

The First United  
Methodist Church of  
Fort Branch



Blythe Chapel United  
Methodist Church  
8141 S 450 W  
Owensville, IN 47665

*Our Mission....  
To make disciples of  
Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the  
world .*

**Rev. Randy Anderson**

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**Office Hours**  
Tuesday & Wednesday,  
9:00 am– 2:00 pm  
Closed Monday, Thursday  
and Friday



### ***The Romans Sent a Message; God Sent One, Too***

The rulers of the Roman Empire wanted everyone under their power to understand clearly that it would be very costly to try to overthrow their government. They conceived the idea of crucifixion as a way of sending an unforgettable message to all people under their control. Death on a cross would be a slow, excruciatingly painful death. The cross would be put in a very public place so as many as possible would get the message: Don't even think of defying Roman rule!

That is why Christ was crucified on Golgotha hill close to a busy road where no passerby could miss the shocking scene. Christ was guilty of nothing. Yet his enemies hated him so much that they told Pilate, Rome's representative in Jerusalem, that Jesus was a danger to Roman rule. Christ's enemies said to Pilate, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar" (John 19:12). Pilate caved in to the clamor of the crowd and allowed Jesus to be crucified.

But those who saw to it that Jesus suffered death on the cross did not know that God had a message to send as well. God victoriously raised Christ from the dead! God touched the precious body of his Son and infused it with life, glorious, dynamic life, life in all of its fullness.

God turned the cross, the executioner's tool of death, into a dramatic symbol of victory. The empty cross and the empty tomb, along with the resurrected body of Christ, reveal God's victory over the worst deed humans might do — the assassination of the Holy.

That is why we put crosses everywhere: boldly, proudly, joyously, triumphantly. It is why we glory in the cross always. It stands eternally "towering o'er the wrecks of time" (John Bowring).

After the Resurrection, Jesus' friend, Peter, explained God's message to all of Christ's enemies with these bold and certain words: "This Jesus, you crucified and killed ... But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it ... This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses .... Therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:23-24; 32, 36). That is what Easter is all about. All praise to the living Lord!

# There's Something Better Coming

The Easter season is a precious time for Christians to celebrate the source of our hope: Christ is risen, and he invites us to rise with him into new life. Easter reminds us that God is still at work, even in the places where we've felt stuck or discouraged.

Easter is an invitation to try again—with his strength—to break habits we thought were unbreakable. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to breathe new life into a marriage we feared was beyond saving. There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to slow down, reach out, and reconnect with those we've unintentionally neglected. There's something better coming.

Easter is an invitation to look at our lack of love and seek God for compassion. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance for all no-hopers to regain their vision of what can be! There's something better coming.

Easter is an opportunity to renew our faith. There's something better coming.

Easter is a chance to "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not faint." There's something better coming.



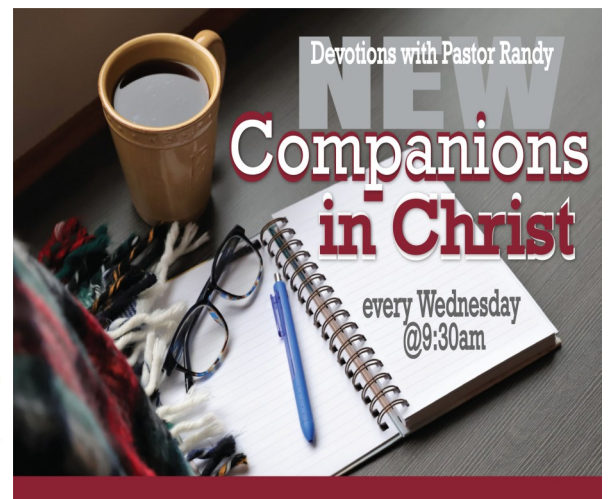
# Simplified Board *meeting*

*Sunday, April 19th*  
*11:30am*



## Deaconess Gibson Hospital Auxiliary

will be having their annual geranium sale on April 13th and 14th at the Princeton Public Library. Preorders are being accepted now at either the hospital gift shop (812-385-3401) or from Darla J Lewis (812-457-4683); price this year is \$6.50 each; colors available will be Red, White, Pink, Hot Pink, White Splash, Salmon. Mode of payment will be cash or check only. Scheduled pickup: A thru M on April 13; N thru Z on April 14th. We appreciate your support.



**Fort Branch First UMC**  
**P. O. Box 116**  
**Fort Branch, IN 47648**

**Deliver to:**

\*-This symbol,  
when found in the Order of Service invites  
you to stand - if able.

CCLI #2446518  
Streaming License # 20701562

### CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Children are welcome in the worship  
service! We do provide a nursery, located in  
the education wing near the restrooms.



#### This Sunday:

10:30am ~Worship & Live  
Streaming Worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday:  
4:00pm ~ Yoga, for everyone

Wednesday:  
9:30am ~Companions in  
Christ Devotions

Thursday :  
8:30-3pm ~ Office Closed ~  
~ Finish It  
Thursday

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

#### Next Sunday:

10:30am ~Worship & Live  
Streaming Worship  
11:30am ~ Simplified Board  
Meeting

SPRING  
FUN  
FOR  
GROWING  
FAITH



## Guest Speaker, Kristi Polster

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please add your name to the attendance register located in your pew  
and pass to the next person until reaches everyone in your row.*

### WORSHIP THROUGH GATHERING

\*THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US

\*HYMN #327

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hymn #888

*This is the good news which we have received,  
in which we stand, and by which we are saved:*

**Christ died for our sins,  
was buried,  
was raised on the third day,  
and appeared first to the women,  
then to Peter and the Twelve  
and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe Jesus is the Christ,  
the Anointed One of God,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the firstborn from the dead,  
in whom all things hold together,  
in whom the fullness of God  
was pleased to dwell  
by the power of the Spirit.**

**Christ is the head of the body, the church  
and by the blood of the cross  
reconciles all things to God. Amen**

### WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYING

PRAYER HYMN #318

*Christ Is Alive*

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER  
THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us  
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against  
us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory  
forever. Amen*

**WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING**

THE OFFERING: The Gathering of the Gifts

\*Presentation of Gifts with Offertory Response: **Hymn #95**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**WORSHIP THROUGH HEARING**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE *insert*

*John 20:19-32, NLT*

MESSAGE

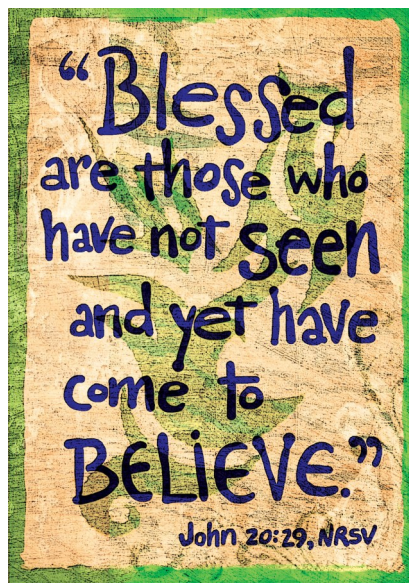
*"I Believe, Help My Unbelief"*

**WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONDING**

\*HYMN #310

*He Lives*

\*BLESSING



*Prayer Requests*

*Prayer Requests — last names  
are printed for individuals  
requesting prayer for themselves  
or with explicitly given  
permission.*

*Jane Marginet, Terri &  
Steve Jarboe, Mark Fear,  
Liz & Alan Creamer, Paul &  
Jeanie Cardinal, Zach  
Anderson, Morgan  
Whitehead, Jim Feutz,  
Roger & Nancy Jones, Julie  
Anderson, Kathy  
Trowbridge, Kelsey Holder,  
Sherry Holder, Mona  
Davis, Alec Taylor, Linda &  
Shane Springer, Darla  
Lewis, Sherry Michel,  
Larry Johnson, Mark Allen,  
Wayne Anderson, Jimmie  
Johns*



*Alissa Fuhs ~ 12th  
Randy Anderson  
~ 12th  
Sydney Russler ~  
12th*



## ***John 20:19-32, NLT***

### ***Jesus Appears to His Disciples***

<sup>19</sup> That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. <sup>20</sup> As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! <sup>21</sup> Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

### ***Jesus Appears to Thomas***

<sup>24</sup> One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), was not with the others when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> They told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he replied, “I won’t believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later the disciples were together again, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked; but suddenly, as before, Jesus was standing among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don’t be faithless any longer. Believe!”

<sup>28</sup> “My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.

<sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, “You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.”

### ***Purpose of the Book***

<sup>30</sup> The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.



*RESPONSE: The Word of God, for the people of God.*

***Thanks be to God!***

