

THE PORTLIGHT

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



March 2025

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Join us during this season of Lent.

Upcoming Worship Services at The PORT:

- ◆ Ash Wednesday, March 5, 7:00pm
- ◆ Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:00am
- ◆ Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00pm
- ◆ Good Friday (*at Hillcrest UMC*),
April 18, 7:00pm
- ◆ Easter Sunday, April 20:
8:30am Breakfast
10:00am Worship Service

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 Friends,

It has now been six whole weeks of us journeying together. Our worship together has been Spirit filled! God has been and continues to be present with us in our gathering and in our scattering. Unfortunately, we have been forced to confront losses and grief as a community and individually. In fact, we might even wonder how we will be able to continue. It won't be easy, but we don't have to go alone. We go together and God goes with us.

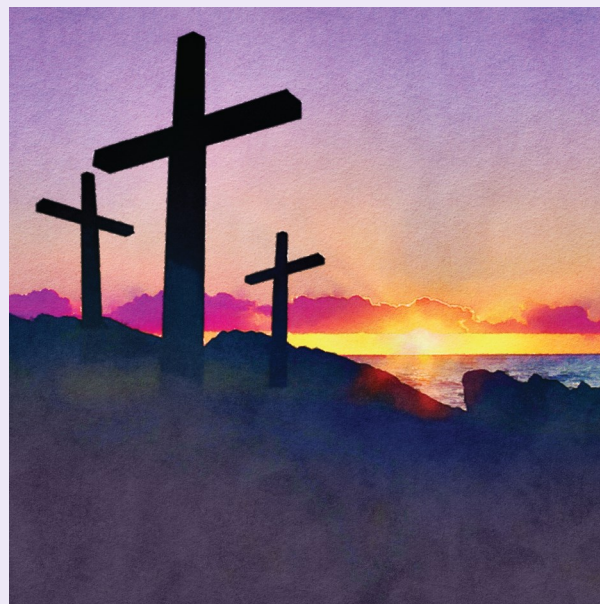
As we begin March, so we begin Lent (March 5) and the preparation for Easter. As you consider Lent and the journey toward Easter, what are you anticipating? Although Easter isn't quite the gifting time as Christmas, do children have excitement anticipating the Easter Bunny? Do we eagerly anticipate Easter? Since we are not quite there yet, let me ask, do you eagerly anticipate Lent? Are you wondering what you will "give up", like some of our Christian siblings regularly do? Or maybe you are planning your Friday fish dinners? Or perhaps you are thinking about repentance and your own spiritual practices?

Lent is a great time to think about your Spiritual Practices. What are the intentional things you do to deepen your relationship with Jesus? Or, what might you start doing? How might PAUMC help you develop your Spiritual Practices? Who is going to be the first person to ask me about Spiritual Practices? And, I have not heard your answers to my questions from last month.

Let's use Lent this year as a way to deepen our Spiritual Practices.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve



It's time to order your plants for our annual Easter Garden!


*We are taking orders now for the flowering plants to adorn the altar on Easter morning. **Orders must be received with full payment by Sunday, March 9th.** Plants can be taken home after the 10am worship service on Easter Sunday, 4/20.*

Prices range from \$12.00 to \$20.00 each. You may designate your plants in honor or in memory of someone.

Order forms are on the Welcome Desk or you can call the church office.



March Schedule for Sunday Volunteers (Ash Wednesday is below)

	Mar. 2	Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 23	Mar. 30
Welcomers	Laurette Lawson Jocelyn Medzagoh	Harvey & Peggy Erstad	Steve & Linda Knopp	Daniel & Tracy Baker	Heather Anderson, LaVonne Robinson
Ushers	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek Pam Rose	Trenton Olson Don Anderson Melinda Matton	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Laurette Lawson	Scott Swenson Pam Rose Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson Trenton Olson Scott Swenson
Reader	Trenton Olson	Scott Rice	John Hepola	Greg Jurek	Kathy Soucy
Sound	Tim Madsen	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Leo Castro	Eric Richardson- Mahre
Media	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus
Livestream	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Trenton Olson	Tim Hagerty	Clint Andrus
Closer	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman	Clint Andrus	Steve Knopp
Counters	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Trenton Olson
Communion Stewards	Tracy and Dorothy Baker				

Volunteers for Ash Wednesday, March 5, 7:00pm

Welcomer/Greeter	Heather Anderson
Ushers	Scott Swenson, Pam Rose
Reader	Frederick Wilson-Bahun
Sound	Eric Richardson-Mahre
Media	Nancy Hagerty
Livestream Tech	N/A
Closer	Scott Swenson
Counter	Pam Rose



Mission Outreach

For the March Mission Outreach project, we will participate in VEAP's annual Minnesota FoodShare Campaign. This spring drive brings together various community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide, including VEAP.

VEAP has experienced an unprecedented need for pantry items due to ongoing inflationary pressures, and there are many items we cannot easily procure. Below is the latest list of most-needed items. Every pound of food counts! Donations need to be non-perishable, unexpired items only. Look for a printed shopping list to take with you at the Welcome Desk.

Thank you for your generous support.

Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose, Mission Outreach Co-Chairs



- Whole grain rice (1-2 pound bags)
- Whole grain pasta
- Hearty soups (high protein, low sodium)
- Whole grain cereal
- Canned proteins (meat and beans)
- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Diapers, formula, and baby wipes
- Cooking oil
- Coffee
- Baking essentials (flour, sugar, spices, baking soda/powder)
- Dish soap
- Personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, hand soap, shaving cream, toiletries, etc.)
- Gluten-free products
- Birthday party items (cake mix, frosting, plates/napkins/candles)
- Dog & cat food (particularly wet food, treats, litter, etc.)
- Paper bags or reusable shopping bags

January Mission Update

The January Mission aimed to gather winter boots and snowpants for Valley View Elementary. We are delighted to announce that the collection was a great success, resulting in an entire shopping cart filled with the following items:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8 pairs of winter boots | 7 pairs of socks |
| 6 boys' jackets | 5 pairs of mittens/gloves |
| 4 hats | 3 snowpants |
| 2 girls' jackets | |

Additionally, we were able to provide a check for \$307 to cover their most needed items.

Thank you for your support! Nancy & Pam





On February 7, our dear friend and longtime organist/pianist, Dale Miller, passed away unexpectedly. Dale joined PAUMC in August 1974 and he quietly and humbly led our worship services with his incredible musical talents for over 50 years. Dale was our organist when Clifford Wittstruck became our pastor, and he was a constant presence through seven more pastors after that. Dale played for countless weddings, funerals, baptisms, confirmations, graduations, etc. He accompanied our Sanctuary Choir when it filled the choir loft, and played with the children's and youth choirs through the years. He organized and led 20 piece orchestras for choir cantata's and more recently our praise band. Dale's gifts and talents were many, as outside of the church he was the musical director for over 40 theatrical shows in community theaters around the metro. Dale's passing has left a hole in our church and in our hearts. We were so blessed to know and to love him. Thank you, Dale, for all that you gave to us through the years. We pray that your beautiful music will fill the heavens, till we meet again.



From Dale's Family:

There are not enough words to express our gratitude for everything. Please accept our heartfelt thank you to everyone for making the celebration of Dale's life so special. We are (and he would be) so touched and honored by the love, all the work everyone put in, the beautiful music and flowers, assistance to family and especially your prayers and support to our family during this difficult time. Please keep us in your prayers.

Carol, Laura, Amy and Miller family.



Thank you to our PORT family and friends for your very generous gifts and kind notes of thanks. It is sure a blessing to work with this amazing church and to feel so appreciated for what we do. Thank you very much!

Pastor Henry, Carol Miller (Dale's Wife), Greg and Lori.



Birthday Blessings to our March Friends!

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 02 - Amelia Fischer | 18 - Myron Karki |
| 04 - Judy Richardson-Mahre | |
| 16 - LaVonne Robinson | 20 - Melinda Matton |
| 17 - Lori Livingston | 24 - Linda Gilbertson |

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

Pastor Steve's Reflections on Lent

We are heading into the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and proceeds until Easter. I wanted to take just a couple of paragraphs, just a couple of minutes to remind you about Lent. Some of what I am sharing with you is probably repetition, but it bears periodic repeating and periodic examination.

Lent is forty days long, the Sundays are excluded from the count, and reminds us of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness when he fasts and undergoes a time of trial and temptation. I would invite you to reread Luke 4:1-13, since we are in the year of Luke. Jesus goes into the wilderness following his baptism and while, "full of the Holy Spirit." In fact, he is, "led by the Spirit into the wilderness." What does he do while he is there? Why, do you think? And what is the eventual result?

Lent "is a season of preparation for celebrating Easter. Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time of penance for all Christians" (United Methodist Book of Worship). Lent, as a time of preparation is also a time of transition. Jesus' transitioned from his "youth", growth, and baptism into his time of ministry. New converts in the early church transitioned from their lives outside the church community toward baptism, their welcoming INTO the community.

People are always in some kind of transition.

Physically, our skin cells are constantly regenerating and transitioning. Middle aged adults experience a new dermis every 28-42 days. We are not the same people we were. Also, we are aging. You are minutes older now than when you began reading this article. Emotionally, we are in transition as we learn and experience new and different things. Spiritually, we are also always on a journey.

The Church, generally, and Portland Avenue, specifically, are also constantly transitioning. Since the world around us is changing, we too, do change and must change. How can we use this Lenten Season to prepare ourselves for the next season of life, of the church, of the world in which we live?

Fasting is one way to focus our self-examination and contemplation in this season. Fasting is, of course, the abstaining from eating, but could also be a chosen abstinence from something else. Then, each time you find yourself hungry for that thing, perhaps something you consume, or some habit that you are trying to break, spend a moment in prayer. "God, how are you preparing me for my next season of life? How are you preparing me for my next season of ministry?"



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

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



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		What Are You Giving Up for Lent?				1
2 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	3 6:30 pm Church Council (Zoom)	4 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop Planning Meeting	5 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins 7:00 pm Worship Service	6 March Newsletter Deadline	7	8
9 Spring ahead one hour 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	10	11 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	12 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	13	14	15
16 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	17 	18 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	19 SupPORT Monthly Dinner - 5:30pm - 7pm	20	21	22
23 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	24	25 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	26 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	27	28	29
30 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	31	6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal			

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

40^{days}
OF LENT

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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