic times. And below are some reminders for how you, too, can dial up a little extra strength when the going gets tough.

My son is a continued source of inspiration for me. We met our son as a foster child when he was three years old. As long as I live, I'll never forget that big smile that he flashed at us when we first met him. That smile was even more remarkable when we got his family history after signing adoption papers.

He endured more in his first three years of life than many may experience throughout their entire lives. To this day, he still smiles through life. His joy is not only contagious, but seemingly unbreakable. He continues to choose to see and seek joy. That encourages and inspires me to keep going and to seek joy because I'm a firm believer that we will find what we are looking for.

My faith compels me to keep moving forward as well. Mainly because I — with every fiber of my being — believe that there's more to life than... this. Because of my faith, I believe I can play a role in making the world slightly better; I can truly bless someone by helping them breathe a bit easier, even if it is for a second.

In Adam Hamilton's words, because of Jesus' resurrection we can trust that "the worst that can happen will not be the last thing." So, we keep moving forward. Sometimes, that is the only thing we can do.

A lot of times, we just need that extra help and for those of us who may look for inspiration in the Bible, here are a few Bible verses that may encourage us to keep moving forward. But just a little note first: Some people are convinced that suffering is a necessary part of faith. I don't think that in those terms, per se. We don't have to go searching for suffering. Pain and troubles often find us when we're minding our own business. And that's the thing: humanity have always known that this world can be a harsh place and so we have stories and verses that remind us that God is with us when we are suffering not that God is the cause of our suffering.

Regardless. Whatever season that you may be experiencing, please know this: You are loved. Your worth and value don't come from anything that you can do or did, but your worth and value come from you simply being God's beloved — being a child of God. There's nothing you can do or say to make God love you any more or any less. You're just simply, downright loved. And you're never alone.

Peace and blessing on your journey, friends.

My brothers and sisters, think of the various tests you encounter as occasions for joy. After all, you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let this endurance complete its work so that you may be fully mature, complete, and lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

Let's not get tired of doing good, because in time we'll have a harvest if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9

I've said these things to you so that you will have peace in me. In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world. John 16:33

We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed. We are confused, but we aren't depressed. We are harassed, but we aren't abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren't knocked out. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. Romans 5:3-4

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary. Isaiah 40:31

God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble. That's why we won't be afraid when the world falls apart, when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea, when its waters roar and rage, when the mountains shake because of its surging waves. Psalms 46:1-3

The entirety of Psalms 121, but here are the first two verses: I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

I've commanded you to be brave and strong, haven't I? Don't be alarmed or terrified, because the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Rev. Joseph Yoo is the author of "When the Saints Go Flying In". He is a West Coaster at heart contently living in Houston, Texas with his wife and son. He serves at Mosaic Church in Houston. Find more of his writing at josephyoo.com.

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

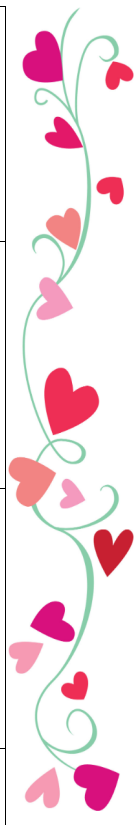
<https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>

FEBRUARY

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Feb. 2	 Happy Groundhog Day!		Love the LORD your God... and hold fast to him. DEUTERONOMY 30:20, NIV			1
2 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	3 6:30 pm Church Council (Zoom)	4	5	6	7 National Wear Red Day	8
9 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	10	11	12 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	13 March Newsletter Deadline	14 	15
16 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	17 	18	19  Support Monthly Dinner - 5:30pm - 7pm	20	21	22
23 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	24	25	26 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	27	28	

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

Rev. Steve Reiser (Interim Pastor) eastsidepastorsteve@gmail.com; Cell: 612-708-2466
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)

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>