

THE PORTLIGHT

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



August 2025

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Take a moment to PRAY



Pastor Steve invites all to join him for Wednesday Noon Prayers starting at 12pm on August 6, and every Wednesday thereafter, in the Wesley Room. It's casual; come as you are, drop-in when you can.



Sunday Happenings in August:

August 3 - Welcome Reception for Pastor Steve Nuessle and Family after worship. Meet their family and join us for some fun and "Nestle" treats!

August 10 - Peggy Larson and her Ukelele Drive Group will accompany our worship service.

August 24 - Outdoor Worship and BBQ lunch. Bring a friend, a chair, and your water! Stay for burgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings!

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,

It has been so wonderful to finally start here at The Port. As I expected would be the case, everyone has been so nice and welcoming to me and my family, we fit right in! I have had the chance to get settled in my office, to get acclimated to the weekly rhythms of the church, to meet several of the people of the church, to participate in some of the leadership meetings, and to be a part of worship through communion and the sharing of the Word.

My first couple of sermons were a little bit more about me personally and my experience than will be typical going forward. I think it is important for all of you to learn more about me and my background and how I got to this place, but I do look forward to digging more into the scripture, to get back on track with the Lectionary readings, and sharing more about the teachings of Jesus. Starting in August, we will be back in the Gospel of Luke, with a brief look at some of the Prophets in October, which should carry us until Advent. Before I came to The Port I was already going through Luke, so I look forward to picking that journey up again in August.

Overall, it has been a little quiet as I have gotten started here. That is not too surprising for July, especially the week of the 4th, and it was also by design. I wanted the opportunity to get settled, to have some time to figure out the church and the history here, and also to make some connections within the church and the community. I have had the opportunity to meet the pastors of the other churches who use our building, I have met some other clergy and religious leaders in Bloomington, and I am also reaching out to other organizations to see how The Port can support them in their work. That will be an ongoing process as I get started here. I encourage all of you to let me know the people and places I should be connecting with here in Bloomington.

Beyond those connections, one of the other things I really look forward to in August is the chance to meet with many of you. Not just the passing comments on Sunday, but the chance to

sit down and have a genuine conversation. We have placed a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex with several August dates and times where I am available to meet. They're listed as times to meet in my office, but I am available to meet offsite as well, and would love to meet for lunch or coffee if that is easier for you. I am willing to drive out to meet you if that would be easier than coming to the church.

For these meetings, I don't have a specific agenda, we are free to talk about whatever topics you would like. My hope (though not my requirement) is to get to know all of you better, to get to know what it is you are looking for in this church, and to learn more about your heart for ministry and what it is you would like to see The Port focus on as we consider the ways to serve our neighbors and our community. Make sure you sign up if you haven't already, and if the dates and times don't work you can always reach out to me or Lori in the office and we can figure out something that works. I look forward to meeting with all of you.

I once again want to thank you for the opportunity to go to vacation in Spain so soon after I have arrived. I am writing this before I leave but I look forward to sharing about it when I get back, and more than anything, I am ready to get going here at The Port. I believe that the Lord has something in store for this church and I can't wait to find out what that is.

The world needs Jesus. Let us embrace the calling we have on our lives and do all that we can to be a part of that work.

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

Pastor Steve



Sign-up to Meet Pastor Steve!

As Pastor Steve mentioned in his article this month, he is anxious to spend time meeting everybody at The PORT. To do that he has set aside several one hour slots in August for these meetings. They can take place at the church, or he would be happy to meet with you over coffee or lunch offsite as well. A sign-up sheet with available dates and times is posted on the bulletin board near the Welcome Desk. Or you can call the church office, or email Pastor Steve at pastorsteve@paumc.org to schedule something that works for you and your family.



Nuessle Family Welcome Reception is August 3rd

Even though Pastor Steve began his tenure with us on July 1, with the busy summer activities you may not have had a chance to meet him yet. As they had planned their own family vacation in July, we deferred their official welcome celebration to August 3.

For Fellowship Time, we are providing a variety of Nestle-made snacks as an ode to their last name. It's all about the fun with the Congregational Care group and we will certainly remember their last name after this party! Please join us as we extend a warm PORT welcome to Pastor Steve, Krista, Theo and Winston!



The PORT Needs Your Help!

This last month of summer has come quickly, and so planning for fall is in our sights. I will be looking this month to schedule volunteers for ushers, greeters and liturgists through the end of the year.

We have quite a nice group of folks willing to be readers, but we would love to have more volunteers to welcome people to the PORT as greeters at the door. You could sign up with a family member, or by yourself and I will find you a partner! Please consider adding this short but important volunteer role to your schedule. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

~Lynn Livingston

Mission Outreach

Uplifting Local Students and Communities: Mission Outreach in Action

August brings new energy and opportunity as we focus our Mission Outreach efforts on supporting Kennedy High School in Bloomington. This partnership helps stock their student closet with much-needed essentials—items that often run low but make a world of difference for students who need extra support.

What's Most Needed

The student closet is looking for the following:

- Gift cards (\$5–\$50) from Target, Walmart, Cub, etc.
- Hygiene essentials: shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, soap, lotion, floss
- Winter clothing and blankets: coats, jackets, sweaters, sweatpants
- Cold-weather accessories: hats, gloves, scarves, boots (all sizes)
- School supplies: backpacks, notebooks, folders, pens, pencils

 Donations can be placed in the shopping cart located in the church narthex.

 Monetary donations are welcome—please make checks out to PAUMC and note “Kennedy” in the memo line.

Your compassion brings comfort, warmth, and dignity to local students. Thank you for being part of this meaningful outreach!

Mission Outreach: A Year of Generosity

Throughout 2025, our Mission Outreach program has empowered communities near and far. From hosting donation drives to raising funds, your support has led to real impact.

2025 Program Contributions So Far

Program	Amount Raised
Bloomington Scholarship	\$1,858.12
Human Relations Day	\$160.00
Love Offering	\$277.00
Native American Awareness	\$70.00
Simpson Shelter Meals	\$1,125.00
UMCOR Sunday	\$100.00
Valley View School	\$307.04
VEAP	\$320.00



Every dollar and donated item brings a message of hope. Whether it's a warm meal, a scholarship award, or a pair of boots for a student, you've helped uplift others in tangible ways. **Let's continue building a stronger, more compassionate community—together.**

Thank you for your generous donations to help our neighbors in need.
~ Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose, Mission Outreach Co-Chairs

Sheltered Reality Drumming Service was a Booming Success

We enjoyed the uplifting and energetic performance of Sheltered Reality on Sunday, 7/27 with six drum kits in our driveway and the participation of several members of our congregation. We collected \$250 in the free will offering for them.



If you still want to support this project, you can designate your donation to Sheltered Reality at church and it will be forwarded to them.

You can learn more about their ministry at www.sheltered-reality.org.



Reminder that all Clothing Drive donations for the Epilepsy Foundation must be received by Friday, September 5!

See the June Portlight for more details, or look for the flyer at the Welcome Desk. Any questions, please call the church office or Kathy Swenson.

Thank you for your support!

Our 51st Annual Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures is Just Three Months Away

The Tuesday Evening Bazaar work team has been working over the summer to create items for our sale, which will be held on **Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15**. We have a good group, but we certainly could use more help. While you're enjoying the slower pace of summer, please prayerfully consider how you might help with the Bazaar this year. Perhaps you have a talent for a handicraft such as crocheting or woodworking, or maybe you love to bake. These are talents we could really use to add some fun products to the Bazaar.

We will be having a Silent Auction with gift baskets as always too. You don't have to wait until the last minute to put one together and bring it in. We can store it for you! As long as there is nothing perishable, it will be safe and sound. There are always lots of good basket ideas on Google or Pinterest, or seek out an idea from Lynn or Lori Livingston or Kathy Soucy.

We hope, too, that we will have a great group of volunteers to work at the Bazaar this year. We will need help on Thursday, 11/13, to display everything, as well as on Friday and Saturday. There is much to do! We hope you will consider using some volunteer time to help out. It will be time well spent! The proceeds will go toward a project of need in the church, with a portion going to mission outreach.

Watch for more information in the coming Portlights and on Sunday mornings. Thank you in advance for your support of this beloved community event!

Spiritual Growth

August Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Aug 3	Aug 10	Aug 17	Aug 24 (Outdoors)	Aug 31
Welcomers	Heather Anderson Bill Baker	Heather Anderson	Steve & Kathy Soucy	N/A	Greg Jurek
Ushers	Trenton Olson Laurette Lawson Pam Rose	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek	Trenton Olson Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson	Wayne Andersen Sharon Backler
Reader	Daniel Baker	Greg Jurek	Katelyn Hagerty	Pastor Steve	Neil Anderson
Sound	Eric R-M	Tim Madsen	Eric R-M	Eric R-M	Tim Madsen
Media	Barb Andrus/ Kathy Swenson	Tim Madsen	Barb Andrus	N/A	Tim Madsen
Livestream	Scott Swenson	Tim Hagerty	Clint Andrus	N/A	Trenton Olson
Closer	Don Anderson	Wayne Andersen	Steve Knopp	Don Anderson	Steve Knopp
Counters	Merlin Gilbertson Trenton Olson	Merlin Gilbertson Trenton Olson	Merlin Gilbertson Steve Soucy	Merlin Gilbertson Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	Daniel & Tracy Baker				

Birthday Blessings to our August Friends!

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Darlene Solheim | 25 - Terry Wells |
| 02 - Isabelle Swenson | 25 - Joe Matton |
| 13 - Becky Rice | 25 - Luke Rice |
| 14 - Ethan Runck | 26 - Lynn Livingston |
| 17 - Winston Nuessle | 27 - Blessing Wilson |
| 18 - Chrissy Wells | 30 - Annie Comee |
| 18 - Scott Rice | |



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

Address Change:

Guy Moore

Havenwood of Burnsville
14401 Grand Ave. #424
Burnsville, MN 55306
Cell: 612-306-7398

Please update your membership directory.

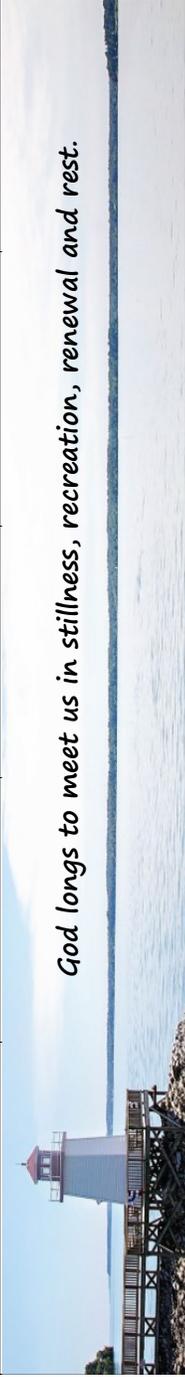


Thank you to Mike Moreland, who had to retire from the PORT Band due to some health issues. Please join us in thanking Mike for his many years of dedication and service through his music!

AUGUST

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><i>God longs to meet us in stillness, recreation, renewal and rest.</i></p>						
3 Nuesse Family Welcome Reception 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Reception for Pastor Steve and Family	4 6:30 pm Church Council (Zoom)	5 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	6 12:00pm Wednesday Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Rm)	7	8	9
10 Peggy Larson & Ukelele Drive 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	11	12 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	13 12:00pm Wednesday Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Rm)	14	15 September Newsletter Deadline	16
17 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	18 6:30 pm Worship Planning Meeting (Wesley Room)	19 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	20 12:00pm Wednesday Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Rm)	21	22	23
24 10:00 Outdoor Worship & BBQ Lunch	25	26 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	27 12:00pm Wednesday Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Rm)	28	29	30
31 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	Sept. 1 Labor Day Holiday					

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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Greg Jurek (Custodian)

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