

Last Sunday, the disciples tried to shoo away the children because they were getting too close to Jesus. They probably did not think they were doing anything wrong. They were simply reflecting the social norms of their time.

However, Jesus challenged those norms.

He called the children forward.

In doing so, Jesus shows something important about the Kingdom of God: God's love and grace is not reserved for the powerful or the important.

God's love is also for the vulnerable, the overlooked, and the ones pushed to the bottom of the social ladder.

Because the good news is...protection and care for the vulnerable.

If you are interested in connecting with our theme throughout the week, A Sanctified Art, has provided a special e-reader version of this year's Lenten devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices. Simply copy and paste:

[online.flippingbook.com/view/546389771/](http://online.flippingbook.com/view/546389771/)

In order to protect their work, please refrain from sharing this link or posting it on social media.

You can also connect with the daily theme postings on our Facebook Page: Port Byron First United Methodist Church

This Sunday we will read John 8:2-11 and Matthew 23:23 as we explore how the **Good News is...Rooted in Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness.**

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**Post Card Greetings!**

(Image on front: Greetings from Fort Lauderdale Florida with images of the Fort Lauderdale in the Fort Lauderdale font)

*Hi Church Family! Thank you so much for your support. You were the reason I could go on this trip. Can't wait to share memories.*

*Love, Kyan-Merge*

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From [Curt Franklin](#), IGRC Disaster Response Coordinator:

On Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>, a tornado struck the Kankakee area which has been declared a disaster. Rescue operations are ongoing and our conference disaster response team is activated. We are meeting with area pastors to begin coordinating the church's response to the community.

The most immediate way churches across the conference can help is to fund the response.

If all IGRC churches gave between \$100 and \$500 we would have more than enough to serve this community well. Churches can give through their regular remittances to Fund 6800. You can also share the online donation link with your congregation so members can give directly, and those gifts can be credited to your church.

Give online at: [igrc.brtapp.com/page/donate/igrc-disaster-response](http://igrc.brtapp.com/page/donate/igrc-disaster-response) (Fund #6800)

Please keep the Kankakee community and our area churches in your prayers.

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**Interested in supporting the team who will be serving this July in Detroit?** You can make a direct contribution to our team. Follow this link <https://motonmission.org/support-your-team> and click "Donate to your team" and follow the prompts provided.

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**Here is our upcoming Holy Week and Easter Schedule:**

- Sunday, March 29-Palm/Passion Sunday with Rev. Ann Champion at 10:30 am
- Thursday, April 2-Maundy Thursday Worship with Rev. Becky Butterfield at 7 pm
- Friday, April 3-Good Friday Service, Christ United Methodist Church, East Moline-A Quad City United Methodist Coalition Service at 12 pm. IGRC Bishop David Bard will be preaching
- Friday, April 3-Good Friday Service, Hampton Grace United Methodist Church, Hampton, IL- An Upper Rock Island County Ministerial Association Service at 6 pm
- Sunday, April 5-Easter Sunrise Service with Lay Leader Nikki Stuart at 7 am
- Sunday, April 5-Easter Breakfast hosted by the youth from 8-10 am. Donations will be collected for Summer Ministry activities.
- Sunday April 5-Easter Worship with Communion, Choir, and Kids Korner all during the 10:30 am service

Have a blessed week!  
Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Becky

**Ways to share LOVE with the Leesman Family**

**Prayers:** Please continue to PRAY!

**Meals or monetary donations:** If you would like to make a monetary donation during Pator Krey's medical leave to go towards fuel for his travel to and from Galesburg for treatments, other expenses the family may have during this time, or if you would like to provide a meal for the family, please contact Nikki Stuart.

### **Ways to share LOVE with our neighbors at Whispering Hills**

**Items for 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!

### **Ways to share LOVE with those experiencing Food Insecurity**

**Donate Items for the Upper Rock Island County Food Pantry located at Messiah Lutheran Church.** Items most needed now include canned pasta, condiments (ketchup & ranch), and macaroni & cheese. If shopping from your pantry, please check expiration/use by dates.  
**Support places that support the people with your prayers, presence, or gifts:**

Two Rivers UMC Weekly Meal Sight [Service – Two Rivers Church](#)  
Cafe on Vine [Building Community One Meal At A Time | Café On Vine](#)  
NEST Cafe [NEST](#)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**If you need anything church-related, please contact Interim Pastor Becky, Nikki Stuart, or Melissa Hogren until further notice.**

Interim Pastor Becky: 309-292-2287

Lay Leader: Nikki Stuart: 309-738-8099

Church Council Chair: Melissa Hogren 309-230-8400

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

**Riverdale Theatre Cast/Crew Party** is coming up Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>. Sign up to help donate food in the Fellowship Hall!

**EASTER CHOIR!** Be part of our Easter Sunday Choir. ALL are welcome and invited! **Practice will be Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** The Choir will sing during the 10:30am service.

**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

**SAVE THE DATE!** Vacation Bible School June 8-10<sup>th</sup> 9am-11:30 am. Snowball Mountain Challenge!

**Our 2026 Summer Youth Service Trip will be to Detroit, Michigan,** to collaborate with **Motown Mission** as we serve and learn more about the city and our neighbors who live there. If you know of a student who is currently in 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade who would be interested in being part of this team, see Pastor Becky for more information!

**Thursday, March 19-** Bible Study “Come to the Waters” 9am-10:30am at the Hymes’ Home 1615 Elm Shore Drive, Port Byron, IL

**Friday, March 20-** Join in this collaborative leadership model-connecting people across the miles for four Fridays in March from 12:30pm-2pm over the book “Learning to Walk in the Dark” by Barbra Brown Taylor (order online or check out from library!)  
Email [annosborne@highlandpc.org](mailto:annosborne@highlandpc.org) to receive your Zoom link. Contact MaryKay Hymes for questions or more info!

**Saturday, March 21-**Confirmation Rally with the Bishop! Rochester United Methodist Church, Rochester, IL

**Sunday March 22-**Sermon: The Good News is...Rooted in Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness

**Thursday, March 26-**United Women in Faith will meet on Thursday, March 26. We will be attending an IGRC West District meeting at Bethel Wesley UMC in Moline. The Hospitality portion begins at 9:30. The program is 10:00-1:30. The program is based on the book, "Under the Skin, The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives, and on the Health of our Nation" by Linda Villarosa.

**Saturday, March 28-**Puffs Riverdale Cast/Crew Party. Please sign up to dontate ingredients!

**Sunday, March 29-**Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am

**Sunday, March 29-**Palm/Passion Sunday Rev. Ann Champion Preaching

**Sunday, March 29-**United Women of Faith host 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Meal