

Sunday, March 15, 2026  
Fourth 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.*

*Let the Little Children Come* acylic, god leaf, pen, on paper by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell

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

God loves the field mouse.

**God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.**

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

**God loves the child who rocks and claps.**

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

**God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.**

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.**

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

**There is no bit of creation that God does not love.**

So let us worship this good-news God!

**Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:** For the Beauty of the Earth UMH#92

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Family of Faith, every week we pray the Prayer of Confession, because every week we need to be reminded of God’s abundant grace. Every week we need to be reminded of God’s love. Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change. So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation. Friends, let us pray:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*Includes scripture verses from Leviticus 19:33, Matthew 5:9, Deuteronomy 24:21, Matthew 19:14, and Isaiah 43:1.*

God said, “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them.”

**Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

**We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.**

God said, “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.”

**We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them.”

**We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.**

Fortunately for all of us, God also said, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are

mine.”

**By God’s grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives! **Amen.**

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: Sanctuary TFWS2164

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 24:17-22 & Matthew 19:13-15

SERMON

The Good News is...Protection and Care for the Vulnerable

OFFERING/DOXOLOGY/PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN Pass it On UMH#572

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

## Unwritten Agreement

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

Unwritten Agreement We have this unwritten agreement, us members of humanity. When the toddler at the coffee shop runs round the corner, when her mom, at the register, looks up in panic, we, the adults in the room, will pledge, with quick smiles and silent head nods, to keep watch. We will lean out of our seats. We will put down our phones. We will stand at the ready to scoop up, to offer words of comfort, to make silly faces, to keep an eye on the door. And we will do this, because we cannot ignore the instinct to care. We will do this, because we cannot ignore the child right in front of us. We will do this, because love always includes the least of these.

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Becky Butterfield, Interim 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

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