

THE PORTLIGHT

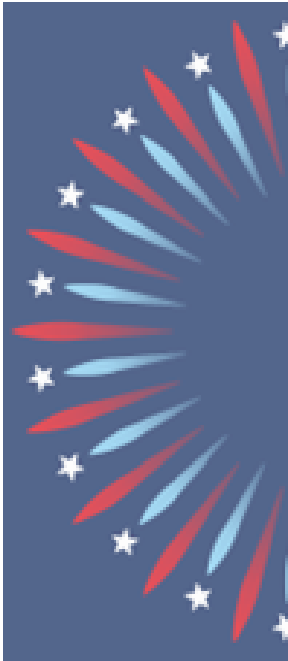
A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



July 2026

Contents:

- P.2 Pastor Steve's Letter
- P.3 Sunday Volunteer
Schedule; Birthdays
- P.4 Mission Outreach;
MN Annual Conf. Recap
- P.5 Welcome New Members;
Congrats to our Grads
- P.6 Coming Event - Sheltered
Reality Drummers
- P.7 Calendar



God Bless America



Our Mission

*"To grow followers of
Jesus who change the
world."*

Our Vision

*"To be a safe harbor
along life's journey."*

The **P**  **ORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor's Message

Hello Portland Avenue UMC,

We have had a wonderful June here at The Port. We started out with a Day of Celebration on June 7, where we celebrated our two graduates, we welcomed four new members to our fellowship (Sharon Keen, Susan Armstrong, Gary Stockert, Carl Sotckert), and we honored those who had donated to our Memorial Fund.

Pam Rose and I represented The Port at the Minnesota Annual Conference from June 16-18 (see article on page 5). This was my fourth Annual Conference and my favorite one so far. I listed some highlights in the article, and I encourage all of you to check out the resources offered by the Conference if you want to learn more (minnesotaumc.org/resources).

The other highlight for me was the start of the new sermon series, which will last through October and will cover Genesis and Exodus. The hope of the series is to examine the origins of the Jewish people, take a deeper look at some of the more famous stories of the Old Testament, and to think about how they apply to our lives and our faith today. We, of course, cannot cover the entirety of the two books, even over four months, but the hope is we can get a good sense of the narrative that leads to Jesus. We have had a good start so far, and I look forward to what is to come. I hope you will come and join us on this journey.

July represents the one-year anniversary of my appointment to The Port. It has been a great year in many ways, and I have tried to share some of the stories throughout the year in my Portlight articles. I am not going to share too much of a look backwards, but instead I am going to focus on my plan to celebrate this anniversary – for which I will be leaving the country! I will be departing for an exciting trip to England on July 5, and I will return on July 25.

For the first 10 days, between July 6-16, I will be participating in a John Wesley Pilgrimage. This pilgrimage is available to anyone connected to the UMC, and will involve touring sites that are connected to John Wesley and the origins of our denomination, as well as participation in study and worship throughout England. In preparation, I will read five different books, and will be preparing for the classes, conversation and worship to come. I am really looking forward to this pilgrimage, especially because I am relatively new to the denomination and I am looking forward to learning even more about the history and foundations of the United Methodist Church. I have always thought that John Wesley is the

most impressive Christian figure post-Reformation, and I look forward to learning more about him. I will write a full recap of the trip and what was covered for the August Portlight.

Following the conclusion of the Pilgrimage, I will be joined by my family for a vacation in England and Scotland, and I am very much looking forward to that.

While I am gone, it will be difficult to reach me. If you do have a question or concern you are welcome to email/text me, but I can't guarantee I will be able to respond quickly, due to my schedule and the time difference. You should reach out to Lori if you have an immediate concern. We will also have pastors available if you have a pastoral need. Please reach out to Lori to coordinate that.

While I am away, we have planned a variety of different worship experiences at The PORT. On July 5, we will not have a traditional worship service at The Port. Instead, we will gather in the Wesley Room and, following a time of scripture and prayer, we will be decorating bags for VEAP's Birthday Kits. (See the Mission's article on page 5 for more details.) If you are looking for a more typical worship service that day, I would encourage you to attend services at Hillcrest UMC (9:30am worship) or Richfield UMC (9:30am worship).

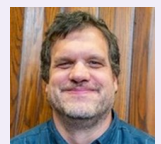
On July 12, we will be welcoming Jean Carlos, the leader of Neon, the college ministry at the University of Minnesota. This is the organization that brought us our wonderful intern Paddy this past year. Jean Carlos will be sharing about the work they're doing at the U.

On July 19, we will once again be welcoming Sheltered Reality for an outdoor worship service in our parking lot. Come ready to participate! (See page 4 for more details.)

On July 26, we will be returning to a more "typical" worship service, with Lynn Livingston providing the message that morning. I will be returning on August 2, and we will pick up our series in Genesis 32.

I am thankful for all who are helping to hold things down while I have this great opportunity across the pond. I am looking forward to the Pilgrimage and the family vacation, but do look forward to being back in August, hopefully rested and raring to go, with a new perspective on John Wesley and the UMC Church. We have many great things planned for the year ahead!

Pastor Steve



July Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	July 5 VEAP Service Project	July 12	July 19 Sheltered Reality	July 26
Welcomers	N/A	Heather Anderson Mike Moreland	N/A	Heather Anderson, Bill Baker
Ushers	N/A	Bruce Benson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy	N/A	Bruce Benson Susan Armstrong Pam Rose
Reader	N/A	Neil Anderson	N/A	John Hepola
Sound	N/A	Paddy	N/A	Tim Madsen
Media	N/A	Tim Madsen	N/A	Barb Andrus
Livestream	N/A	Scott Swenson	N/A	Clint Andrus
Closer	Steve Knopp	Harvey Erstad	Scott Swenson	Clint Andrus
Counters	Trent Olson Steve Soucy	Trent Olson Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen
Communion Stewards	N/A			



Birthday Blessings to our July Friends!

01 - Nancy Hagerty	18 - Neil Anderson
03 - Sharon Keen	22 - Steven Johnson
04 - Susan Armstrong	25 - Linda Knopp
12 - Krista Nuessle	26 - Samantha Baker
16 - Dorothy Baker	26 - Jocelyne Medzagoh
16 - Aylin Stockert	27 - Wayne Andersen
	27 - Tim Madsen

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



Mission Outreach

July's Mission Outreach – VEAP Birthday Cake Kits

VEAP provides birthday cake kits to pantry visitors who have children 12 years old or younger during the month of their special day. They currently distribute 100–150 kits every week, which means the need is ongoing and significant.

On Sunday, July 5th, our worship service will look a little different. With Pastor Steve traveling to England and the holiday weekend upon us, we thought it would be the perfect opportunity to turn our time together into a hands-on Mission Project. We'll be decorating white gift bags for these kits—just as we've done in the past—and throughout the month of July we will be collecting donations of the following items to help VEAP continue this meaningful ministry.

Items needed for each birthday cake kit are:

- Boxed Cake Mix
- Can of Frosting
- Disposable 9 x 13 pan
- Can of Sprite (this replaces the 2 eggs & oil)
- Birthday candles

Additional items that can be included are:

- Birthday-themed napkins or plates
- Birthday favors like bubbles, balloons, etc.



If you're in town on July 5th, come join us for this fun service project at 10am. The coffee and treats will be on hand. We are excited to see how many birthday kits we can create for our community!

Please contact Nancy Hagerty or Pam Rose with any questions.

Minnesota Annual Conference Recap

June 16-18 was the Minnesota Annual Conference. Pam Rose and Pastor Steve represented The Port this year. During worship on June 21, we provided a brief recap of the events of the Conference and shared a video produced by the Conference. If you would like to see that video, you can find it at minnesotaumc.org/resources. This page will provide several resources, articles and videos. The highlights included a celebration for the 70th anniversary of women's ordination, the welcoming of two new ordained elders as well as several new Licensed Local Pastors. We had messages from Bishop Lanette, a visiting bishop from the Pacific Northwest (Bishop Cedrick Bridgeforth), our guest preacher for the Conference (Pastor Genia Garrett), and some legislation. There were several times of worship covering a variety of styles, and a sharing of talks and information about all that is happening in the Minnesota UMC. You are encouraged to check out the website with those resources.

The main change that will impact The Port going forward is that we will have a new District Supervisor starting on July 1, Michelle Hargrave. Michelle is the Dean of the Cabinet and will be a great advocate for this church and our mission. We should look forward to working closer with Michelle going forward.

The new pastor for Hillcrest was announced, Pastor Dan Johnson, who will be serving half time.



Welcome New Members

On Sunday, June 7th we welcomed four new members to The PORT, and we celebrated our graduates as well. A cake reception was held following the service. You can get to know our new members a bit by reading their introductions below. Please introduce yourself when you see them at church and extend a warm welcome to our PAUMC family!

Pictured from right to left:

Susan Armstrong resides in Bloomington, and she is transferring her membership from Crosspoint Church in Bloomington. Susan is married to Mike and has one adult daughter, Kristin. She is a retired RN.

Sharon Keen lives in East Bloomington, where she was born and raised. She is divorced, and as a single mother she raised two daughters. She spent many years working in production, making medical products, and then got a job as Home Health Aide for Presbyterian Homes. She often brought a pet rabbit to work to share with the residents in Memory Care and Assisted Living, and was known as "the Bunny Lady" at Founders Ridge. She has been retired since 2016, and has recently been spending time training her dog the skills needed to play Treibball, a sport developed for herding dogs.

Gary Stockert is a devoted father of three who is passionate about faith, family, and serving others. He lives in the Bloomington area, where he owns and operates Footprints and enjoys helping homeowners improve their space. Gary enjoys mentoring, building meaningful relationships, and making a positive impact in his community. He enjoys coaching his kids, skiing and camping.

Carl Stockert is a 2026 graduate of Jefferson High School who will be continuing his academic career at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire where he will study marketing. He lives in Bloomington and enjoys rock climbing, skiing, and running. Carl is currently in the process of growing in his faith and is excited to help out the local community in any way possible.



We had two 2026 graduates in our PORT family this year!

As mentioned above, Carl Stockert graduated from Jefferson High School and will be attending UW Eau Claire in the fall.

Steve & Kathy Soucy's grandson, Anthony Steven Soucy, graduated from Farmington High School. Tony is planning on pursuing his love of hockey playing in the Junior A Hockey League.

Upcoming Events

Join us at The PORT on Sunday, July 19, at 10am, for a fun outdoor worship experience with our special guests:

Sheltered Reality

Sheltered Reality uses drums, music and fun choreography to help audiences realize that each person we meet is unique, has special talents, and is deserving of kindness and support.

While we demonstrate the Steps of Success, audience members have a chance to succeed through participating in a drum lesson and performing with the group. This process is meant to inspire all to become better individuals, but to also take action to help others succeed in life and be the best versions of themselves.

Sheltered Reality believes in the power of “US.”
When we do things together, believe in and support one another, we can do great things. #USSIE

Since 1996, Sheltered Reality has combined music, education, and real-life stories to inspire audiences to take action and stand up for those in need.



Through powerful, percussive performances, we deliver messages of personal empowerment, resilience, anti-bullying, and the courage to chase your dreams.

We challenge everyone to use what they love to make a positive impact — because rhythm isn't just heard... it's felt, lived, and shared.

A free-will offering will be taken and “Drumstick”
ice cream treats will be served!

In the event of rain, we will move indoors.

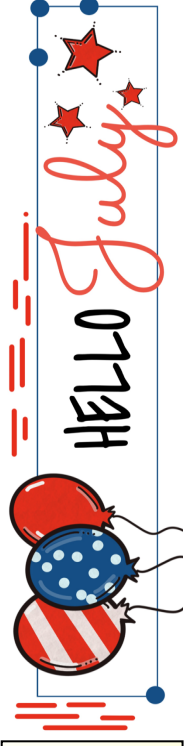


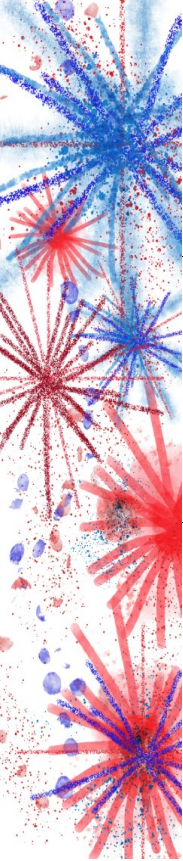
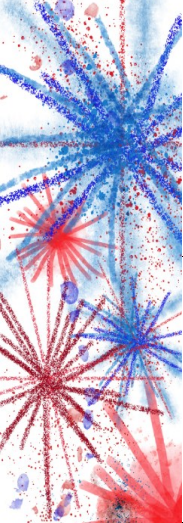
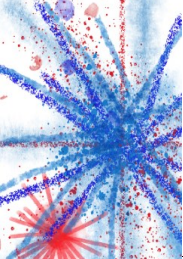
The **PORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420
www.paumc.org ~ 952-888-6070

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

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 
5 10:00am VEAP Service Project (No Communion)	6	7 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	8	9	10	11
12 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Fellowship	13 <i>August Newsletter Deadline</i>	14 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	15	16	17	18
19 10:00 am Outdoor Worship with Sheltered Reality Drumming Group 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	20	21 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	22	23	24	25
26 10:00am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship	27	28 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop	29	30 		

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 Office: 952-888-6070. Cell: 952-210-0409
Lori Livingston (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org Office: 952-888-6070
Judy Richardson-Mahre (Sonrise Director) jembrm@charter.net
Greg Jurek (Custodian)

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>