

Thursday, February 26, 2026

This past Sunday we visited the wedding in Cana as we talked about how the good news is so good it catches us by surprise. In Lent, we often expect wilderness stories. We brace ourselves for struggle and sacrifice. But John begins with a surprise, he begins with abundance. With joy. With overflowing grace. And that is not accidental!

By beginning his gospel this way, John reminds us that the story of Jesus is not framed only by confrontation with evil. It is also framed by extravagant goodness.

Before the cross, before the conflict, before the crowds grow hostile-there is a wedding feast.

The six jars filled to the brim become a sign of who Jesus is:

The one who takes what is ordinary and transforms it!

The One who steps quietly into moments of potential embarrassment and turns them into occasions of joy!

The One whose grace overflows far beyond what is required!

The One who ushers in GOOD NEWS for all.

Good News that is so good, it catches us by surprise!

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/

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

If you would prefer a hard copy, please let us know and we would be happy to print one for you.

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

This Sunday we will read Luke 7:36-50 as we explore how the **Good News is Great Love for God and Neighbor.**

We will also celebrate Holy Communion together.

Our March Port Byron First UMC Calendars and copies of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference monthly newsletter are available for picking up outside the sanctuary and at the communications table.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Becky

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](#)

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 the Leesman Family

Prayers: Please continue to PRAY!

Meals or monetary donations: If you would like to make a monetary donation towards fuel for Pastor Krey's travel to and from Galesburg for treatments or if you would like to provide a meal for the family, contact Nikki Stuart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 and someone will provide you with the building agreement, policies, and forms to book the date on the church calendar.

EASTER FLOWERS-Only ONE MORE SUNDAY to sign up to order and pay for Easter Flowers. Sign up sheet is at the communication table

DONATIONS NEEDED:

- Juice Pouches
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex
- Cups (NOT STYROFOAM) in 8, 12, and 16 oz sizes

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.

ONLY ONE MORE OPENING! We're looking for people, or small groups of people to prepare, serve, and clean up a meal for our GROW Community. This is a **great** way for our Sunday faith community to connect and extend love to our Wednesday faith Community. Check out the sign up sheet at the Communications Table

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

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

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

Sunday, March 1-

- 2nd Sunday in Lent: The Good News is...Great Love for God and Neighbor Luke 7:36-50
- Communion
- P3 2-430pm
- Breakfast and Board Game Night 5pm

Thursday March 5-Bible Study "Come to the Waters" 9am-10:30am at the Hymes' Home 1615 Elm Shore Drive, Port Byron, IL

Friday March 6-A new 4-week book study on Zoom! 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 to receive your Zoom link. Contact MaryKay Hymes for questions or more info!

Sunday, March 8-

- Noisy Offering
- P3 2-430pm

Tuesday, March 10-Church Council Meeting 7pm

Friday, March 13 & Saturday, March 14-Pastor Becky guest panelist at the North Central Jurisdiction’s IGNITE Conference