

Sunday, March 22, 2026
Fifth 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 through 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 non-secular images..*

Epilogue by Rev. T Denise Anderson, Acrylic on Canvas

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

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God’s house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God

***OPENING HYMN:**

God Will Take Care of You UMH#130

CALL TO CONFESSION Jesus once said to a crowd, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.” Friends, none of us is without sin. None of us gets it right all the time. None of us can get by without God’s grace. In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth. We put down our stones, and we turn to God for forgiveness. Join me in this act of transformation. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion. Our God is a God of grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. 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: Seek Ye First UMH#405

SCRIPTURE: John 8:2-11 & Matthew 23:23

SERMON
The Good News is...Rooted in Justice, Mercy, & Faithfulness

OFFERING/DOXOLOGY/PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN Amazing Grace UMH#378

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

The Things That Matter Most

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

I wrecked the family car, an old gold minivan that had traveled every inch of I-95. It had worn cushions and an old school map in the glove box. It held a folder full of mix CDs under the passenger seat and every memory of every family trip, and I wrecked it. I called the tow truck while the engine hissed and smoked. I called my dad, my own apologies tripping over themselves to get to the front of the line. I expected to be grounded. I expected a "How could you?" But when I got home that night, my dad held me close and said, "A car is just a car, but you are my child. The only thing that matters is that you are okay." And I knew it for what it was. It was mercy. It was love. It was the thing that mattered most.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Becky Butterfield, Interim Pastor & Director of Youth & 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

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