

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



September '25

## Contents:

- P.2 Pastor Steve's Letter
- P.3 Mini Golf Event; Sunday School resumes
- P.4 Mission Outreach; Coming Events; Return of Community Dinners
- P.5 Mission Outreach letters
- P.6 Volunteer Schedule; September Birthdays
- P.7 Calendar

## Come home....to church.



This summer we welcomed our new Pastor, Rev. Steve Nuessle, and his family to the PORT. Summer can be a busy time and it's not easy to attend worship regularly. Maybe it's been a while since you attended a worship service and you're not sure if you need church anymore, or you're shy about coming back after a long hiatus. Pastor Steve is ready and excited to show us what going to church is all about. He is motivated and passionate about helping us grow our faith, both inside and outside the church doors. In these challenging times the church can offer support and care and fellowship.

Our church is learning how we can be an important part of our community and we would love to have you come along for the journey. Our doors are open and we are ready to welcome you back home. Invite a friend to come with you and let God shine his love into your life. We have some fun things planned for the fall, as you will see inside this newsletter. Come alongside and dock at the PORT for a while. Let's do church together!

## 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,

As I am sitting down to write this, it is already the last week of August. Hard to believe that the summer is almost over. It has been quite the busy summer for me and my family. We have gone from finishing up at Main Street Church, to starting here, to taking a vacation, to spending much of this month meeting people from the church, having Krista start playing piano, getting my boys plugged into the school, and getting into our new rhythm. Through all that, add in the summer camps and sports and time as a family, I think we are ready for September and school to start!

But I am also very excited for what September will bring to The Port! Even with a pastoral transition, it has been a somewhat relaxed summer, but there have been some great highlights. We have had wonderful Sundays of worship, including Krista starting to play the piano. Included in our worship were multiple outdoor services, and a wonderful BBQ lunch. We had the official pastoral welcome in August. And we have had many meetings as we prepare for what is ahead at The Port. And now we are fast approaching our Rally Sunday on September 7.

During that Sunday we will share about the upcoming ministries and events of the church, and we will be introducing our Children's Ministry plan for the year. September 7 will also be the return of the worship band. I am looking forward to expanding our worship offerings through the band, with Sunrise, and our other special offerings. September is also the return of our Community Meals following our summer hiatus. The Community Meals will meet the third Wednesday each month, with our dates for the remainder of 2025 scheduled for September 17, October 15, November 19 and December 17. Dinner will start at 5:30 and we will have activities at 6:30. These meals are a great opportunity to invite friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to our church for a great meal and great fellowship.

Some other highlights to look forward to in September include a special day of worship on September 14, when Krista will lead worship with two of her friends who are very talented singers. September 21 will be our mini-golf outing at Dred Scott following worship. And on September 28, we will have Lynn Livingston share the message. And as we look

ahead, a reminder that we will have our Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 25 from 3-5pm and of course our annual Holiday Bazaar is just around the corner, November 14 and 15.

A highlight for me so far is having the opportunity to meet so many of you. I have been able to visit many of our friends who have limited mobility are unable to make it on Sundays anymore. I have very much enjoyed those visits, hearing about the lives of our congregants and finding out how much this church has meant to them over the years. The Port is a special place, it has been for decades, and it is our call to make sure that it remains so for the years to come.

As I have talked to more and more people, I have sensed a weariness, both personally and in connection with the church. I am especially sensing grief. There is grief in personal lives with the loss of parents and friends. There is grief in the church, as we have been navigating a new season here at The Port that looks different than what we had before. And I have sensed grief over the uncertainty of what comes next. This is all a part of life, the cycles within a family, and the cycles within a church.

This is something that we will be talking about and thinking about in the days and months to come here at The Port. I don't know what that looks like, but I know that this is the place that we are called to, and grief is best processed together. And I also want to encourage rest, to make sure that we are doing our best to honor the gift of the Sabbath that we have been given from our Lord.

This is a season of transition, of new beginnings, but also a time to reflect on all that has come before us. In the midst of it all, I have full confidence that this is the season that the Lord has given us and that He has a plan for all of us. I look forward to walking with all of you and seeing what He has in store for us for this church, his people, and this community.

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

Pastor Steve



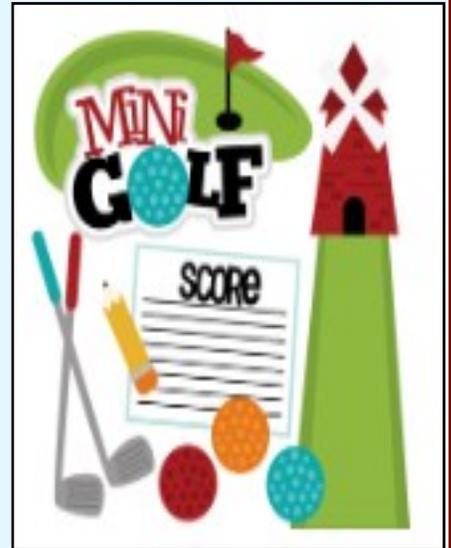
## **C'mon PORT Friends, it's time for some FUN!**

Join us on Sunday, 9/21, at 12:00pm, for "The PORT Open", a fun and slightly competitive mini golf outing at The Links at Dred Scott in Bloomington. This is an award-winning 18 hole course with beautiful water features and flowers throughout. Adults are \$11.00, Children 12 & under \$9.00, Seniors 62+ and Veterans are \$9.00. Tax will be added to each ticket. If we get 15 or more players the fees will drop by \$1.00 per person.

After golf, Kathy Bell and John Hepola have generously invited the participants to their nearby home for lunch.

**The deadline to sign-up is Wed., 9/17.** Please do so on the back of your connection card or by calling the church office, and let us know how many golfers you'll have, and how many will be joining in the lunch afterward.

Questions? Call or text Lynn Livingston or Kathy Soucy. We hope to see you there!



## ***Big Thank You's to our Congregational Care Team and their Volunteers!***



This was a very busy summer filled with celebrations and food at the PORT, and our Congregational Care Co-Chairs of Lynn Livingston and Kathy Soucy did an outstanding job of managing these events. Almost every week they were planning and shopping, and then the set-up and clean-up before and after each event often had them the first to arrive and the last to leave the building. We also greatly appreciate all of the volunteers who stepped up to help. Especially last Sunday for the BBQ in the wind. Thank you to Scott & Kathy and Clint & Barb for the grilling and the trimmings! It was a delicious lunch. One thing's for sure, our church has great food events! Thank you all!

# Youth & Family Ministries

## **Sunday School Classes for Ages Kindergarten through 8th Grade Resumes on September 7, 2025. Please Join Us!**

Compass Crew Classes are offered the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month during worship (September to May). We meet downstairs in the east wing.

For September only, we will also meet the first Sunday, September 7th. This will be a fun get to know one another class. Our fall curriculum is Cokesbury's "Big Faith."

All of us teachers (Becky, Beth, Janene and Traci) look forward to seeing your children!

~ Janene Haugen, Chair, Youth & Family Ministries



# Mission Outreach

## September's Mission Outreach Event is a Food Drive for VEAP

For September, The Port will be holding a food drive for VEAP. Due to recent federal cuts to food programs, it is putting increased pressure on pantries like VEAP to be the safety net for families in our community. As demand for support rises, VEAP is stepping up—but we can't do it alone!

VEAP is now receiving 30% less food from their food bank partners compared to just a year ago, driven by cuts to The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)—a critical federal pipeline for shelf-stable staples like beans, pasta, and canned vegetables. With recent cuts to SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid, we are expecting even greater demand for help and are calling on our community for support. Below is the list of their most needed items. A copy of this list can also be found at the Welcome Desk.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Whole grain rice (1-2 pound bags)   | Whole grain pasta                            |
| Hearty soups (high protein, low sodium)   | Canned fruit and vegetables                  |
| Coffee  | Canned proteins (meat and beans)             |
| Cooking oil   | Diapers (all sizes), formula, and baby wipes |
| Toilet paper  | Laundry detergent                            |
| Paper towels  | Dish Soap                                    |
| Baking essentials (flour, sugar, spices, baking soda/powder)  |  |
| Whole grain cereal (like Shredded Wheat, Kashi, bran cereals, Chex, etc.)   |  |
| Personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, hand soap, shaving cream, toiletries, etc.)   |  |
| Gluten-free products (whole grains like brown rice, wild rice, quinoa, cornmeal; nut flours and butters; rice crackers, GF snacks, etc. Check for gluten-free product label.) |  |
| Birthday candles, cake frosting, birthday-themed napkins/plates, cake mix, small birthday party favors like chalk, bubbles or bags of balloons                                |  |
| Dog and cat food (particularly wet food, treats, litter, etc.)  |  |
| Paper bags and re-usable, cloth totes (We'll always take your extra paper grocery bags. We are not accepting plastic bag or totes donations).                                 |  |



## Coming Events

### Upcoming PORT Events - Mark Your Calendars

**Community Suppers @ The PORT, 5:30pm-7pm** on the third Wednesday of each month: 9/17, 10/15, 11/19. Free to community and PORT members.

**Mini Golf @ The Links at Dred Scott, 9/21, 12:00pm**  
Followed by lunch at Kathy Bell/John Hepola's home. Sign-up on back of Connection Cards with details.

**Trunk or Treat** on Saturday, 10/25, 3:00 to 5:00pm (2pm setup in the parking lot)

**51st Annual Holiday Bazaar** on Fri., 11/14, 9am-6pm, and Sat., 11/15, 9am-3pm.

We need all of you to take part in these events! Please invite your friends and neighbors and spread the word on your social media pages.

### PORT's Monthly Community Meals Resume on 9/17:

Starting September 17, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, we'll host a Community Supper from 5:30 to 7:00pm. We need YOUR HELP to make this a success! Each month a different work group will host the meal prep and cooking, and volunteers will be needed to setup, serve, and clean-up afterward.

Please SupPORT this dinner by signing up for the following volunteer opportunities on the back of the connection cards:

- Provide bars or cookies
- Dinner prep (shopping, chopping, cooking)
- Setting tables on Wednesday
- Serving our guests
- Clean-up following the meal

We also hope you will invite your friends and neighbors and bring your family to enjoy this dinner too! Let's get to know our neighbors and show them what a great church we have!

# Mission Outreach Thank You Letters



February 4, 2025

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church  
8000 Portland Avenue South  
Bloomington, MN 55420  
Attn: Pam Rose and Nancy Hagerty

Dear Pam and Nancy,

Thank you for your contribution of \$500 to the Education Foundation of Bloomington (EFB). Your gift supports student scholarships so Bloomington Public School students have the financial support to continue academic studies after high school. Your gift was received by the following capable and deserving applicant:

Removed for privacy Kennedy High School

Please find the thank you note from the student enclosed.

The EFB is grateful for the donations made by companies, organizations and individuals to strengthen public education in the Bloomington school district. By offering significant financial support to graduating seniors, they are more apt to continue on their educational path. This year the EFB was able to award almost 100 much needed scholarships to deserving students in Bloomington due to financial support provided by people like you!

Thank you for helping Bloomington students prepare to be leaders in tomorrow's world.

Sincerely

Tiffany Shermak  
Education Foundation of Bloomington President

Note our address has changed:  
Education Foundation of Bloomington  
PO Box 20496  
Bloomington, MN 55420

PAUMC generally makes a donation each spring to the Education Foundation of Bloomington that is designated to be used for scholarships.

The funds for this year's donation were provided by individual member donations, and \$1700 was added from the remaining memorial funds given to the Cox family.

Thank you to our PORT family for your generous giving that allowed us to make such an impact in our community.

Dear PORT-Portland Avenue Methodist Church Scholarship Donor,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my gratitude for being selected as recipient of the scholarship.

It is an honor to receive this support and I am truly grateful for your generosity and investment in my education.

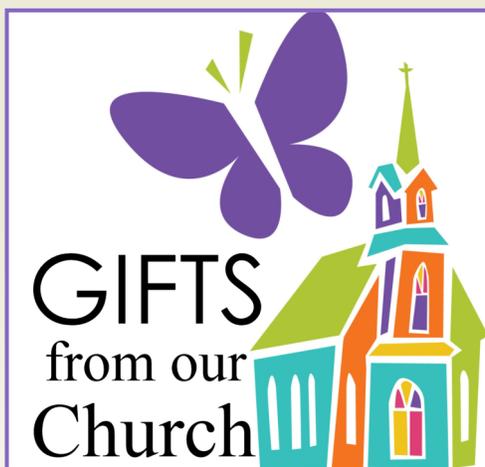
This scholarship holds immense importance to both me and my family. Thank you for the assistance and the support that was given to me.

I plan to use this scholarship to attend St. Catherine University and study Sonography and radiology.

I want to once again thank you for your belief in my potential. I will further my education and thank you for taking the chance for me.

Thank you,

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# Spiritual Growth

## September Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28
<b>Welcomers</b>	Beth Cameron Julie Rasmussen	Heather Anderson	Heather Anderson Greg Jurek	Merlin & Linda Gilbertson
<b>Ushers</b>	Scott Swenson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy	Trent Olson Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler	Bruce Benson Laurette Lawson Jocelyn Medzagoh	Bruce Benson Don Anderson Pam Rose
<b>Reader</b>	Daniel Baker	Greg Jurek	Neil Anderson	Lynn Livingston
<b>Sound</b>	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
<b>Media</b>	Nancy Hagerty	Tim Madsen	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen
<b>Livestream</b>	Tim Hagerty	Tim Hagerty	Scott Swenson	Trenton Olson
<b>Closer</b>	Clint Andrus	Don Anderson	Harvey Erstad	Wayne Andersen
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Trenton Olson	Pam Rose Trenton Olson	Merlin Gilbertson Steve Soucy
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Daniel & Tracy Baker			



# Congregational Care



### “What a Funny Kid!”

A student named Arthur in Lynn’s pre-K class told her he wrote a new joke. He said “*Where did the flower go? To Bloomington!*”

Lynn laughed heartily at his delivery and complimented him on his joke, adding, “I grew up in Bloomington. It’s a great town.” Puzzled, Arthur replied, “I didn’t even know that was a real place!”

And this is why Lynn loves teaching!

### Happy Birthday, September Friends!

08 - Joaquina Lawson  
13 - Steven Fischer  
18 - Oliver Darnell  
20 - Travis Runck

21 - Joy Plourde  
25 - Clara Haugen  
27 - Jerry Janes  
28 - Barb Andrus

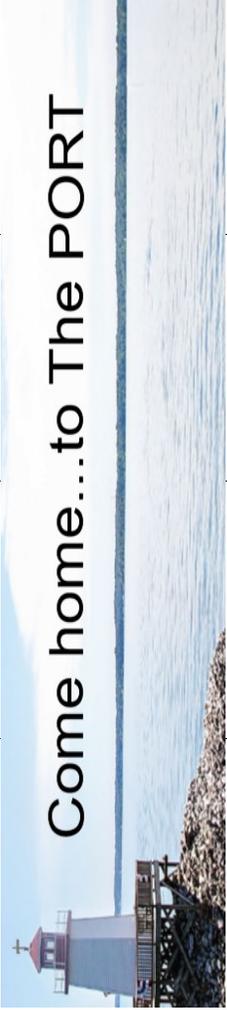


If you have a birthday during the month of September, but your name isn’t on our list, please call or email the office so we can update our records for next year.

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

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	3 12:00pm Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Room)	4	5	6
7 <b>Rally Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship / Communion/ Sunday School kick-off 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	8 6:30pm Church Council (Zoom)	9 6:00pm Trustees Meeting (Wesley Room) 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	10 12:00pm Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Room) 6:30pm Sunrise Rehearsal	11	12	13
14 10:00 am Worship/Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	15 October Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	17 12:00pm Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Room) 5:30pm SupPORT Monthly Community Dinner	18	19	20
21 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	22	23 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	24 12:00pm Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Room) 6:30pm Sunrise Rehearsal	25	26	27
28 10:00 am Worship/Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	29	30 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop				

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 Nuessle (Pastor) [PastorSteve@paumc.org](mailto:PastorSteve@paumc.org). Office: 952-888-6070; Cell: 952-210-0409  
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)

Church Office E-mail: [PAUMC@paumc.org](mailto:PAUMC@paumc.org) PAUMC Website: [www.paumc.org](http://www.paumc.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>

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