THE PORTLIGHT

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

November 2026

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Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, 11/1 (set your clocks back on Saturday night, 10/31).

Our 52nd Annual Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures is here!

Friday, Nov. 13, 9am - 6pm

Saturday, Nov. 14, 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 5 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."

ThePORT
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor's Message

Hello Portland Avenue UMC,

Each week here at The Port, Lori in the office does a fantastic job managing everything that is happening at the church and with the congregation. The church sends out occasional emails with updates on the happenings at the church, we send out a weekly prayer email (please let us know if you would like to receive this), and then on Sunday, in the bulletin, we list the key announcements for the week.

Most weeks, the 3-4 announcements listed in the bulletin are more than sufficient to convey what is happening at the church. Many weeks we even must stretch a little on the announcements, or sometimes look further into the future than we generally want to, in order to fill the announcement slots. And that is quite OK, merely being busy is not the most important metric for the effectiveness of a church and its ministry.

However, there are times when it is good to be busy, when there are important things to do as a church. And in those cases, sometimes a mere 3-4 announcement slot are not sufficient, and I have to share more and more during the morning. I have found, here during my second year at The Port, that mid-October through mid-November is one of those seasons. Consider this list of things that are happening here in the lead up to the Advent season. We had our SupPORT dinner on our usual third Wednesday in October. This is one of my favorite days each month – a chance to gather together outside of Sunday, have a good meal together, and spend time in Fellowship. I strongly encourage all who can make it attend our SupPORT dinner. Breaking bread and fellowship, or "love feasts" as Wesley would call them, are a core component of being a Christian.

On October 24th we had our 4th annual Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot. And it was a great event, a great chance to once again have fellowship together, and to bring some joy to the community, both to some of our neighbors and those who travelled a little further. And we got to hang out with two beautiful bald eagles.

November 1st, which will likely occur after you receive this, is All Saints Day, a chance to remember and reflect on those we lost this year, and those who have come before us and guided us in our faith. It is good to remember the saints.

November 8th will be a special day as well. We are doing a "Wesley Day" here at The Port. There is no special reason for this timing, other than I had the Wesley Pilgrimage over the summer and I am currently taking a class on the History of Methodism, so the Wesleys are very much top of my mind. For this day, we will be using special liturgy that originated with the Wesleys, we will be singing hymns from Charles Wesley, and the sermon I am sharing that Sunday is a John Wesley original.

Sermons from the 1700s are not quite like sermons today. They are a much more formal and academic, similar to theology papers. I am looking forward to seeing how this specific type of sermon is received by the congregation. It is on Joshua 24:15 (As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord), a fitting conclusion to our Old Testament series that started this summer. To add to the day, I will be wearing a special Wesley robe that day, gifted to me by a retired UMC pastor. It is good to worship.

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Bits & Pieces

Poinsettias for our Christmas Altar

We are taking orders now for the beautiful poinsettia plants that will adorn our Christmas Altar. You may dedicate them in honor or in memory of someone special and your dedication will be shared in the bulletin. The plants are $12.00 per 6-1/2" pot in your choice of red or white blooms, and they may be taken home after our Christmas Eve Service. The order forms are available on the Welcome Desk and they can be placed in the offering box, or you can call the church office. The order deadline, with full payment, is Sunday, November 15.

Wesley Day Service on Sunday, November 8

Join us for worship at 10am on 11/8 for a special Wesley Day worship service. Pastor Steve's recent pilgrimage was the inspiration for this day. Throughout the service we will be using special liturgy that originated with the Wesleys, we will be singing hymns from Charles Wesley, and Pastor Steve will be sharing an original John Wesley sermon. It will be an interesting peek at the early roots of the Methodist Church.

Thanksgiving Service, Hanging of the Greens and Potluck Lunch on 11/22

Join us on Sunday, 11/22, for a day of gratitude, celebration, and fellowship. We will have a shortened worship service honoring our many blessings in this Thanksgiving season. Then everyone is invited to take part in preparing our space for the Christmas season by hanging the wreaths, decorating the trees, and putting out various other seasonal decorations around the Sanctuary and the Narthex. After the work is done we will enjoy a old-fashioned Potluck Lunch. Please bring your favorite main dish, salad, or dessert to share with others and we can enjoy some good fellowship to celebrate the start of the season.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship moves to 4:30pm.

Our Christmas Eve worship service will be held at 4:30pm this year. We hope this will provide a family-friendlier time that is more accessible to all ages, young and old alike. More details will be coming soon.

Pastor's Message (Continued from page 2)

All of this leads to our annual Holiday Bazaar, happening November 13 and 14. This will be the 52nd Bazaar, and we are still going strong. Many people have put in so much work already, and we are looking forward to serving the community once again. Please consider the ways that you can help. We are hoping and praying for a successful Bazaar, and that we will be a blessing to all who attend.

Finally, on November 22, we will be having our Day of Thanksgiving, our Hanging of the Greens, and will finish the day off with a Potluck Lunch. It will be a wonderful day to share what we are thankful for, to decorate the church in preparation for Advent and Christmas, and to once again share a meal and fellowship together.

It is a busy time in our church, and it is a good time in our church. It is busyness that leads to worship, to fellowship, and to loving our neighbor. I look forward to seeing you all at The Port!

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Steve





November Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
Welcomers	Heather Anderson Mary Nelson	Gary Stockert Family	Heather Anderson Mike Moreland	Steve & Kathy Soucy	Steve & Linda Knopp
Ushers	Scott Swenson Jocelyne Medzagoh Pam Rose	Trent Olson Susan Armstrong Kathy Soucy	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Laurette Lawson	Trent Olson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy	Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler Mike Moreland
Reader	The Youth	Gary Stockert	Neil Anderson	Pam Rose	Melinda Matton
Sound	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen	Eric Richardson-Mahre	Tim Madsen
Media	Tim Madsen	Barb Andrus	Tim Madsen	Nancy Hagerty	Barb Andrus
Livestream	Trent Olson	Clint Andrus	Scott Swenson	Tim Hagerty	Scott Swenson
Closer	Harvey Erstad	Scott Swenson	Steve Knopp	Don Anderson	Scott Swenson
Counters	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Steve Soucy	Pam Rose Wayne Andersen	Trent Olson Wayne Andersen
Communion	Mike Moreland Dianne Madsen				



Birthday Blessings to our November Friends!

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

If you have a birthday this month but your name is not on our list, please notify the church office so we can update our records for next year.

Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures – It's Go Time!

Our 52nd Annual Holiday Bazaar is almost here! 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. 13 from 9 to 6 and Saturday, Nov. 14 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 Sunday, 11/1.
-Donate a gift basket for the silent auction (or the funds for one and we'll shop for you) by Sunday, 11/8. Include an inventory of what's included and the cost for the items. (No perishable food, please.)
-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.
-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.
-Use your social media platforms to spread the word and invite your contacts.

The schedule for "Bazaar Week" is as follows:
Monday, 11/9, 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, 11/10, 6:30pm - Final pricing and preparations.

Wednesday, 11/11, 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 2pm we will cover the tables with cloths and decorate the room.

Thursday, 11/12, 10am to 6pm – Display merchandise. Bake Sale goods can be dropped off after 10am and we will need more goods on Friday to stock our tables for Saturday.

Friday, 11/13, 9am to 6pm, and Saturday, 11/14, 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 tradition. We sincerely hope you will come often this week to help us get ready and to join in the fun!

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!

Any questions? Please contact Lynn Livingston, Lori Livingston, or Kathy Soucy. Or call the church office: 952-888-6070.

Trunk or Treat Recap

Our 4th Annual Trunk or Treat event took place on the gorgeous afternoon of Saturday, October 24. The unseasonably warm temperatures made for a very pleasant time for everybody. We had more than 50 guests who enjoyed the hot dogs, s'mores, and the popcorn bar! There were lots of cute costumes and smiling faces everywhere. A few of the Sheltered Reality drummers accompanied our day with their great dance music that helped to draw people to our party. Several of our guests even got to play the drums! Just after things got underway we had a couple of majestic visitors in the sky, as two bald eagles flew overhead and landed on the power poles to watch over us. They stuck around for quite a while, which was added fun to point out to our guests.

We extend a huge thank you to all who organized this event, and especially to the Hagerty's for bringing their fire pit for the day! A great time was enjoyed by all!











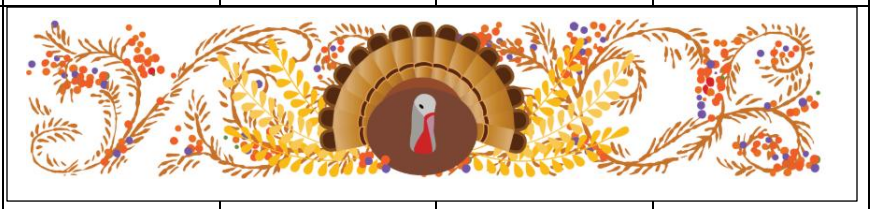








November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am Worship with Communion 11am Coffee Fellowship "All Saints Day"	**2** 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing	**3** ***Election Day Remember to Vote!***	**4** 12pm Prayers with Pastor Steve	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 10am Worship 11am Coffee Fellowship "Wesley Day of Worship"	**9** 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing	**10** 6:30pm Bazaar Pricing	**11** 12pm Prayers with Pastor Steve 6:30pm Sonrise Rehrsl. **10am – 6pm Holiday Bazaar Set up tables, decorate room**	**12** **Holiday Bazaar Set-up Displays 10am – 8pm**	**13** **Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures 9am – 6pm** 	**14** **Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures 9am – 3pm** 
15 10am Worship 11am Coffee Fellowship	**16**	**17**	**18** 12pm Prayers with Pastor Steve **5:30pm SupPORT Monthly Dinner**	**19**	**20**	**21**
22 10am Worship 11am Potluck Lunch Hanging of the Greens	**23**	**24**	**25** 12pm Prayers with Pastor Steve 6:30pm Sonrise Rehrsl.	**26** **Happy Thanksgiving**	**27**	**28**
29 10am Worship 11am Coffee Fellowship Advent Begins	**30**	**31**				

Coming in November:

Sunday, Nov. 8 – A Wesley Day of Worship

Friday, Nov. 13 and Saturday, Nov. 14 – 52nd Annual Holiday Bazaar & Attic Treasures

Wednesday, Nov. 18 – Monthly Community SupPORT Dinner, 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Sunday, Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving Sunday, Hanging of the Greens (decorate the church for Christmas) followed by a Potluck lunch.

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

PLEASE EXPEDITE

Join us for in-person and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am.

Staff

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