

Thursday, March 12, 2026

This past Sunday, the disciples were hyper focused and concerned about the practicality of the logistics on how they were going to feed a large crowd of people. It was late, they were in the middle of nowhere, it was clearly time for dinner, and there were over 5000 people present.

Jesus' priority to show compassion to the crowd and to care for their needs rather than sending them away.

Jesus never once focused on the problem of hunger and the lack of food and money needed to feed everyone.

Rather he took the meager five loaves and 2 fish blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples to serve and share with people.

And they all feasted until they were full.

What seemed like so little was abundantly enough.

Jesus could have made an instant miracle happen but instead, he chose to empower the disciples, giving them agency and permission to participate in making what seemed like an impossible task possible.

Because the good news is...**together** the impossible **is** possible.

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.

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

This Sunday we will read Matthew 19:13-15 and Deuteronomy 24:17-22 as we explore how the **Good News is...Protection and Care for the Vulnerable.**

From [Curt Franklin](#), IGRC Disaster Response Coordinator:

A tornado struck the Kankakee area Tuesday night and has been declared a disaster. Rescue operations are ongoing and our conference disaster response team is activated. We are meeting with area pastors to begin coordinating the church's response to the community.

The most immediate way churches across the conference can help is to fund the response.

If all IGRC churches gave between \$100 and \$500 we would have more than enough to serve this community well. Churches can give through their regular remittances to Fund 6800. You can also share the online donation link with your congregation so members can give directly, and those gifts can be credited to your church.

Give online at: igrc.brtapp.com/page/donate/igrc-disaster-response (Fund #6800)

Please keep the Kankakee community and our area churches in your prayers.

Interested in helping with the upcoming Work Trip to Detroit? 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.

Here is our upcoming Holy Week and Easter Schedule:

- Sunday, March 29-Palm/Passion Sunday with Rev. Ann Champion at 10:30am
- Thursday, April 2-Maundy Thursday Worship with Rev. Becky Butterfield at 7pm
- Friday April 3-Good Friday Service, Christ United Methodist Church, East Moline-A Quad City United Methodist Coalition Service at 12pm
- Friday April 3-Good Friday Service, Hampton Grace United Methodist Church, Hampton, IL-A Upper Rock Island County Ministerial Association Service at 6pm
- Sunday, April 5-Easter Sunrise Service, with Lay Leader Nikki Stuart at 7am
- Sunday, April 5-Easter Breakfast hosted by the youth 8-10am
- Sunday April 5-Easter Worship with Communion 10:30am-CHOIR & KIDS KORNER

Have a blessed week!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Becky

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.

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 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](#)

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.

Riverdale Theatre Cast/Crew Party is coming up Saturday March 28th. Sing up to help donate ingredients in the Fellowship Hall!

DONATIONS NEEDED:

- Juice Pouches

EASTER CHOIR! Be part of our Easter Sunday Choir. ALL are welcome and invited! **Practice will Sunday, March 29th and Sunday, March 5th at 9:30a.m.** The Choir will sing during the 10:30am service.

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 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!

Thursday, March 12- Bible Study “Come to the Waters” 9am-10:30am at the Hymes’ Home 1615 Elm Shore Drive, Port Byron, IL

Friday, March 13- 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!

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

Sunday, March 15th-Kids Korner after Children’s Message

Monday, March 16&17-Pastor Becky Vacation

Saturday, March 21-Confirmation Rally with the Bishop! Rochester United Methodist Church, Rochester, IL

Thursday, March 26-United Women in Faith will meet Thursday, March 26. We will be attending an IGRC West District meeting at Bethel Wesley UMC in Moline. The Hospitality portion begins at 9:30. The program is 10:00-1:30. The program is based on the book, "Under the Skin, The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives, and on the Health of our Nation" by Linda Villarosa.

Saturday, March 28-Puffs Riverdale Cast/Crew Party. Please sign up to dentate ingredients!

Sunday, March 29-5th Sunday Meal