

# THE PORTLIGHT

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



**November 2025**

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Daylight Saving Time ends on **Saturday, Nov. 1**

## Our 51st Annual Holiday Bazaar is here!

**Friday, Nov. 14, 9am - 6pm**

**Saturday, Nov. 15, 9am - 3pm**

Hand-crafted items (free personalizing), Bake Sale, Gift Basket Silent Auction, Bazaar Bistro, free popcorn.

Collecting non-perishable food items for VEAP.

Invite your friends and neighbors. Get your holiday shopping done now and relax with a delicious lunch or treat from our Bazaar Bistro. We've been working hard all year & we can't wait to see you there! See page 3 for full 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 are kicking into high gear here at The Port. We have many things happening in November and December. We start with our All Saints Celebration on November 2. Then, we will, of course, have our annual Holiday Bazaar on November 14 and 15. I can't wait to participate this year and see what all of the excitement is about! I know that so many people have been working so hard for many months to make this a success. Then, on November 23 we will have our "Service of Thanksgiving" where we will be celebrating all of the highlights of 2025 and looking forward to a great 2026. During that service, you will be invited to hand in your pledge card, and at the conclusion of the service we will begin the process of decorating for Advent.

And before we know it, Advent will be here. The first Sunday of Advent is actually November 30th this year. We will have many of our usual traditions, including our Advent wreath candle lighting each Sunday, beautiful music, beautiful decorations, and it will all conclude with our Christmas Eve service at 10pm. This year we will be looking at the writings of Isaiah, and how the prophets of old foretold the coming of the our Messiah, Jesus Christ. We will honor Advent as a season of Anticipation and Celebration.

During all this time we will still have our usual activities such as our community meals (11/19 and 12/17), and if you saw the brief article elsewhere in The Portlight, we have also begun our Pew Restoration Project. Our hope is that the project will be completed before the first Sunday of Advent. We should be excited by all that is coming up at The Port!

However, I do want to share that in the midst of all of this excitement and anticipation of my first Advent and Christmas at The Port, my heart is heavy. As you all probably know and as of this writing on October 28, we are in the midst of a Federal government shutdown. I don't often preach about or write about politics, but I do want to share about this specific situation. This is not a writeup about who is to blame, or what the Biblical resolution to the political situation might be, it is strictly about the consequences about government action, or in this case inaction. This shut down is going to cause pain to our neighbors, as well as to some people within the congregation.

My main concern is that as a result of the government shutdown Federal food aid will be cut, and in many cases eliminated. This is aid that many people count on to make ends

meet as they try to feed their families in a time of rising prices. Again, no matter who is to blame for the politics and the rising prices, this will result in real pain for real people. I believe as a church we are called to respond, to use our blessings to care for those who have less, for those on the margins of society and for those who are in need.

During the church service on Sunday, October 26, I gave three potential action items we can engage in as a church. First, I suggested that we continue to steadfastly support VEAP and other organizations that provide food and other assistance. They are seeing a significant uptick in need, and they need money and food donations. We provide some of both as a church, and for those who are able, please consider giving additional help to those organizations.

The second item is I want you to consider making an additional donation to the church, beyond your pledge or tithe, to help us restock our food cards and other forms of assistance at the church. Handing out food and gas cards is one of the clearest and easiest ways that our church can provide assistance. Since mid-October we have had more inquires for help than the rest of my time here combined, and I suspect the need will grow. When someone asks for help, I do talk with them and vet them, to try to ensure that all gifts will go to those in most need.

The third item I mentioned was developing a mini-food shelf here at the church. As I mentioned, VEAP and other organizations do a great job but they are getting slammed right now, and sometimes those in need aren't able to access them in a timely manner. If we had a mini-food shelf, it would allow us to provide some immediate assistance to cover the gap until those in need are able to access more food. Feel free to make food donations or to let me know if you would be interested in helping.

There is a lot happening at The Port, much of it good, as well as an opportunity to live out our call to love our neighbors. I look forward to a blessed holiday time and Christmas, and I hope you will join me in thinking of ways that we can bless our neighbors this season as well.

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

Pastor Steve



## Bazaar Week: November 10-15

Our **51st Annual Holiday Bazaar** is on the way! This is the single largest event our church sponsors and everything donated comes from our Port members! Our sale has an excellent reputation and folks really do plan for it as part of their holiday traditions.

As with every important task at The Port, we are looking for everyone's support. **The Bazaar will be held on Friday, Nov. 14 from 9 to 6 and Saturday, Nov. 15 from 9 to 3.** We have many areas to staff so please consider volunteering as often as you can throughout the week.

### How can you help right now?

- Complete any craft items** you're donating and bring them to church by November 3rd.
- Donate a gift basket** for the silent auction (or the funds for one and we'll shop for you) by November 9. Include an inventory of what's included and the cost for the items. (No perishable food, please.)
- Take fliers to distribute** to family and friends or to post in windows or on bulletin boards of places you frequent such as coffee shops, hair and nail salons, libraries, bakeries, etc.
- Make something for the bake sale.** We need sweet breads, cookies, bars, pies, snack mixes, fudge, or holiday treats to sell on Friday and Saturday. We will provide trays you can use to pack your goods and instructions to help with labeling and packaging. Our bakery ladies will do the pricing so you don't have to worry about that. Bake Sale goods can be dropped off starting Wednesday, 11/12.
- Use your social media platforms** to get the word out and invite your friends and neighbors.

### The schedule for "Bazaar Week" is as follows:

**Monday, Nov. 10, 6:30pm** - Pricing of sale items. Can you help tag items? We will need all personal craft donations by this time. We will NOT be able to accept donations later as we will not have time to price them.

**Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6:30pm** - Final preparations for setting up displays, pricing, and workshop.

**Wednesday, Nov. 12, 11am** – Gather tables and set up the room layout. We need strong backs to carry tables and display stands up from the basement and from around the building. At **1pm** we will cover the tables with cloths.

**Thursday, Nov. 13, 10am to 6pm** – Display merchandise, decorate room. **Bake Sale** goods can be dropped off after 10am and we will need more goods on Friday to stock our tables for Saturday.

**Friday, Nov. 14, 9am to 6pm, and Saturday, Nov. 15, 9am to 3pm** we are open for business and we need YOU! Please sign up to work as many hours as you can. You'll be standing or sitting behind the tables listing the items our guests are buying on a tablet for them to pay at the central cashier. You will not need to handle money, just offer a smile and a warm "hello". This is a great way to meet our neighbors and to show them the warm hospitality at The Port. It's a very fun time!

**Saturday at 3pm** we'll clean the room and haul the tables back to storage. Strong backs and legs will be needed again. With lots of help we should be done by 5pm.

Thank you all in advance for your support of this long-standing labor of love. We sincerely hope you will come often this week to help us get ready and to join in the fun! This is a great way for high school students to get volunteer hours too.

Please pray for the success of our Holiday Bazaar and for the strength and health of our workers and guests. We hope to see you all there! If working at the bazaar is not possible for you, then come down and visit, eat and shop. You won't be sorry!

Feel free to contact any of the following people with questions:

**Lynn Livingston** 952-797-2645

**Lori Livingston** 612-240-2640

**Kathy Soucy** 612-226-2085



# Mission Outreach

**For November's Mission Outreach we are collecting funds for United Methodist Student Day.** We will have a special offering on Sunday, 11/16.

Please read the article below for more information about this special mission.

You may donate throughout the month by check made payable to PAUMC, with Student written in the memo field.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

~Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose  
Mission Outreach Co-chairs



**By:** Rev. Carol Zaagsma

Student loan debt in the United States currently averages \$28,950 per borrower. Scholarships can be a significant means for students to graduate with less debt.

Giving to United Methodist Student Day is one way to match scholarship funding with United Methodist students who are working on undergraduate or graduate degrees.

United Methodist Student Day scholarships, which are made available through the generous giving of United Methodists across the connection, are administered by the General Board of Higher Education. The application window opens in January, so contributions made now will help ensure funding is available to distribute at the beginning of the next calendar year.

More than half of today's students leave school with debt. We can help improve the financial health of young adults in meaningful ways through this offering. When United Methodists come together around efforts like this, great things happen, so thank you for educating con-

### Pew Restoration Project Update from Pastor Steve

As your pastor, I am happy to report that the plan for the Pew Restoration Project was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of the congregation and we have started the work. As a reminder, we will be refinishing the wood of the pews, making repairs where needed, and replacing the pew pads with a new design and fabric. The total cost of the project will be ~\$35,000. For this, \$15,000 will come from Memorial Funds, \$10,000 from the Bazaar Fund (including all proceeds of the 2025 Bazaar), and the final \$10,000 will come from a generous gift from our ministry partners at Potter's House Church.

Work began on October 27, and we anticipate that the project will need 4-5 weeks to complete. We will need assistance every Monday and Friday to take apart and re-assemble the pews. If you are interested in helping, please let Pastor Steve know. We look forward to making the Sanctuary a more beautiful and welcoming place.

### Bishop's Advent Study: A Child is Born, Starts December 1

This Advent season, Pastor Steve invites us to join the Bishop for her 2025 Advent Study. This study will be held via Zoom for four weeks on Mondays from 7-8:15, starting on December 1 and running through December 22, and it will be based on the book "A Child is Born". The study will dive into the narratives of Isaac, Ishmael, Moses and Samuel to reveal how they foreshadow the Christmas story.

Pastor Steve is planning to participate in this weekly study, which will include a teaching from the Bishop followed by a time of discussion. The discussion is generally done through Zoom breakout rooms, but if there is enough interest, we can gather in the Welsey room and have a discussion in person within the church group. If you are interested, please email Pastor Steve ([pastorsteve@paumc.org](mailto:pastorsteve@paumc.org)), and he will send you the link to register.



### Stewardship Letters Mailing Soon

In early November, Pastor Steve and Finance Chair Merlin Gilbertson will be sending out letters to all people connected to The Port in regards to pledges and giving for 2026. For those who typically pledge for the year, you will be given an update on your pledge from 2025 and an invitation to renew your pledge for 2026. For those who give but don't pledge, you will be given an update on your total giving through October 31, 2025 and invited to consider a pledge for 2026. For those who have not attended church recently, you will receive a letter inviting you to participate in the many great November and December events coming up here at The Port.

Pledges are important because they allow the church to better plan for budgeting and expenses for the coming year, but all gifts and tithes are welcomed. We are anticipating higher expenses in 2026, especially in regards to energy and insurance.

For those who are making pledges in 2026, you are invited to bring your pledge card to the "Service of Thanksgiving" on November 23. We will have a time of celebration and prayer for 2026. See the Pastor's Portlight article for more information on the Service of Thanksgiving.



# Spiritual Growth

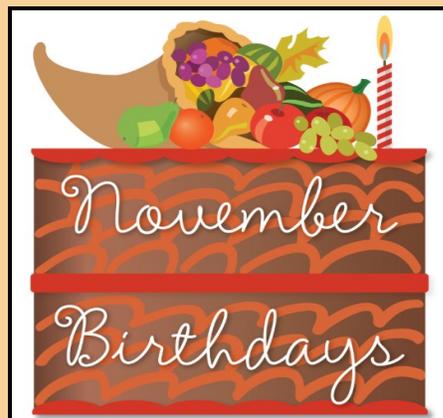
## November Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Nov. 2	Nov. 9 (Band)	Nov. 16 (Band)	Nov. 23	Nov. 30 (Advent starts)
<b>Welcomers</b>	Heather Anderson Mike Moreland	Tracy Baker Dorothy Baker	Heather Anderson Mary Nelson	Tim Hagerty Katelyn Hagerty	Lori Livingston Lynn Livingston
<b>Ushers</b>	Scott Swenson Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler	Bruce Benson Melinda Matton	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek	Scott Swenson Kathy Soucy	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Don Anderson
<b>Reader</b>	Katelyn Hagerty	Kathy Bell	Kathy Bell	John Hepola	Neil Anderson
<b>Sound</b>	Tim Madsen	Eric R-M	Eric R-M	Tim Madsen	Eric R-M
<b>Media</b>	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus	Nancy Hagerty	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty
<b>Livestream</b>	Tim Hagerty	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Trent Olson	Tim Hagerty
<b>Closer</b>	Steve Knopp	Scott Swenson	Clint Andrus	Harvey Erstad	Don Anderson
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Rose Trent Olson	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Daniel & Tracy Baker				

### Birthday Blessings to our November Friends!

03 - Carl Darnell	18 - Sue Wells
06 - John Lounsbury	20 - Eric Richardson-Mahre
09 - Bruce Benson	22 - Todd Rasmussen
09 - Kathy Swenson	23 - Tracy Baker
13 - Mary Nelson	29 - Joan Whitehead

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



# NOVEMBER

TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2 All Saints Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing in Bazaar Room 6:30 pm Church Council (Zoom)	<b>4</b> <b>Election Day</b> Polls are open 7am-8pm 6:30pm Bazaar Workshop	<b>5</b> 12:00pm Wednesday Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Sunrise Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Veterans' Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship, Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing in Bazaar Room	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing Bazaar Room	<b>12</b> 12:00pm Wednesday Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Rm) 11:00am Bazaar: FH Room Set-up	<b>13</b> <b>Bazaar Set-up</b> 10am - ?? <b>Drop off bake sale goods</b> 10am - 3pm	<b>14</b> <b>Holiday Bazaar</b> 9am - 6pm	<b>15</b> <b>Holiday Bazaar</b> 9am - 3pm
<b>16 UM Student Day</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 12:00pm Wednesday Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Rm) <b>5:30pm SUPPORT Monthly Dinner</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Thanksgiving Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship, Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Hanging of the Greens	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Trustees Mtg.	<b>26</b> 12:00pm Wednesday Noon Prayers with Pastor Steve (Wesley Rm) 6:30pm Sunrise Rehearsal	<b>27</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b> 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 1st Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship						

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 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>