

August 16th 2026

This Sunday is our annual back to school worship. We are in the back to school spirit at the Leesman household excitement in the parents and audible groans from the teens each time the topic comes up. The older kids have started band camp, and the littles have already started homeschooling. Ask Erin to see the super cute video of Lewis counting and the new homeschool co-op she is helping to form in Port Byron.

This Sunday will not just be a time to prepare and commission our young people for the school year ahead. It will also be a celebration of the ministry of our youth this summer. Come here from our VBS participants and volunteers, our campers, and those who participated in our mission trip in Detroit. Most of all come and support of children and youth let's show them how we are a community that loves and supports them.

Sunday Morning Connection

Sunday, August 16th, 2026 Summer Celebration and Back to School Sunday

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1:9, Proverbs 3:5-6, Colossians 3:12-17, 1 Timothy 4:12

SERMON Blessing of our Students

Hymns Great is Thy Faithfulness UMH#140

They'll Know we are Christians by our Love TFWS #2223

God of All Learning

Our Sunday worship will be at 10:30 am in the sanctuary at Port Byron First UMC or online

[Home | Port Byron First Methodist Church](#)

Announcements:

We will be serving our community this week by hosting a shuttle sight for Tug Fest. Our church doors will be locked from 4:30pm on Thursday evening until 9am Sunday morning. If you need access to the building during that time, please contact either Pastor Krey or Pastor Becky.

You won't want to miss the Celebration and special Prayer Times this Sunday. Come hear all the celebration stories from all our summer ministry, and join us in praying for schools, staff, and students. Students will participate in a service project for teachers after worship and we will have Root Beer Floats for ALL! Wear your school colors! Any school colors will do be it your alma matta, the school you work for, or the school your child or grandchildren attend!

You're invited to be part of our GROW team this year! Check out the clipboard located at the Communication Table in the Fellowship Hall to prepare, serve, and share a meal with that weekly faith community. Serve and participate as a family, with friends, or a ministry team!

TODAY

- *Summer Celebrations*
- *Praying for the new school year*
- *Service project for teachers*
- *Root beer floats for ALL*

THIS WEEK

- *Sunday August 16-Thursday August 20-Pastor Becky IGRC Board of Ordained Ministry Mid-Quad Training, Atlanta, Georgia*
- *Tuesday, August 18-Finance Meeting 7pm*
- *Friday, August 21-5th Quarter until 11:30pm. Menu-Ice Cream Sundaes and Floats!*

COMING UP

- *Wednesday, August 26-GROW Leadership Team Meeting*
- *Thursday, August 27-United Women in Faith, 1:30pm*
- *Sunday, August 30-United Women in Faith 5th Sunday lunch after worship*

LOOKING AHEAD

- *Tuesday, September 1-Trustees 7pm*
- *Wednesday, September 2-GROW Kick Off Doors open at 6:30pm, Dinner served at 7pm, Discipleship Time 730-830pm*
- *Friday, Sept 4-5th Quarter until 11:30pm. Menu: Late Night Breakfast*
- *Sunday, September 13-Concecration Sunday Service with Celebration Lunch to follow*

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.

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!

Church related questions, concerns or pastoral care needs? Contact:

Pastor Krey Leesman: 309-226-3327

Pastor Becky Butterfield: 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.