

**PORT BYRON FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

April 6, 2025

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE

*LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS – Pastor Becky

VISO DIVINA: *Mary & Martha*: A Digital Painting Inspired by Luke 10:38-42 by Artist Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP-Pastor Roberta

We come to worship because we long for mercy.

We long for community. We long for God.

We come to worship because we need a good word.

We need connection. We need moral reminders.

We come to worship because we are in between:

hope and grief, faith and doubt, joy and longing, curiosity and conviction.

So we come to worship and God meets us here.

Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.

OPENING HYMN: Righteous Mercy (*See Insert*)
(to the tune of “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”)

CALL TO CONFESSION-Pastor Roberta

Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness. Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth. Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it. Fortunately, God does not act that way. No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we’ve taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again. So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, When we fail to be righteous, show us mercy. When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right. Again and again, bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us the way. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS-Pastor Becky

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: When we fail to be righteous,

God is merciful.

When we fail to be merciful,

God invites us to try again.

Again and again,

God moves closer to us.

Again and again,

God shows us the way.

Thanks be to God for this unending love. **Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: - Pastor Becky

Please sing the first verse of "Jesus Loves Me," #191 UMH as the children come forward.

JOYS & CONCERNS – Pastor Roberta
Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

PREPARATORY HYMN: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”
#349 UMH

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION-Pastor Becky

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 19:1-10-Pastor Becky

POEM Righteousness & Mercy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org-Pastor Becky

SERMON: Righteousness & Mercy-Pastor Becky

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Pastor Becky

In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers, Jesus loved by different rules. He offered mercy. He invited people to dinner. He told stories of love. He chose to see the best in others. We believe that small acts of mercy and compassion have ripple effects in our lives. We believe that small acts of righteousness and justice are integral to a life of faith. So like Christ, we believe in offering mercy, inviting people to dinner, telling stories of love, and choosing to see the best in others. With God’s help, may it be so. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION *You may place your offering in the offering plates as you come forward to receive communion. We will be serving gluten-free bread to all.*

DOXOLOGY #95 & OFFERTORY PRAYER – Pastor Becky

CLOSING HYMN: “The Summons” (*See Insert*) #2130 TFWS

BENEDICTION

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Roberta A. Robbins, Ph.D., Lead Pastor
309-313-4399; pastor.firstumcpb@gmail.com

Pastor Becky Butterfield, Associate Pastor & Director of Youth and Family Ministries
309-292-2287; beckybutterfield@hotmail.com

Steph Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Church Office: 309-848-4050 portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 8:00am - Noon
Thursday 8:00-10:00am

Musicians: Melissa Battern & Glenda Belouski

IT Team: Chad Butterfield, Colin Larson, Sam Butterfield, Colton Heim, Kam Mahraun, & Nolan Peirce

<https://www.facebook.com/PortByronFirstUnitedMethodist>

Port Byron First UMC Website: www.firstumcpb.org

Attendance at Worship

03/30/2025: Attendance: Worship –

Wired Word: ; Spiritual Formation:

Loose Plate: \$

Tithes & Offerings: \$

TOTAL: \$

United Methodist Church Mission: *The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

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 His creation.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday morning Coffee and Donut time starts at 9:15 am in the Fellowship Hall
- **P3** Wednesdays from 5:15-6:30 pm. **GROW** Wednesdays. Doors open at 6:30 pm, Dinner at 7:00 pm, Discipleship and Activities from 7:30-8:30 pm.
Volunteers are needed to provide GROW meals. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for preparing a meal for the Youth and Adult Leaders!
- **Adult Bible Study** Thursdays from 9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

Immediate Food Pantry Needs - The Upper Rock Island County Food Pantry at Messiah Lutheran Church has immediate needs for kid-friendly cereal, condiments - ketchup & mustard, salad dressing, paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, pork & beans or other canned beans, pancake mix and syrup, and boxed dinners. **Be sure that your donations are within the "best by/best use" expiration date and that the item has not been opened. The food pantry cannot accept items that are expired.** Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry!

Wish List for the 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!

Easter Choir – Anyone interested in singing with the choir during Easter worship, the practices will be on Sundays, April 13 and April 20 at 9:30 am in the choir room.

OTHER EVENTS ON THE CALENDAR:

Sunday, April 6- Town Hall Meeting with Bishop Bingham-Tsai at Monmouth First UMC from 3:00-4:30 pm

Wednesday, April 9- Upper Rock Island County Ministerial Association Meeting, Brothers at 11:30 am

Holy Week - Palm Sunday, April 13 – Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 20.

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13 - Potluck and Intergenerational Escape Room 5:30-8 pm

Tuesday, April 15 - Finance Committee Meeting at 7:00 pm; Tax Day

Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service time 6:00 pm

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday Service from noon - 1:00 pm at Riverside UMC, Moline – Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai will preach the sermon. This is a QC Clergy Coalition-hosted event.

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday Service 6 pm at the Church of the Cross UMC – This is a URICMA-hosted event.

Sunday, April 20 Easter Services 7:30 and 10:30

Easter Breakfast 8:30 am (or after the first service) until 10 am

Donations for Youth will be taken

Kids Korner after the 10:30 am Children's Message

Donations for Missions accepted & blessed

Thursday, April 24 - United Women in Faith will be at 1:30 at the church. Mary Kay Hymes will give the program. All women of the church are invited.

Saturday, April 26 - East Bay Camp Work Day. Volunteers are needed! 9 am-4 pm Lunch included!

Sunday, April 27 - P3 Potluck with Port Byron First UMC Leaders. If you serve on any of our leadership teams at PB First, please plan to join us to meet and share your love of Jesus and service in the UMC with our soon-to-be new members!

Coming this summer: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL! Road Trip: On the Go With God! Open to children from 4 years old through 5th Grade. June 9-11th from 9-11:30 am. Family VBS Night on June 11th in the evening. VBS Youth Leader lunch and fun June 12th. See Kathy Mahraun or Bree Heim if you are interested in being a youth or adult helper!