

Sunday, March 1, 2026  
Second 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.*

*LL Cool J*-Acrylic, marker, paper collage on canvas by Rev. Nicolette Faison

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

Tell me something good!

**God loves you more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God’s love meets us in this service of worship.**

We are not alone.

**This is good news indeed!**

Let us worship our compassionate God.

**\*OPENING HYMN:**

To God be the Glory UMH#98

CALL TO CONFESSION

Family of faith, we long to love others as God loves us, but that work is easier said than done. We lose our way. We become distracted. We grow fearful. We need God’s grace. Fortunately for us, God’s grace is freely and abundantly given. So join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in being transformed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray, Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Faith family, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God’s back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

**We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love.**

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:

Just as I Am, Without One Plea UMH#357

SCRIPTURE:

Luke 7:36-50

SERMON

The Good News is...Great Love for God and Neighbor

**HOLY COMMUNION** In the United Methodist tradition, we believe  
in a table open to all because this is the table of Jesus Christ. All  
who desire to deepen their relationship with Jesus and choose to  
partake are welcome and received with love. Our bread is gluten-  
free. If you have an offering today, please place it in the plate as  
you come forward to receive communion.

DOXOLOGY/PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN They'll Know we are Christians  
by our Love TFWS #2223 (insert)

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 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

## If God Lived Next Door

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

If God lived next door, I'd drop off a loaf of bread. I'd use my mom's best recipe. I'd wrap it in parchment and ribbon and place it on the front stoop. If God lived next door, I'd leave a note with my phone number. Call anytime you need anything!

I'm always happy to help! If God lived next door, I'd keep sugar on the shelf, just in case she needed a cup. I'd put a picnic table in the front yard and begin taking my coffee there. Whenever God passed by with their gaggle of rescue dogs, I could say, Want to sit for a moment? Want to rest your legs? I'd keep a jar of dog treats and water by the mailbox and change my doormat to one that says: All are welcome here. I'd invite God over for dinner. She'd bring bread and juice. I'd host a block party, so that everyone could meet her. I'd start a community garden so that the kids could run between rows of squash and tomatoes while we adults put our hands in the dirt. We'd share stories while we weeded, and eat harvest meals at the end of the season. If God lived next door, I'd want to build something beautiful.

Then again, who says she doesn't?

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Krey Leesman, Lead Pastor

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

309-292-2287; [beckybutterfield@hotmail.com](mailto: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**

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