

Sunday, March 8, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISO DIVINA *Visio Divina, latin for “divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and nonsecular images. Use this lesson plan to blend visual meditation with group discussion and bible study.*

Scarce Abundance by Hannah Garrity A paper and lace watercolor

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

If you need good news,

Settle into this space. We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,

Then trust us when we say, there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,

Then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

Then know that this is God's house.

This is the good news of the gospel.

God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move. Let us worship our with-us God!

***OPENING HYMN:**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee UMH#89

CALL TO CONFESSION Friends, we are like the disciples. The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away. We often do the same. Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part. That is why we need the Prayer of Confession. For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference. So friends, join me in this moment of truth-telling. Join me in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Holy God, with you the impossible is possible. 5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope. With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that. We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done. We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd. We forget that you are always with us. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved. The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news: **Today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God. We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone. What good, good news. Amen!**

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

JOYS/CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S
PRAYER

PREPARATORY HYMN:
Spirit of the Living God UMH#393

SCRIPTURE: Mark 6:30-42

SERMON
The Good News is...Together, the Impossible is Possible

OFFERING/DOXOLOGY/PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN
We've a Story to Tell to the Nations UMH#569

BENEDICTION

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

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 1st 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

Rev. Krey Leesman & Rev. Becky Butterfield

Surely, This Must Be It

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Everyone has a job. I wash the potatoes, filling the sink with slivers of potato peel. You brine the turkey, hovering by the oven all afternoon. Someone sets the table, taking care to fill a vase with asters and marigolds, sprigs of holly and shoots of evergreen. We play music while we prepare. "What The World Needs Now is Love"¹ comes on. We can't get it out of our heads. We whistle along to Dionne all afternoon. And eventually, the doorbell rings. You've invited the neighbors, the grad student who sits on the second row at church, the widower in the choir. We add seats to the table. We go around the room and share one thing we're grateful for. Eyes well as we create a laundry list of beauty. The kids get squirmy, but we're grateful for that too. And then we eat! We scoop whipped potatoes and crisp green beans with fresh garlic. We pass the bread basket, leaving crumbs all over the table. They are tiny reminders of communion in our midst. And at the end of the night, when we walk our guests to the car and carry sleeping children to their car seats, our neighbors say, What a holy moment it all was. Surely this must be what heaven feels like. Surely we can create it together.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Krey Leesman, Lead Pastor

Pastor Becky Butterfield, Associate Pastor & Director of Youth and Family Ministries

309-292-2287; beckybutterfield@hotmail.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 Nikki Stuart 309-738-8099 or Melissa Hogren 309-230-8400**

Surely, This Must Be It

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Everyone has a job. I wash the potatoes, filling the sink with slivers of potato peel. You brine the turkey, hovering by the oven all afternoon. Someone sets the table, taking care to fill a vase with asters and marigolds, sprigs of holly and shoots of evergreen. We play music while we prepare. "What The World Needs Now is Love"¹ comes on. We can't get it out of our heads. We whistle along to Dionne all afternoon. And eventually, the doorbell rings. You've invited the neighbors, the grad student who sits on the second row at church, the widower in the choir. We add seats to the table. We go around the room and share one thing we're grateful for. Eyes well as we create a laundry list of beauty. The kids get squirmy, but we're grateful for that too. And then we eat! We scoop whipped potatoes and crisp green beans with fresh garlic. We pass the bread basket, leaving crumbs all over the table. They are tiny reminders of communion in our midst. And at the end of the night, when we walk our guests to the car and carry sleeping children to their car seats, our neighbors say, What a holy moment it all was. Surely this must be what heaven feels like. Surely we can create it together.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Krey Leesman, Lead Pastor

Pastor Becky Butterfield, Associate Pastor & Director of Youth and Family Ministries

309-292-2287; beckybutterfield@hotmail.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 Nikki Stuart 309-738-8099 or Melissa Hogren 309-230-8400**