

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT  
PORT BYRON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



***United Methodist Church Mission:*** *The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

***United Methodist Church Vision:*** *The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.*

***Port Byron 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Mission:*** *The mission of the Port Byron First United Methodist Church is to center the congregation with God and Jesus Christ, to develop authentic relationships in a faithful community and communion of grace, and to honor God and all of Their creation.*

Stay Connected!

Facebook: Port Byron First United Methodist

Website: [www.firstumcpb.org](http://www.firstumcpb.org)

Rev. Krey Leesman & Rev. Becky Butterfield

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP-congregational responses in bold**

We gather together in this place:

We who dare to imagine a world renewed;

We speak out with Zechariah.

For God has remembered us in mercy,

Because of God's tender compassion,

**us.**

**Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.**

**come to wonder and praise.**

**Prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,**

**We who dare to dream God's dream.**

**God's name be blessed forever!**

**And remained faithful to us in love.**

**The dawn from on high will rise over**

**We have**

**\*OPENING PRAYER God of liberation, your love reaches beyond all boundaries of prejudice and fear.**

**Your tenderness is offered not only to the powerful or deserving, but to all people, according to your infinite compassion. Teach us to love widely and boldly, honoring the dignity of all and trusting your promise that the way of love is the way of life, Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:**

**TFWS#2223 (Insert)**

**They'll Know we are Christians by our Love**

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

HYMN                      Light The Advent Candle (verses 1-4)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE As the children come forward, please sing "Jesus Loves Me" First Verse only  
UMH#191

JOYS/CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PREPARATORY HYMN: Emmanuel, Emmanuel UMH#204

SCRIPTURE READING:  
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 & Luke :57-80

SERMON:                                      Merciful Love

OFFERING/\*DOXOLOGY/OFFERING PRAYER

\*CLOSING HYMN    Let There be Peace on Earth UMH#431

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Please remain seated until after the Postlude. Let this time center you to **Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously** this week*

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Krey Lessman, Lead Pastor 309-226-3327, [revkrey@gmail.com](mailto:revkrey@gmail.com)

Pastor Becky Butterfield, Associate Pastor & Director of Youth and Family Ministries  
309-292-2287; [beckybutterfield@hotmail.com](mailto:beckybutterfield@hotmail.com)

Church Office: 309-848-4050    [portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com)

Musicians: Melissa Battern & Glenda Belouski

IT Team: Chad Butterfield, Colin Larson, Sam Butterfield, Colton Heim, Kam Mahraun, & Nolan Peirce

**\*Please direct all pastoral questions and concerns to Pastor Becky until further notice. You may also contact Kathy Mahraun or Nikki Stuart**

### Attendance at Worship

**December 14, 2025**

Worship Attendance - 47

Wired Word –

Loose Plate - \$40.00

Tithes & Offerings - \$3355.00

Total Offering: \$3395.00

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**If you would like to schedule an event at the church**, contact the church office at 309-848-4050 or [portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com). Someone will provide you with the building agreement, policies, and forms to book the date on the church calendar.

**MONTHLY DONATIONS BLESSED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH: *Immediate Food Pantry Needs*** - The Upper Rock Island County Food Pantry at Messiah Lutheran Church has immediate needs for Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Ketchup, and Ranch Dressing. Long-Term/Ongoing: Side dishes like Rice-a-Roni, Noodle Roni, or Microwavable Rice Packets, Small bottles of cooking oil (Dollar General does sell). ***Be sure that your donations are within the “best by/best use” expiration date and that the item has not been opened. The food pantry cannot accept items that are expired.*** Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry!

**MONTHLY DONATIONS BLESSED ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH: *Wish List for the Mission Welcome Kits***: The Mission Committee is preparing ongoing Welcome Kits for new residents at Whispering Hills. The following items are needed: shampoo, body soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dish soap, small laundry detergent, cleaning wipes, small all-purpose cleaner, single-roll paper towels, and a 4-pack of toilet paper. Thank you for your donations and support of this local mission!

**Every Wednesday- GROW**: a faith community for youth in grades 6-12. Doors open at 6:30 pm, Dinner is at 7:00 pm, and Discipleship Activities 7:30-8:30 pm.

**Every Sunday**-Discipleship Groups for PreK-12th Grade 9:30 am-10:15 am

We're excited to announce our **2026 Summer Youth Service Trip to Detroit, Michigan**, to partner with **Motown Mission** as we serve and learn more about the city and our neighbors who live there. We have 20 youth spots reserved for students in grades 8-12 for the week of July 19-25, 2026. See Pastor Becky for more information! Deposits and paperwork are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Incentives for those who register early!

### **Upcoming Events:**

\*We're looking for volunteers to prepare and serve meals for our GROW community second semester! Sign up as an individual, a family, a friend group, or a service team!

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**, Choir Practice 9:30am

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**-Kids Korner after the Children's Message

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**, Choir Sings during worship

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**-Christmas Eve Celebration Service 7 pm. We will have a time of fellowship following the service.

If the 7 pm time does not work for you, or you prefer a quieter, more reflective Christmas Eve, the Sanctuary will be open and available until 10 pm for anyone to come and sit in the presence of God in that place, surrounded by the lights all aglow.

**Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, January 3, 2026**-Pastor Becky on vacation. Please contact Kathy Mahraun or Nikki Stuart with any emergencies.