

Thursday, April 30, 2026

I'm so grateful that Pastor Ann was able to be with you all last Sunday, so I could sneak away for a little break. The ocean was beautiful, the temps were perfect, the food and company were delightful, and I spent my Sunday morning watching the sunrise while walking the beach.

Pastor Ann was so excited when she saw that the scripture passage for last Sunday was Moses. She told me, "The call of Moses is my heart story...I'm so excited." I'm sure that enthusiasm was evident in her preaching last week.

I've always found comfort (and often needed reminding) that if God calls us to something, God will equip us with what we need to carry out that Call.

As you continue to ponder what you heard last week, keep reflecting on these questions:

- What "ordinary tools" has God placed in your hands?
- Where do you feel inadequate for God's calling?
- How have you seen God work through your weaknesses?

This week, we will explore a power transformation story, a reminder that no one is ever too far gone for God to change, as we talk more about how *We are Called to Follow*.

Your May calendars are available and ready to be picked up on Sunday morning on the bulletin table or the communications table. You can also find copies of the Illinois Great Rivers May Current.

I'm looking forward to being back with you all on Sunday!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Becky

Ways to share LOVE with our Detroit Team

You can make a direct contribution to our team. Follow this link <https://motownmission.org/support-your-team> and click "Donate to your team" and follow the prompts provided.

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 Pastor 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 condiments (ketchup, mayo & ranch), toothpaste, shampoo & conditioner, body wash, dish soap and laundry detergent, green beans, mac & cheese, and pancake mix.

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

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 8-10th 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 8-12th grade who would be interested in being part of this team, see Pastor Becky for more information!

May 2-Pastor Becky officiate Colin Larson and Kylie Spiegel's wedding

May 3-Worship and Communion

May 4 & 5-Pastor Becky-Board of Ordained Ministry work/leading Resident in Ministry Workshop, Springfield, IL

May 10-Riverdale High School Baccalaureate 7pm Middle School Gym

May 12-Church Council Meeting

May 13

- Pastor Becky-Community Outreach-Rotary Reader for Mrs. Wuest's 1st Grade Class
- Pastor Becky meets with Upper Rock Island County Ministerial Association

May 14-Riverdale Middle School 8th Grade Promotion

May 17-Riverdale High School Graduation

Looking Ahead-**Sunday, May 24th**-Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday! Wear red to celebrate Pentecost and stay after worship for cake to celebrate Confirmation!