

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



**April 2025**

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## **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,

As I write this, we are just over halfway through the Lenten season. We are on our way toward Holy Week, with our focus on the Resurrection. However, between now and Easter, we must journey through Holy Week.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and the remembrance of Jesus triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. The people cheer and wave Palm branches, spreading their clothes on the ground so that Jesus and the donkey he rides don't even touch the dirty street. Can you imagine yourself there? Do you cheer and shout and sing as one might cheering for their favorite college basketball team or their favorite professional baseball team?

We will mark the continuance of Holy Week with Maundy Thursday worship. This is the remembrance of Jesus inviting the disciples into what we now call *The Lord's Supper*, or *Holy Communion*. Jesus offers the disciples an extra meal as part of the meal. He tells them he is giving himself, he offers grace and forgiveness. In the Gospel of John's version, Jesus washes the disciples feet. He humbles himself, even though he is their teacher, even though he is God. How would you have received that first meal, that foot washing? We believe Peter and Judas are present. How many of us receive the meal even though we have and will betray, deny, ignore Jesus?

Hillcrest has invited us to join them for Good Friday, when we mark Jesus' death. Would you have wept at the cross? Or would you have run in fear? Would you proclaim that you know Jesus or shrink back into denial? It is so hard to say.

On Holy Saturday, the Scriptures are relatively silent. What do you think the disciples were doing? Did they try to return to the lives they lived before they met Jesus? Perhaps

fishing or returning to their families. Or perhaps they huddled together in fear and mourning. They were trying to understand the death of their beloved teacher. They were trying to digest that something they believed impossible had happened. Would you mourn as they did? How do you cope with your mourning? Do you join in the company of others or look for solitude? How do you find solace and meaning in the loss and the grief?

Finally, we come to Easter...that great and glorious day of Resurrection! The stories and the reactions of the disciples are not uniform. They fear, they are confused, they DO NOT understand. How? Why? What is going on? A group of women go to the tomb to honor Jesus' body with the proper ritual and burial. They find the tomb open and empty. How do you react to Jesus empty tomb? Do you find the hope there? Or are you still lost and confused? What do you tell others?

Let's use experience Holy Week as we never have before, giving ourselves over to the full depth of what the disciples heard, saw, and felt.

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve



## April Schedule for Volunteers



	April 6	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 20 Easter Sunday	April 27
<b>Welcomers</b>	Heather Anderson Lynn Livingston	LaVonne Robinson Sue Wells	Heather Anderson Tom Wellman	Steve & Kathy Soucy
<b>Ushers</b>	Bruce Benson Don Anderson Laurette Lawson	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek Melinda Matton	Bruce Benson Kathy Soucy Scott Swenson	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Greg Jurek
<b>Reader</b>	Melinda Matton	Frederick Wilson- Bahun	Neil Anderson	Pam Rose
<b>Sound</b>	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Leo Castro	Tim Madsen
<b>Media</b>	<i>Tim Madsen</i>	<i>Barb Andrus</i>	<i>Nancy Hagerty</i>	<i>Barb Andrus</i>
<b>Livestream</b>	<i>Scott Swenson</i>	<i>Trenton Olson</i>	<i>Tim Hagerty</i>	<i>Clint Andrus</i>
<b>Closer</b>	Steve Knopp	Harvey Erstad	Tom Wellman	Tom Wellman
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Rose Trenton Olson	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Steve Soucy	Tom Wellman Wayne Andersen
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Daniel & Tracy Baker			



## SERVICES DURING LENT AND EASTER

- Maundy Thursday service of Communion, April 17th at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- *Good Friday service at Hillcrest UMC, April 18th at 7:00pm*
- Easter Sunday is April 20th
  - Breakfast is at 8:30am
  - Worship Service is at 10:00am.

**Please RSVP on the Connection Cards!**



## We welcome our new accompanist,

**Marianne Reininger**, who will be joining us in worship on a part-time basis. She will begin playing on Sunday, April 27th.



Please thank the Trustees for their hard work in repairing the boiler and restoring heat to the Sanctuary. They handle so many maintenance tasks around the building, saving the church a significant amount of money on repairs!



Great Day of Music is Sunday, May 18. Invite your family and friends to our annual music-filled service as we celebrate the end of our program year and the beginning of summer!

## Happy Birthday to our April Friends!

If you have a birthday during the month of April but your name isn't on our list, PLEASE LET US KNOW, so we can update our records for next year.

06 - Pam Rose	18 - Bob Haugen
08 - Scott Cameron	20 - Kasey Swenson
15 - Jarek Haugen	25 - Amelia Liu
16 - Kate Hagerty	26 - Pat Ekstrom
18 - Mike Cameron	



# Mission Outreach

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES Please join us in April to recognize and honor the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and churches by contributing to the April Mission Outreach Project for the Native American Ministries.

Contributions help develop and strengthen Native American ministries within each United Methodist annual conference and provide scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry.

- **Fifty percent** of the funds collected for the Native American Ministries Sunday stay within the annual conference to support Native American ministries.
- **Twenty-five percent** of donations fund scholarships for Native Americans pursuing ordained or licensed ministry at any approved theological school.
- **Twenty-five percent** of donations collected are allocated to develop impactful programs. These funds enable the UMC to collaborate with established Native ministries to create new initiatives for Native American communities.

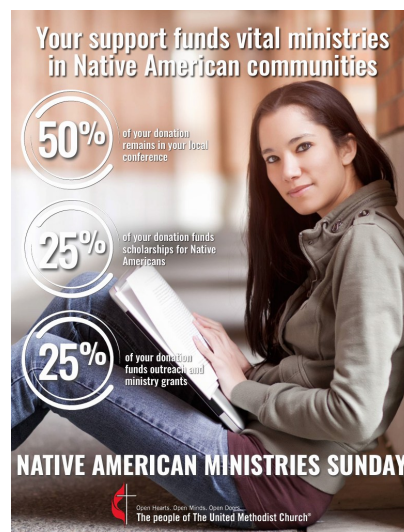
To learn more about this special offering, please visit:

[Native American Ministries Sunday | UMC.org](http://NativeAmericanMinistriesSunday|UMC.org)

## Mission Outreach Update:

For the February Mission Outreach campaign, we were able to send a check for \$1125.00 to Simpson Housing Services. Thank you for your Generosity.

Pam Rose and Nancy Hagerty  
The Port Mission Outreach Co-Chairs



# Spring Clean Up



**Saturday, May 3, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

*There's something for everyone and we know  
"many hands make light work."*

Please join us for all or any part of this Spring Cleanup morning to refresh our shared facilities both inside and outside.

Ask someone from The PORT where you can find one of the Trustees and they can help you get started ... or just join in!



# Celebration of Life



Ginny Karki's Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 2 PM in the Snyder Building Auditorium at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. It is the first building on the left when entering the complex. Non-Arboretum members will receive free admission starting at 9 AM by informing the gate staff that they are attending the Ginny Karki Celebration.

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, where Ginny volunteered as a gardener for 23 years, is situated west of the intersection of MN CR 41 and MN Highway 5 at 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN 55318-9613. In her honor, a memorial bench will be placed at the Arboretum and displayed during the celebration.

For those who wish to make a donation, you can go online at [Memorials and Honor Gifts | Minnesota Landscape Arboretum](#) or mail a check by early June to: Tributes, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, PO Box 860647, Minneapolis, MN 55486-0647. Be sure to include a note that it is for Ginny Kariki. Donors will receive a tax-free donation receipt via mail from the ARB Memorials staff.

It is anticipated that tens of thousands of tulips will be in bloom at the Arboretum by May 17, so attendees are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy the flowers, the gift shop, and more before heading to the Snyder Building for the event, which will feature music and refreshments. I hope to see you there! -Myron Karki

To view Ginny's obituary, please visit [www.johnsonfh.com/obituary/virginia-karki](http://www.johnsonfh.com/obituary/virginia-karki)

## Clothing Drive

### The Port is Hosting a Clothing Drive Fundraiser!

This year, instead of the annual Garage Sale, we've partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) to raise funds for our church programs.

Collection Starts Now! Begin gathering your unwanted clothing and linens today. We will have multiple drop-off dates throughout the summer, culminating in a final collection on September 5, 2025.

Your contributions will support the EFMN's mission to ensure that no one journeys through epilepsy alone.

For questions or assistance with picking up bagged donations, please contact:  
Kathy Swenson at 612-209-4559 or [swenkath@gmail.com](mailto:swenkath@gmail.com).

#### Accepted Items:

- Clothing: Men's, women's, and children's.
- Clothing Accessories: Hats, gloves, scarves, ties.
- Personal Accessories: Purses, wallets, belts, bags.
- Bed and Bath: Sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, tablecloths, curtains.
- Shoes: All types.
- Other Cloth Materials.

#### Not Accepted:

- Household items or anything not listed above.
- Water-damaged or moldy items.

Start your spring cleaning today! Bag up your donations and let's clear out those unused items together. More details will be shared soon!



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

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>6</b> 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Church Council (Zoom)	<b>8</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>9</b> 6:30 Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>14</b> May Newsletter Deadline	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>16</b> 5 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal 6:30 Bible Study	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service of Communion	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Good Friday Service at Hillcrest UMC	<b>19</b>
<b>20 Easter Sunday</b> 8:30 am Easter Breakfast 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>23</b> 6:30 Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:00 am Worship / Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>30</b> 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



### **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](mailto:eastsidepastorsteve@gmail.com); Cell: 612-708-2466  
Lori Livingston (Administrative Assistant) [paumc@paumc.org](mailto:paumc@paumc.org) Office: 952-888-6070  
Judy Richardson-Mahre (Sonrise Director) [jembrm@charter.net](mailto:jembrm@charter.net)  
Greg Jurek (Custodian)

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>  
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>