

# THE PORTLIGHT

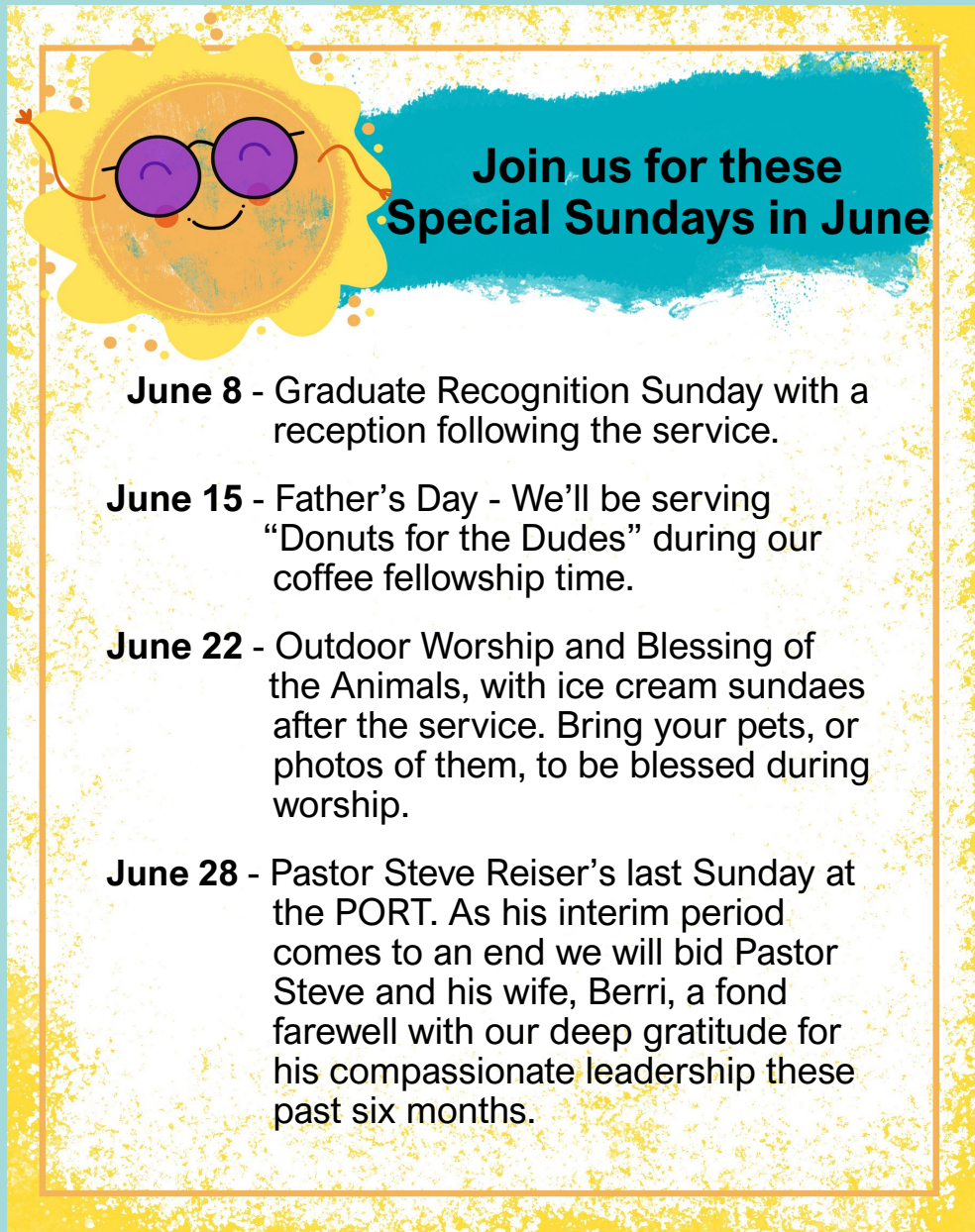
A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



**June 2025**

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## Join us for these Special Sundays in June

**June 8** - Graduate Recognition Sunday with a reception following the service.

**June 15** - Father's Day - We'll be serving "Donuts for the Dudes" during our coffee fellowship time.

**June 22** - Outdoor Worship and Blessing of the Animals, with ice cream sundaes after the service. Bring your pets, or photos of them, to be blessed during worship.

**June 28** - Pastor Steve Reiser's last Sunday at the PORT. As his interim period comes to an end we will bid Pastor Steve and his wife, Berri, a fond farewell with our deep gratitude for his compassionate leadership these past six months.

## 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

Hey Portland Avenue Friends,

How are you? Blessed and highly favored? Or not so much? How has your spring been this year? Are you looking forward to summer? We have come through the Memorial Day Weekend remembering those who gave their lives to make our freedoms possible. Summer has unofficially started and we move into the month of June.

We have such a busy June planned! We'll be celebrating our graduates and our teachers on Pentecost on June 8th. I invite you to wear red in an acknowledgement and celebration of the work of the Holy Spirit on that day. Pentecost is sometimes thought of as the birthday of the church. On Thursday, June 12th, I'll get Ordained at Annual Conference in St. Cloud. On June 15th, we'll celebrate our fathers and sons. When you come to worship on June 22nd, please bring your pets for the outdoor "Blessing of the Animals" service. My last Sunday worshiping with you is June 29th.

Over the course of the six months that I have joined you for worship, learning, and fellowship, we can rejoice in the additions of some new folks joining us in worship. We're working to leverage our Wednesday evening "House Church" gatherings into an enduring time of mutual discipleship. Please continue to participate as you move through the rest of summer and into the fall. Also, continue to invite your friends and relatives to join us for worship.

I have to say that I have truly enjoyed our time together! We have celebrated together, we have mourned together, we have learned together. Thank you for letting me sing with you and worship God with you. As a family,

we have felt welcomed into your midst. I encourage and challenge you to welcome everyone who comes through the doors with the same openness and authenticity that you welcomed us. As the Pastoral transition occurs, I invite you to welcome Pastor Steve and his family with the same hospitality.

I also must tell you that I am filled with hope for each of you and for the Portland Avenue family. God is present with you and goes with you. Although our paths diverge, we remain connected as Minnesota Methodists, as disciples, and as members of the Body of Christ.

Thank you for opening your church family and your hearts to me.

"And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified." (Acts 20:32, NRSV)

Blessings,

Pastor Steve



## **Watch Pastor Steve's Ordination Live!**

The Conference plans to live stream the service when Pastor Steve will be ordained. The Celebration of Life in Ministry service will be Thurs., June 12 at 7 p.m., and anyone can access the live stream from the Conference Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaUMC/>.

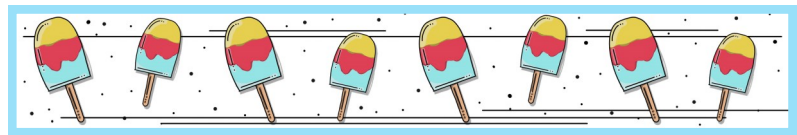
*Congratulations Pastor Steve!  
We are so happy for you!*



During the month of June, Mission Outreach is accepting monetary donations for Cornerstone Shelter to aid them in providing meals for their guests during their stay. Cornerstone Shelter supports victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and general crime. Donations may be mailed to the church office or put into the Offertory Boxes. Please make checks payable to PAUMC with "Cornerstone" in the memo line.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations to help our neighbors in need.

~ Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose, Mission Outreach Co-Chairs



## THE PORT IS HOSTING A CLOTHING DRIVE FUNDRAISER!!!

In lieu of the Garage Sale this year, we've partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) to help raise funds for our church programs. Please start collecting all of your unwanted clothing and linens. They will pay us by the pound for our donations.

We will collect donations in the Clothing Drive Wagon in the narthex throughout the summer with a **FINAL collection date of SEPTEMBER 5th, 2025**. Your support ensures no one journeys through epilepsy alone.

**Accepted items:** clothing (men's, women's, 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) and other cloth materials.

**Not Accepted items:** Household items and other non-clothing items unless listed in Accepted items. We also do not accept water damaged or moldy items.


For any questions OR if you need help picking up your bagged donations, please contact Kathy Swenson 612-209-4559 or swenkath@gmail.com.

Start your spring cleaning, BAG UP YOUR DONATIONS and let's get rid of things we are no longer using that will benefit others!! Thank you ALL! ~ Kathy Swenson



# Spiritual Growth

## June Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
<b>Welcomers</b>	Heather Anderson Lynn Livingston	Tracy and Dorothy Baker	Steve & Linda Knopp	Heather Anderson Greg Jurek	Kathy Bell & John Hepola
<b>Ushers</b>	Bruce Benson Melinda Matton Pam Rose	Pam Rose Greg Jurek Laurette Lawson	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Don Anderson	Bruce Benson Pam Rose Scott Swenson	Trent Olson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy
<b>Reader</b>	Neil Anderson	Scott Rice	John Hepola	Trent Olson	Frederick Wilson- Bahun
<b>Sound</b>	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen
<b>Media</b>	Nancy Hagerty	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	N/A	Tim Madsen
<b>Livestream</b>	Tim Hagerty	Scott Swenson	Tim Hagerty	N/A	Scott Swenson
<b>Closer</b>	Don Anderson	Tom Wellman	Scott Swenson	Steve Knopp	Harvey Erstad
<b>Counters</b>	Merlin Gilbertson Steve Soucy	Merlin Gilbertson Wayne Andersen	Merlin Gilbertson Wayne Andersen	Merlin Gilbertson Trent Olson	Merlin Gilbertson Trent Olson
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Daniel & Tracy Baker				

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

02 - Blaine Daniels	09 - Joshua Rice
03 - Dianne Madsen	16 - Blake Mahre
03 - Julie Rasmussen	18 - Bryan Darnell
06 - Clint Andrus	19 - Harvey Erstad
07 - Paul Swenson	21 - Alina Schroeder
08 - Peggy Erstad	24 - Ann Benson
08 - Guy Moore	29 - Heather Anderson



*If you have a birthday during the month of June but your name is not on our list, please let the office know so we can update our records for next year.*

### **Address Changes:**

Joan Whitehead  
Hayden Grove Senior Living  
2601 NE Stinson Pkwy #322  
St. Anthony, MN 55418

Chuck Bartels  
222 N. 8th St.  
River Falls, WI 54022

**Please update your membership directory.**





## Coffee Fellowship Needs Volunteers!

Please help us keep the coffee time going by signing up to provide treats on a Sunday or two. Plan for about 40 people and arrive early to have the food set out before worship. After fellowship time please clean the tables and sweep the floors. This is a great way to serve The PORT!

Sign up on the clipboard in the Wesley Room. Thank you for volunteering!

It's summer and time for us all to catch our breath and relax a bit. Lots of us will be using the weekends for cabins or camping or vacations. But the church still needs volunteers to help with the Sunday Worship Services. Will you please help by volunteering to be an usher, greeter, or reader one or two times this summer?



If you've never volunteered for one of these roles before, this is the best time to learn how because our summer services are not as busy and they're a bit more laid back. And you will have fun! Have a friend join you too!

Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Desk in the narthex, or you can call the church office. Any questions, please ask Lynn Livingston or text her at 952-797-2645. Thank you in advance for your help and participation!

## Calling All Graduates!

We want to recognize and celebrate the graduates in our PORT family. Please notify the church office by Tuesday, 6/3 of your grad, and then invite them to worship with us on Sunday, June 8th at 10am with a reception following the service in their honor.

Congratulations to all of the graduates and their families! We look forward to celebrating you on June 8th!



## Bob Deese Memorial Service

Former member, Bob Deese, passed away peacefully in his sleep on March 30th at the age of 90. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2025, 11 AM at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, 2200 W Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, with a visitation at 10 AM that day, followed by a lunch. Memorials preferred to VEAP or Feed My Starving Children.



Please keep Barb and Andrea in your prayers.

The obituary can be found on the Star Tribune site: <https://obituaries.startribune.com/obituary/robert-deese-1092897687>.

# Road Construction Updates - 494 and Portland Ave. Bridge

## I-494 weekend closure May 30 - June 2

If you are traveling on I-494 through Richfield and Bloomington Fri, May 30 through Mon, June 2 you can expect a full closure of I-494 between Hwy 100 and Hwy 77.

Beginning 10 p.m. Fri, May 30, I-494 will be closed in both directions between Hwy 100 and Hwy 77 through 5 a.m. Mon, June 2. **This weekend closure is necessary to allow crews to complete the pedestrian bridge over I-494 near Chicago Ave. and remove the Portland Ave. bridge.**

Please use the following detours to bypass the closure:

Eastbound I-494 detour: [Northbound Hwy 100 to eastbound Hwy 62 to southbound Hwy 77 to eastbound I-494](#)

Westbound I-494 detour: [Northbound Hwy 77 to westbound Hwy 62 to southbound Hwy 100 to westbound I-494](#)

All ramps on I-494 between Hwy 100 and Hwy 77 will also be closed during this time. Please visit [the project webpage](#) for a full list of ramp closures and detours.

We appreciate your patience while we make these improvements. Plan ahead by [checking 511](#) and give yourself additional time to reach your destination.

*Please note that all timeframes are approximate, subject to change, and weather and schedule dependent.*

## More about this project

We are constructing [E-Z Pass lanes](#) from Hwy 100 to I-35W in each direction and adding a new ramp at the I-35W and I-494 interchange. We are also replacing the bridges crossing over I-494 at Portland Ave., Nicollet Ave., and 12th Ave., and adding a new pedestrian bridge at Chicago Ave.

Motorists can expect lane, ramp, overnight and weekend directional closures along I-494 and I-35W at various times for construction through 2026. There will also be some lane and road closures on local roadways near I-494.

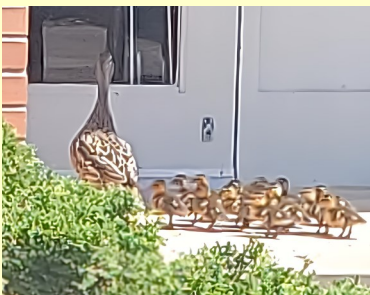
When work is completed, the E-Z Pass lanes and the new ramp at the I-35W and I-494 interchange will address congestion on the interstate. The new bridges at Portland, Nicollet, and 12th Ave. will accommodate future traffic levels, provide wider, accessible sidewalks, new bike lanes, and upgrades to some transit stations. We will be removing access to I-494 from Nicollet Ave. and 12th Ave., but will provide full access to I-494 from Portland Ave.

**NOTE: According to the project website, Portland Avenue access to 494 will be closed until the end of October.**

## Feathered Miracles of New Life from our Courtyard!

Every spring we can count on finding a family of ducks in our courtyard. This year we discovered them on May 6th, and there were 15 babies! We called Bloomington's Animal Control to help us gather them up and get them safely across Portland Avenue so they could make their way to the pond at Smith Park. Their momma was not very happy with the help, especially when a hawk tried to steal a free lunch during the commotion. But thankfully all of the babies were found and transported in a crate, and then released back into momma's care. **A big thanks to Kathy Soucy** (aka our "duck whisperer") for coming to help Officers Alisa and John. It took them all about 2 hours of patience and persistence.








Another successful brood!



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

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Church Council (Zoom)	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Graduate Recognition</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship/ Reception for Grads 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Pastor Steve's Ordination at Conference	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 
<b>15 Happy Father's Day!</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship/ "Donuts for Dudes" 	<b>16</b> July Newsletter Deadline	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Worship Leaders' Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 
<b>22 Outdoor Worship and Blessing of the Animals</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Ice Cream Sundaes 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Pastor Steve's Farewell</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 	<b>30</b>					

*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.

**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>