

# THE PORTLIGHT

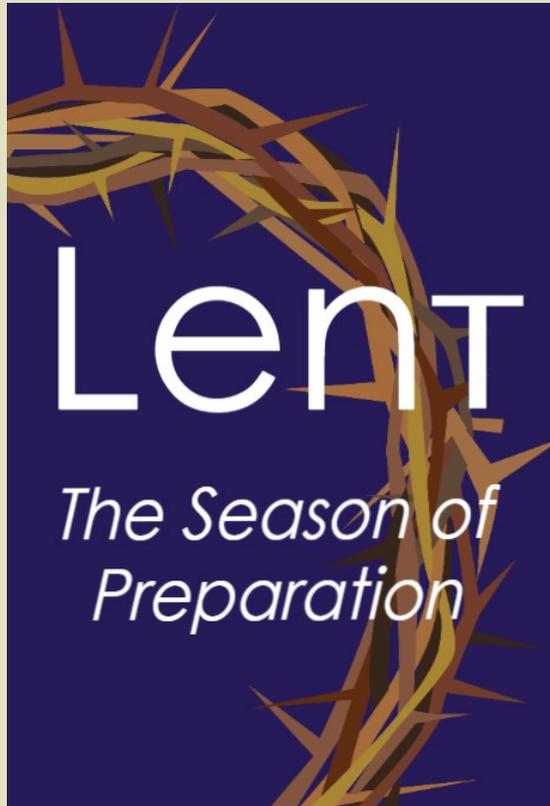
A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



March 2026

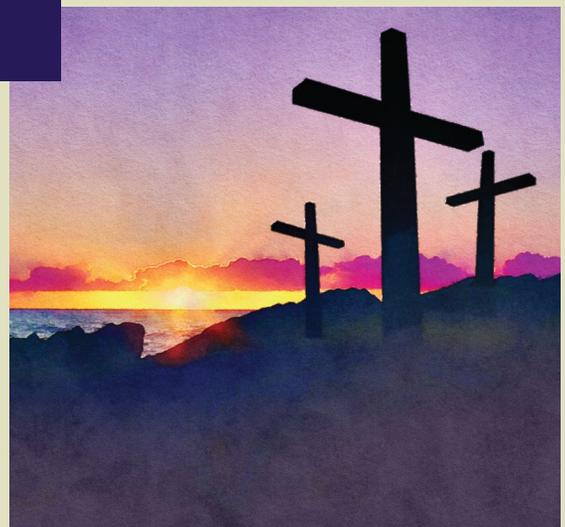
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*During the 40 days of Lent we should Pray, Fast, Serve.*

*What are you fasting from (or giving up for) Lent?*



## 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 now well into the Lenten season here at The Port. We had an unfortunate start to Lent, as a snowstorm caused us to cancel our Ash Wednesday service. This has become an unfortunate annual tradition for me as a Methodist pastor. In 4 years (the first 3 at North Branch), I have now had 3 Ash Wednesday services canceled because of weather, while having a total of 0 Sundays canceled. I am not sure what to make of this!

I really do like Ash Wednesday and all that it represents. The service was going to include music, prayer, scripture, and a brief reflection of the meaning of Ash Wednesday and what it should represent for us this specific year. If you would like to read that reflection, it was posted on the church Facebook page, and we have copies available at the church on Sunday mornings.

One of the challenges I put out to the congregation was to consider a fast this year. If you haven't done that, it is still not too late. Easter is not until April, and it would be good to spend some time in dedicated fasting before then. A Lenten fast is good for preparation for Easter, and that is important, but I also challenged people to fast for the future of The Port, as we enter a new season of ministry. I believe that the Lord has great things planned for this church, and we should be in prayer and fasting as we listen for His voice.

March is going to be a busy month at the church. We have a gathering with some of the other UMC Churches in the area on Saturday, March 7. This will be an opportunity to come together, to consider the strengths/assets and weaknesses/liabilities of each of the churches, and to enter conversation about ways that we can combine resources and work together to serve the community. This conversation will include The Port, Hillcrest, Richfield UMC, and Peace UMC (in Richfield), as well as our District Supervisor and the Director of Strategy at the Conference.

We will have our usual SupPORT dinner on March 18. And on March 21, we are going to host an indoor storage clean up day at The Port (see additional article for more information).

In addition, we are making some tweaks to our worship schedule. After a nice February of more traditional hymns and congregational singing, we are going to keep that model for the first Sunday of each month, along with communion. The band will be playing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and the 3rd Sunday will feature Sonrise, including special music. Our hope is to include multiple styles of music each month, everything from traditional hymns to Sonrise special music

to contemporary music led by the band. We hope this will allow for a robust worship experience for all who attend Sundays at The Port.

The final thing we have happening at The Port is continued food support for our friends at Bethel Iglesia Church. We have been helping up to 8 families with immediate physical and food needs each month. Our hope is that the need for support will decrease as Federal activities around the metro area continue to wane. I am very thankful for all who have contributed to Food Support, to all who help purchase food, to all who have made donations, and to all who have helped distribute the support to the families. This help is very appreciated and I believe it will strengthen our partnership with Iglesia and with the Brazilian Church.

As we look ahead and continue to consider the "Signature Ministry" at The Port, we believe a new opportunity has arisen to support families and staff at Valley View Elementary. Valley View has been a long-time partner of The Port, and we have done several drives throughout the years to help with school supplies and clothes for families. However, the last couple of months have shown that the needs of those families are larger and deeper than many of us have realized. We have begun conversation with leaders at the school – including the principal, social worker, and head of the PTA. We believe that there will be a great opportunity to continue mutual aid support to Valley View School, as well as developing and deepening a partnership with them. We are still in the early stages of determining what that might look like, but the need is great, and there is a great opportunity for The Port to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we show love to our neighbors and our community.

But this Lenten season it is important to remember that the church is so much more than just providing for physical needs of those around us. That is very important, and it is good work, but as we talked about on Temptation Sunday, humans do not live on bread alone, but rather on the very word of God. We strive to help support those around us with physical needs, but more than anything we strive to share Jesus and his love with everyone. We look forward to continuing that throughout Lent and for the months and years to come.

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

Pastor Steve

## March Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Mar. 1	Mar. 8 	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29
<b>Welcomers</b>	Heather Anderson Bill Baker	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Heather Anderson Mary Nelson	Harvey & Peggy Erstad	Tracy Baker Dorothy Baker
<b>Ushers</b>	Wayne Andersen Don Anderson Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson Laurette Lawson Scott Swenson	Trent Olson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy	Bruce Benson Greg Jurek Scott Swenson	Bruce Benson Jocelyn Medzagoh Kathy Soucy
<b>Reader</b>	Katelyn Hagerty	Trent Olson	Pam Rose	Lynn Livingston	John Hepola
<b>Sound</b>	Eric R-M	Tim Madsen	Intern Paddy Eric R-M	Tim Madsen	Intern Paddy Eric R-M
<b>Media</b>	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen	Barb Andrus
<b>Livestream</b>	Intern Paddy	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Intern Paddy	Clint Andrus
<b>Closer</b>	Harvey Erstad	Wayne Andersen	Scott Swenson	Don Anderson	Clint Andrus
<b>Counters</b>	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Trent Olson Wayne Andersen	Trent Olson Wayne Andersen	Trent Olson TBD
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Daniel & Tracy Baker				

Remember to set your clocks ahead  
1 hour on Sunday, March 8th.



### Birthday Blessings to our March Friends!

02 - Amelia Fischer	17 - Lori Livingston
04 - Judy Richardson-Mahre	18 - Myron Karki
05 - Theo Nuessle	20 - Melinda Matton
16 - LaVonne Robinson	24 - Linda Gilbertson

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



# Mission Outreach

For our March Mission Outreach project, we will be partnering with VEAP to provide items for their Care Packs. VEAP has been serving the Twin Cities community for over 50 years. Our staff and volunteers are currently filling and delivering Care Packs to families who can't safely leave home, and covering rent, utilities, and transportation so neighbors can remain housed, fed, and connected during a traumatic time.



There are **3 ways** you can help feed people who are counting on your support:

## 1. Donate Money

Your support helps keep families fed and safely housed. \$30 will feed a household for an entire week.

## 2. Donate items for Care Packs from the most-needed items below:

- Hearty soups (high protein, low sodium)
- Canned proteins (pork, chicken, beans)
- Shelf-stable tortillas
- Refried beans
- Diced tomatoes
- Baking essentials (flour, corn masa, sugar, & spices)
- Cooking oil
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Baby wipes
- Cleaning items:
  - laundry detergent
  - dish soap
- Personal care items:
  - shampoo
  - toothpaste & toothbrush
  - hand soap
  - menstrual products
  - adult diapers

## 3. Amazon

You may also purchase and ship items directly to VEAP from Amazon. VEAP will supplement the Care Packs with perishable food items. VEAP's mailing address is 9600 Aldrich Ave. So., Bloomington, MN, 55420.

Donations brought to church can be placed in the shopping cart in the Narthex. If you would like to contribute with cash, please use an envelope and write "VEAP" on it, or with a check, write "VEAP" in the memo field.

Thank you for your generous support.

Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose, Mission Outreach Co-Chairs

***Thank you note from  
Brazilian Church of Hope:***

I wanted to reach out and, on behalf of our church, thank you all at PAUMC for the gracious care packages that were given to our church to distribute to folks in need during this difficult time. We very much appreciate it. After our church service today we delivered them to families that have been unable to work during this time, and have been struggling to make ends meet. The love you all have shown is inspiring!

Thanks again,  
Brian  
Brazilian Church of Hope



Dear Readers,

Some changes to the Portlight are coming soon! The software program that is used for the Portlight is being phased out by October, so we are looking into some alternate options.



During this time, we are planning to send out a survey to all recipients to get your feedback about the Portlight. We'd like to know what you like about it and if you have any suggestions on how it could be improved or changed, etc. The survey will be available at church and it will be sent to everyone on the Portlight mailing list.

Please watch for the survey and more information that will be coming soon!

~Lori Livingston from the Church Office.

# Coming up @ The PORT

## **Lent and Holy Week at The Port**

We are now a couple of weeks into Lent; we hope you are being blessed this season. It was unfortunate that the weather canceled our Ash Wednesday service, but we do have the reflection available on our Facebook page. We have some great plans for the worship services during Lent, including featuring the song "Hungry: Falling on My Knees," and we invite you to join us for worship at 10am. We have encouraged all, who are able, to consider a fast this Lenten season, both as preparation for Easter and for the new season ahead here at The Port.

## **Here are the plans for Holy Week at The Port:**

As has been our tradition during Holy Week, we will be combining with Hillcrest, Peace, and Richfield UMC's for worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

- **Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7pm at The PORT** - We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall for worship and a communion meal. This is a moving service that has become a seasonal favorite for many.
- **Good Friday, April 3, 7pm at Hillcrest UMC** - Service of the Tenebrae.

## **Easter Sunday, April 5, at The PORT:**

- **8:00am Sunrise Service** - We will have a "Sunrise" service outdoors in the parking lot. (It will move indoors if weather is poor.) Join us for a time of scripture and prayer as we begin our Easter celebration.
- **8:30am Easter Breakfast** - Join us for our traditional Easter breakfast in the Wesley Room, with seating in the narthex and the Bazaar room.
- **10:00am Easter Worship in the Sanctuary** - This beautiful service will be filled with music and scripture, and the message will be "He is Risen" based upon Matthew 28:1-10. Our Easter garden will be in full bloom and the plants may be taken home after the service.

## **Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Sundays:**

May 10: Mother's Day and Teacher's Appreciation Day at The Port. Join us for long stem carnations.

May 17: Great Day of Music

June 14: Graduate Recognition Sunday and Reception

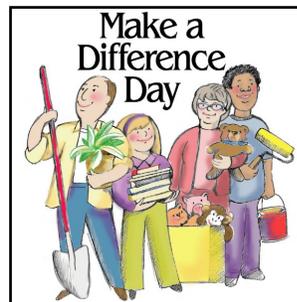
June 21: Father's Day at The Port. Join us for Donuts for Dudes!

## **All Church Storage Cleanout Day, Saturday, March 21, 9am-12pm**

The church is planning an indoor storage cleanout day on Saturday, March 21, from 9am-12pm. The goal of this day is to tackle some of the rooms of the education wing, as well as other storage spaces, to clean, organize, and determine the resources we have, and the needs we may have in the future. Our goal is to make sure that all space within the church is utilized for the ministry and future mission of the church.

There has been some great work done already in the Sacristy and in the Children's and Youth Room downstairs, as part of the Garage Sale. We want to continue this momentum on March 21, in partnership with our friends at the Brazilian Church, to clear space and set up all the rooms of the church.

This work is an important step in the next season of The Port, as we prepare our church for what the Lord has planned for us. Your help will make a difference. We hope to see you on March 21.



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

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship / Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	2 6:30pm Church Council (Zoom)	3 6:30pm Bible Study	4 12pm Noon Prayers 6:30pm Sunrise Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b> Spring ahead one hour 10:00am Worship/Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 5:00pm Lori Moreland Funeral at Tapestry Church, Richfield	9	10 6:00pm Trustees Meeting	11 12pm Noon Prayers	12 6:30pm Bible Study	13	14
15 <b>UMCOR Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	16	17 <b>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</b>  6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	18 12pm Noon Prayers <b>SUPPORT Monthly Dinner - 5:30 - 6:30pm</b> 6:30pm Sunrise Rehearsal	19 <i>March Newsletter Deadline</i> 6:30pm Bible Study	20 	21 9:00am - 12:00pm All Church Storage Cleanup Day
22 10:00am Worship/Sunday School 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	23	24 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	25 12pm Noon Prayers	26 6:30pm Bible Study	27	28
29 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 	30	31 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop				

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

**Staff**

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