

THE PORTLIGHT

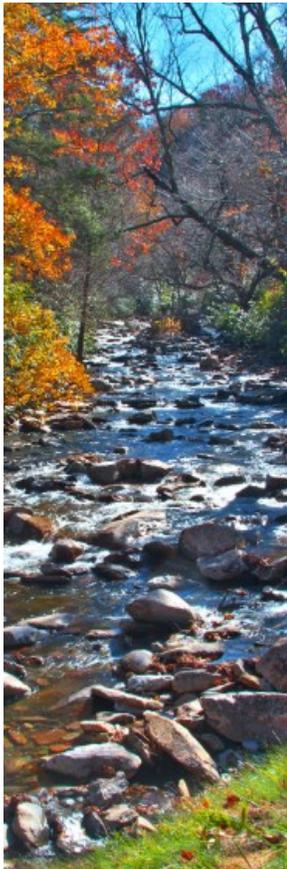
A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



October 2025

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JOIN US for our
3rd Annual
"Trunk or Treat"
at The PORT
Saturday, October 25th
3:00pm – 5:00pm
(We'll move indoors if the weather is poor.)



DETAILS:

- Enjoy Trick or Treating in a safe family environment
- Bonfire with S'mores fixings
- Best decorated trunk theme contest (set up at 2pm)
- Everyone is invited! Bring your friends and neighbors!

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

- ◆ It's time for all hands on deck at The PORT!
- ◆ Our 51st Annual **Holiday Bazaar** is just one month away! There is so much to be done and we need everybody's help!
- ◆ Please see page 6 for details.

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,

We have kicked off the Fall in style. We had our Rally Sunday on September 7, where we started our kid's ministry, we hosted our first SupPORT dinner of the season on September 17, and our band has returned to provide wonderful worship. I appreciated the slower pace as I got started in July, but I am really appreciating our move to a time of more church activity. And the best is yet to come, as we move towards the Holiday Bazaar and the Advent season. In the meantime, I continue to meet with people from the church and get a better sense of the rhythms of the church, and I like where we are at. With all that said, I have a few things to share. I have a couple of church volunteer needs, a specific ask/challenge, and an observation from my first three months here.

First, I want to start with volunteer needs. One thing I will say is I am impressed with the dedication in filling the volunteer needs on Sunday mornings. People are very willing to help with all aspects of Sunday, including sound, media, livestream, reading, welcoming, counting, ushering and participating in worship. All of these roles are very important each Sunday and I am thankful that so many are willing to step forward. I do recognize that many of the same people do many of the same jobs most of the weeks. It is wonderful that you all are willing to serve in this way, but I know this is not sustainable long term. We will continue to look for others to step into roles when the opportunities present themselves.

An immediate need that we have is help with Children's Church, in support of our Compass Crew. Janene does a wonderful job heading up the ministry, and Becky, Beth and Traci are great teachers and servants, but they need help! As you may have noticed, the number of kids we have each Sunday has increased a little this Fall, so there are

opportunities to serve. If you are willing/able to help, do know that you will not need to prepare a lesson and you will not need to teach (unless you want to!), but there needs to be at least two adults available each Sunday. Due to family situations and work commitments, there are occasional Sundays where our current teachers can't fill all the roles. We need people who can help in advance and also on short notice. If you are interested, please let me or Janene know.

The second big need is for the Bazaar. We have more information about the specific needs elsewhere in the Portlight, but we are looking for people who can help on November 14 and 15, those who have projects to donate, those who can contribute to the bake sale, and those who can put together gift baskets. Reach out to Lynn, Lori or Kathy Soucy if you are available.

My specific ask/challenge is regarding the SupPORT dinners. As I mentioned, we had a nice start in September, with ~20 people in attendance, but I would like to see that number grow. The best way to grow is to start with people within the church. If you are an active attender at The Port, I would like to challenge you to come to the next SupPORT dinners on October 15 or November 19. And, if you are coming, to invite someone to come with you. These dinners are very important, a chance for us to gather together and fellowship outside of Sunday mornings, and to pull even closer together as the Body of Christ. Then, once we have really established the dinner, we can respond to Jesus's call to invite those in our community who are left out and on the margins.

Now for an observation. As I have engaged in conversation with many people from the church, and participated in some committee meetings, I have seen some themes and thoughts emerge again

(Pastor's Message continued on page 3)

Pastor's Message Continued / Road Construction Update

(Pastor's Message continued from page 2)

and again, I responded by putting together some thoughts for capital improvements, and soon realized that none of the thoughts I had were “new” thoughts, they had been discussed many times before, but we haven’t had the ability to move forward. I would like to change that. I think we are in a unique place to try and make progress on a few of the things at this church. One small change we have made is to have our Fellowship time following Sunday worship take place in the Narthex, instead of solely the Wesley Room. The hope is that this will provide more space for people to stay after church and fellowship. Fellowship time is perhaps the most important 30 minutes of the week for the church. I hope this change will encourage everyone to stay a little longer on Sunday. We are also moving forward with a sign replacement on the west side of the church next to the parking lot. Hopefully that will be completed soon.

The other two things that come up in my conversations are the state of the pews and our current room usage/room storage. We are currently in the process of reviewing options to upgrade our

pews, including staining and re-upholstering, and are hoping to have a plan in place soon (perhaps by the time of the publishing of the Portlight). Regarding storage and rooms, we are looking at weekend dates in the early February range to have an all church cleaning day. I will have a whole lot more information on all of this in the weeks and months to come.

I am excited for the direction of The Port. We are both simultaneously getting back into the familiar rhythms of the church, while also thinking of good, practical ways that we can move forward. And in this process, let us always remember we are doing it for the glory of the Lord.

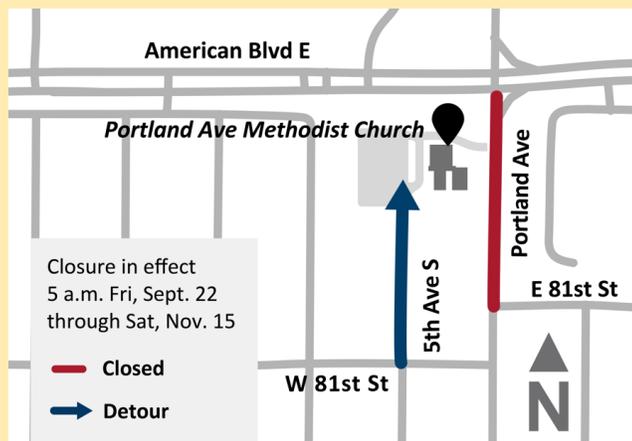
Blessings to you all and I’ll see you on Sunday,

Pastor Steve



Portland Avenue Road Closure Will Last Through Mid-November

Please be aware that the driveway into the church parking lot from Portland Avenue is closed now due to the road construction for the 494 project and the Portland Avenue bridge. The closure is set to last into the middle of November. The posted alternate route is to use 5th Avenue from 81st Street to enter and exit our parking lot. (See the blue arrow in the map below.)



The timing of this is certainly unfortunate with our two big fall events coming up. We have contacted the project managers to let them know about our Holiday Bazaar on Nov. 14 and 15, and asked if they would do all they can to open the road before that date. Certainly the weather will play a key factor, but let’s pray that they will be able to complete their work by Thursday, 11/13.

Thank you for your patience and understanding of this temporary inconvenience.

Spiritual Growth

October Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26
Welcomers	Heather Anderson, Bill Baker	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Heather Anderson, Greg Jurek	Steve & Linda Knopp
Ushers	Bruce Benson Kathy Soucy Scott Swenson	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek Melinda Matton	Trent Olson Jocelyn Medzagoh Scott Swenson	Bruce Benson Don Anderson Kathy Soucy
Reader	Neil Anderson	John Hepola	Pam Rose	Greg Jurek
Sound	Eric Richardson- Mahre	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Nancy Hagerty	Tim Madsen
Livestream	Clint Andrus	Tim Hagerty	Trent Olson	Scott Swenson
Closer	Don Anderson	Harvey Erstad	Wayne Andersen	Steve Knopp
Counters	Merlin Gilbertson Steve Soucy	Merlin Gilbertson Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Trent Olson
Communion Stewards	Daniel & Tracy Baker			

Congregational Care

Happy Birthday to our October Friends!

01 - Beth Cameron	17 - Janea Medzagoh
04 - Daniel Dray	18 - Fran Carpenter
05 - Greg Jurek	19 - Jake Rasmussen
07 - Tim Hagerty	20 - Joanne Sanfter
16 - Emilia Runck	24 - Gloria Wilson-Bahun
16 - Steve Soucy	26 - Marlus Jackson



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

Pastor Steve and Berri Reiser, 6/29/25, with the Last Supper gift from PAUMC.



Mission Outreach / Thank you from Pastor Reiser

Education Foundation of Bloomington

Years of inequities have led to major life issues for the black community, including poverty and limited housing, job, and education opportunities. It will take a long time to make the systemic changes necessary to bring equity to the black community. Making those changes will take a massive investment. One small action we can take is to contribute to a fund that provides scholarships for black students to become teachers and models for learning.

In memory of Russ and Carol Cox, our **October Mission Outreach** offering will go to the Education Foundation of Bloomington, which distributes such scholarships. Please contribute to this worthy cause, which has the promise of making a real difference for the black community well into the future. For your monetary donation towards this mission outreach project, please write Scholarship in the memo of your check.

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

Coming in December - Feed My Starving Children

SAVE THE DATE! Please join us for our annual food packing event at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Egan on Saturday, Dec. 27th, 9:30-11:15am. Registration details will be in the November Portlight.

July's Valley View Elementary School Supply Drive was a SUCCESS!

We were thrilled to deliver the school supplies to Valley View Elementary that were so generously donated during our July School Supply Drive. Below is an inventory of everything YOU donated. We also raised \$100 in monetary donations to support students in need. All of you did an incredible job! THANK YOU!

Writing & Drawing Supplies:

- 68 Pencils
- 10 Blue pens
- 8 Fine Highlighters
- 4 Colored Marker Packs
- 2 Boxes of Crayons
- 1 Pencil sharpener
- 1 pack of notecards
- 1 pack of graph paper
- 1 pack of chalk

Organizational Items:

- 11 Folders
- 5 three-ring binders
- 3 pencil containers
- 1 box of Post-it Notes

Student Gear:

- 4 Backpacks
- 4 Water Bottles
- 4 Spiral Notebooks

Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies:

- 20 Clorox-to-Go Packs
- 3 Clorox Wipes
- 1 pack of Clorox Wipes
- 3 rolls of Paper Towels
- 4 rolls of Toilet Paper
- 5 boxes of Tissue

Paper Supplies:

- Legal Copy Paper
- Colored Paper & Construction Paper

Snack & Storage Supplies:

- 1 box of Snack Bags
- 1 box of Sandwich Bags



Thank You Note from Pastor Reiser

Portland Ave. UMC "The PORT" -

I was just re-reading your warm and encouraging notes from our last Sunday together [6/29] and I just wanted to say "thank you" one more time.

Thank you for welcoming my family and me so quickly into your midst. Thank you for opening your hearts to us, even knowing we were only going to be with you for a six month interim.

Thank you for allowing me to be present with you for six months worth of joys, sorrows, sermons, services.

Thank you for supporting me during those last few, but crucial, steps in my ordination journey.

Thank you for the song and the gifts. I can't fully communicate how deeply I was touched by your thoughtfulness, generosity, and creativity. The "Last Supper" [wall hanging] is going up in the dining room at the cabin.

You all and Pastor Steve remain in my prayers.

~Pastor Steve Reiser

(See photo page 4)

Holiday Bazaar News

Our 51st annual Holiday Bazaar is just over one month away. We'll be open on Friday, November 14th, 9am –6pm, and Saturday, November 15th, 9am –3pm. This is our church's largest community event of the year, and our largest fundraiser of the year. The sole reason our bazaar has been so successful is thanks to the love and support of our congregation. This year, more than ever before, we will need everybody's help! Please check the information below and pick out a couple of ways you can contribute with your time and your talents in the final weeks before we open our doors.

Make Goods to Donate to the Sale:

- Attend our Tuesday evening workshops to help us make goods. No skills required; it's easy and we will happily teach you. Or you can make and donate items such as:
- New, handmade Christmas ornaments or decorations
- Needlework items like blankets, dishcloths and towels, mittens, gloves, scarves, etc.
- Gift items like pottery, jewelry, candles, paintings, etc.
- Wood-working items like decorations, bird houses or feeders, stools, toys, etc.

All donations need to be received at the church by Sunday, November 2nd.

Please include a note with your name and phone number, a count of what you're donating, material costs, and a suggested retail price.

Please plan now to work at the sale:

- We will need many volunteers to staff the sale. It's very easy and FUN! It's a great way to get to know each other better, and to meet our neighbors.
- We create a schedule for both days.
- No money handling required. We have a central cashier that handles the payments.
- We try to schedule in 3 or 4 hour increments. Consider working each day.
- Scheduled areas include the sales tables, kitchen, baggers at cashier, popcorn popper, floaters, etc.

Bake Sale Goods needed for Friday and especially for Saturday:

- Find your favorite recipes for cookies, bars, pastries, sweet breads, pies, cakes, fudge, snack mixes, soup mixes, or canned goods like jams, pickles, salsa, etc.
- We will have trays at the Welcome Desk for you to take home to package your goodies.
- Our team will price everything for consistency.
- Donations can be brought in starting Wednesday, Nov. 12.

Donate a themed Gift Basket (or let somebody else shop for you with a financial contribution):

- Examples of themes are **Movie Night** with some DVD's, microwave popcorn, boxed candies or **Coffee Lover** with some mugs, coffees, flavored syrups, biscotti, etc.
- Drop off in the Bazaar Room with an inventory of your items and the total cost. Include your contact info.
- All items must be NEW, and no perishables please.
- Baskets will be sold in our Silent Auction.

Advertising and Praying:

- We will soon have flyers ready to be posted at coffee shops, libraries, your breakroom at work, or mailed out to your friends.
- Watch for email ads or Facebook posts and please share them with your contacts.
- Please pray for us! Pray for the health and stamina of our workers; and for the people who come to our Bazaar that they will be uplifted and touched.
- Please pray for good weather and completed road construction so that our driveway will be reopened by the Bazaar.

Any questions please contact Lynn Livingston, Lori Livingston, or Kathy Soucy. Thank you in advance for your help and support! Working together we are sure to have another successful year!

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.
Sunday School classes for Kindergarten through 8th grade are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Staff

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Judy Richardson-Mahre (Sonrise Director) jembrm@charter.net
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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>