

THE PORTLIGHT

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



July 2025

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Meet Our New Pastor

We are very excited to welcome Rev. Steve Nuessle and his family to The PORT! Pastor Steve will begin serving here on July 1, and his first Sunday will be July 6. Steve is married to Krista, a Physician Assistant at Regions Hospital, and together they have two sons, Theo (11) and Winston (8). He holds an MDiv from Bethel Seminary and joins us after serving as Pastor at Main Street Church in North Branch and Associate Pastor at Central Baptist Church in St. Paul. His experience also includes serving as a chaplain in the Minnesota Army National Guard.

Beyond his dedication to family and ministry, Steve enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, exploring the outdoors through hiking, traveling to new places, savoring great food, curling, baseball, and attending live music concerts. A proud Jefferson High School Class of 1998 graduate, he is eager to return to his hometown to fulfill his pastoral calling here at The PORT.

The Nuessle's (pronounced Nestle, like the candy company) reside in St. Paul. Krista will be sharing her musical talents with us as she will be one of our piano accompanists. Their family will be traveling mid-July so we will be having their official welcome reception on Sunday, August 3rd.

Watch for more details soon!

Let's all warmly welcome the Nuessle family to The PORT!



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 Portland Avenue UMC,

I am so excited to make my Portlight debut this month as I start my time as your pastor. Transitions are always a unique season of life - for an individual, for a family, for a church. I am writing this message in the beginning of June as I navigate the two worlds of winding down my time at Main Street Church in North Branch while also preparing for my transition to The Port. It is a time of mixed emotions for me and my family - Krista, Theo and Winston. We are saddened as we say goodbye to good friends and ministry partners in North Branch, while at the same time we are excited to get started, to meet new friends, and to see what the Lord has in store for all of us in Bloomington.

I have had the chance to meet several people from The Port so far, but I really look forward to meeting all of you and having conversations about your vision for the church and how it can best live out its call to be a safe harbor along life's journey. During my first several months at The Port, I plan on setting up opportunities for church office hours, for lunches together, or for visits at homes or coffee shops or whatever else might work for you. Stay tuned for more information and don't hesitate to reach out!

My start at The Port will be a little unusual. My first day will be Tuesday, July 1 and the first Sunday for me and my family will be on Sunday, July 6. Then, on July 13, I will be there again with my two boys, while my wife Krista will be working on that Sunday at her job at Regions Hospital in St. Paul. Then, my family will leave for vacation on Monday, July 14, returning on Sunday, July 27 for the special drum worship that day. For vacation, my family will be travelling to Spain to visit a young woman named Aitana, who was a teaching intern at my boy's elementary school (Adams Elementary - a Spanish Immersion school in St. Paul) and stayed with us during the 2023-24 school year. Then, once we return, we are looking forward to the "official" welcome celebration on the first Sunday in August.

As I get started, I am planning on sharing a message the first two Sundays in July centered on two scripture verses that are very important to me and my understanding of God. On July 6, I will share on John 14:1-7, which is about both our place in heaven as followers of Jesus, as well as the way we are to understand Jesus as we work to become his disciples. On July 13, I will share on 1 Corinthians 15:58. This is a special verse to me for reasons I will share on that Sunday, but what I appreciate about it is that it gives us instructions on how we are to respond to the reality of the resurrection of Jesus.

When I return starting in August, the message each week will be based upon the Lectionary reading that week. Beyond a different speaker, I do not anticipate our worship looking much different than what you are accustomed to, though I am excited for Krista to share her gifts of playing the piano on occasion. Also in August, I would anticipate resuming the Wednesday night Bible Study started by current Pastor Steve, with a potential additional meeting during the day. I would also like to establish a time each week dedicated to prayer for the church and the community. I am also hoping to reach out and make connections with the other churches that use the building to see if there is a way that we can partner more closely.

I will talk much more about all these things and so much more over the weeks and months to come. For now, I just want to say again how excited I and my family are to be joining Portland Avenue UMC. It feels great to be back in Bloomington again.

Blessings to you all and I'll see you on Sunday,

Pastor Steve



WELCOME!

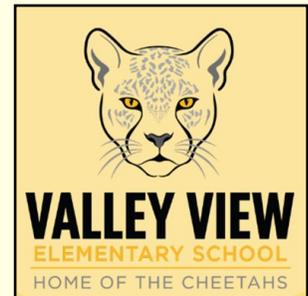
July's Mission Outreach Event is Collecting School Supplies for Valley View

It's that time of the summer to start thinking about the new school year. During July we are collecting school supplies for Valley View Elementary School. Most needed items are listed below. Please bring these items to church and put them in the shopping cart in the narthex. Principal Tennison of Valley View Elementary is **very** grateful for our support! If preferred, monetary donations can also be made by writing a check to PAUMC, and putting Valley View in the note.

As always, thank you for your generous giving,

Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose, Mission Outreach Co-chairs

Student Supply List	
Backpack	Headphones (no earbuds)
Beach towel	Highlighter (yellow, thick)
Clorex Wipes	Highlighters pack (pink, yellow, green, blue)
Colored pencils - 12 count	Kleenex Boxes
Colored pencils (24 count)	Paper Towels
Crayola Classic Color Marker (washable 10 pk)	Pencils (Yellow #2 sharpened)
Crayola colored pencils (24 count)	Play Dough regular size
Crayola Crayons (24 pack)	Post It Notes
Dry Erase Markers (black, thick tip)	Scissors
Dry Erase Markers 4 pack multi color	Spiral Art Notebook
Dry Erase Markers (black fine tip)	Supply Box (8"x 5")
Folders 2 pockets (sturdy with prongs)	Water Bottle
Folders 2 pockets (sturdy)	Wide ruled composition notebook
Glue sticks	Wide ruled spiral notebooks
Hand Sanitizer 8 oz or larger	Zip Lock Bags (any size)



Valley View Elementary Teacher's Wish List	
Card Stock Bright Color	Glue Sticks
Card Stock White	Highlighters
Children's Dictionary	Laminating Sheets
Cork Board Strip	Paper Crowns
Crayola Color Pencils (36 count)	Play Doh
Crayola Colors of the World Markers (24 count)	Scratch and Sniff Stickers
Crayola Markers (64 pack)	Sleeve Protectors
Flair Pens	Sticky Easel Pad
	Water Bottles that can be washed/reused



Congregational Care

On Sunday, June 8, we recognized and celebrated the 2025 graduates from our church family. Pastor Steve led the congregation as we blessed each grad during the worship service, and then a cake reception followed worship. Congratulations Graduates! We wish you all the best as you venture into your next chapters.

Our Class of 2025

Oliver Darnell is a Chaska High School graduate. He will be attending North Dakota College of Science in Fargo for Aviation Maintenance Technology. His parents are Bryan & Traci Darnell, and his grandparents are Harvey & Peggy Erstad.

Kelsey Gilbertson, Merlin & Linda Gilbertson's granddaughter, graduated from Arrowhead High School in Hartland, WI. She plans to attend Florida SW College in Fort Myers, FL.

Joaquina Lawson graduated from The University of Minnesota with a double major in Global Studies and Strategic Communications. Her parents are Jacob & Laurette Lawson.

Josh Rice is a Farmington High School graduate. He is enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. His parents are Luke and Becky Rice, and his grandparents are Harvey & Peggy Erstad.

Luke Rice graduated from Dakota County Technical College in Electrical Construction and Maintenance Technology. His parents are Scott & Becky Rice, and his grandparents are Harvey & Peggy Erstad.



L to R: Pastor Steve Reiser, Joaquina Lawson, Oliver Darnell, Josh Rice.



L to R: Oliver Darnell, Josh Rice, Joaquina Lawson

Celebration of Life for Ardy Anderson

Longtime PAUMC member Ardy Anderson's Memorial Service is planned for Sunday, July 13 at the Minnesota Valley Country Club.

A Funeral Service will be held from 2:30 - 3pm on Sunday, July 13th at Minnesota Valley Country Club, 6300 Auto Club Rd, Bloomington, MN 55438, with a Memorial Gathering to follow from 3 - 5pm. Ardyth will be interred at Fort Snelling National Cemetery on Monday, July 14th at 9:45am.

The full obituary can be found at <https://www.gillbrothers.com>.



Sheltered Reality



Sheltered Reality uses drums, music and fun choreography to help audiences realize that each person we meet is unique, has special talents, and is deserving of kindness and support.

While we demonstrate the Steps of Success, audience members have a chance to succeed through participating in a drum lesson and performing with the group.

This process is meant to inspire all to become better individuals, but to also take action to help others succeed in life and be the best versions of themselves.

Sheltered Reality believes in the power of "US."
When we do things together, believe in and support one another, we can do great things.
#USSIE



Join us for this fun & unique worship service on
Sunday, July 27, 2025
10:00am - 11:00am
Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave. So.
Bloomington, MN 55420



www.paumc.org

We'll be outdoors in our parking lot on the west side of the church. Bring a chair and invite your friends and neighbors for this one-of-a-kind worship experience!

Spiritual Growth

July Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27 Drummers Outdoors
Welcomers	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Heather Anderson Greg Jurek	Heather Anderson	Heather Anderson
Ushers	Pam Rose Kathy Soucy	Trent Olson Laurette Lawson	Bruce Benson Trent Olson Greg Jurek	Bruce Benson Kathy Soucy
Reader	Greg Jurek	Pam Rose	Neil Anderson	N/A
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	N/A
Media	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen	N/A
Livestream	Tim Hagerty	Clint Andrus	Tim Hagerty	N/A
Closer	Steve Knopp	Harvey Erstad	Clint Andrus	Wayne Andersen
Counters	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Merlin Gilbertson Mike Moreland	Pam Rose Mike Moreland
Communion Stewards	Daniel & Tracy Baker			

Congregational Care

Address Change:

Tom Wellman
2016 Lake Dr.
Northfield, MN 55057

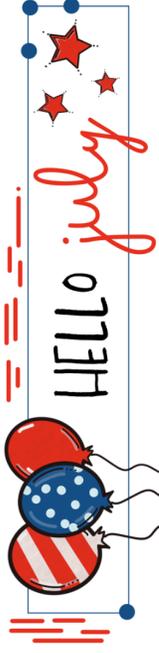


Birthday Blessings to our July Friends!

01 - Nancy Hagerty	25 - Linda Knopp
07 - Katy Fischer	26 - Samantha Baker
12 - Krista Nuessle	26 - Jocelyn Medzagoh
16 - Dorothy Baker	27 - Wayne Andersen
22 - Steven Johnson	27 - Tim Madsen



If you have a birthday during the month of July but your name isn't on our list, please call or email the office so we can update our records for next year.



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
6 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	7 6:30pm Church Council (Zoom)	8 6:00pm Trustees Meeting (Wesley Room) 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	9	10	11	12
13 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	14	15 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	16	17 August Newsletter Deadline	18	19
20 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	21	22 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 am Worship Outdoors w/ Sheltered Reality Drummers 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	28	29 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	30	31		

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

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Judy Richardson-Mahre (Sonrise Director) jembrm@charter.net
Greg Jurek (Custodian)

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