

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

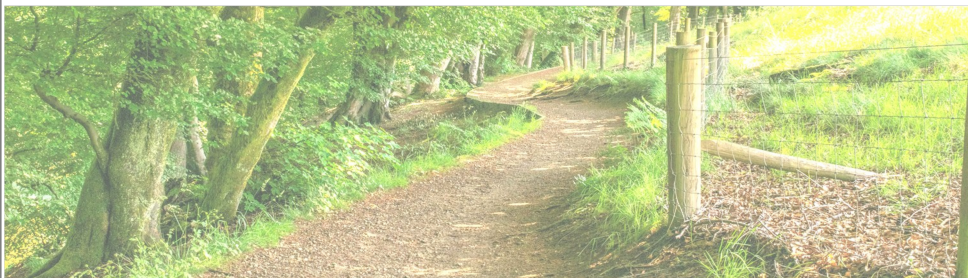


## Captivity transformed

In Jesus' first sermon in Nazareth, he read from Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to bring good news to the poor ... to proclaim release to the captives" (Luke 4:18, NRSV). Then he declared this Scripture fulfilled — in him. Ever since, in countless ways, Jesus has transformed captivity and dead ends into freedom and new beginnings.

A modern instance is a lovely new apartment complex built out of Lorton (Virginia) Reformatory, a prison that operated from 1910 to 2001. The beautifully renovated apartments — fittingly named Liberty Crest — opened in 2017. This project demonstrates wise stewardship by channeling new life into an old space, and care for people in need by reserving more than 25% of the units for low-income renters. Whether this project's developers are disciples of Jesus or not, the divine power of resurrection has been at work through them.

We're all held captive by something: illness, debt, oppression, violence, our own sin or another sort of dead end. But Jesus brings liberty where only prison was known. He transforms death into life, despair into hope, endings into bright new beginnings. May we who follow him do the same.



## A path of persistence

Some Christian converts in an overseas village were diligent about daily prayer. In the thicket outside town, they each had a place where they prayed in solitude. Over time, these believers wore pathways through the brush to their special prayer areas. If someone neglected his or her prayer life, it was evident because fresh grass started growing on that footpath. Out of concern, fellow Christians offered this loving reminder: "Friend, there's grass growing on your path."

How worn is your own path to prayer? Are you persistent when answers don't seem to come? Do you trust that God will answer your prayers, according to his good and gracious will?

When you grow weary, remember this promise in Galatians 6:9 (NIV). "At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

## Why Christian community is key

Jesus' followers aren't meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that's impossible! A *family* and *the body* signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- experience our Savior's presence, living and incarnate;
- unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn — through other people's examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship;
- and lovingly serve together as Jesus' hands and feet.



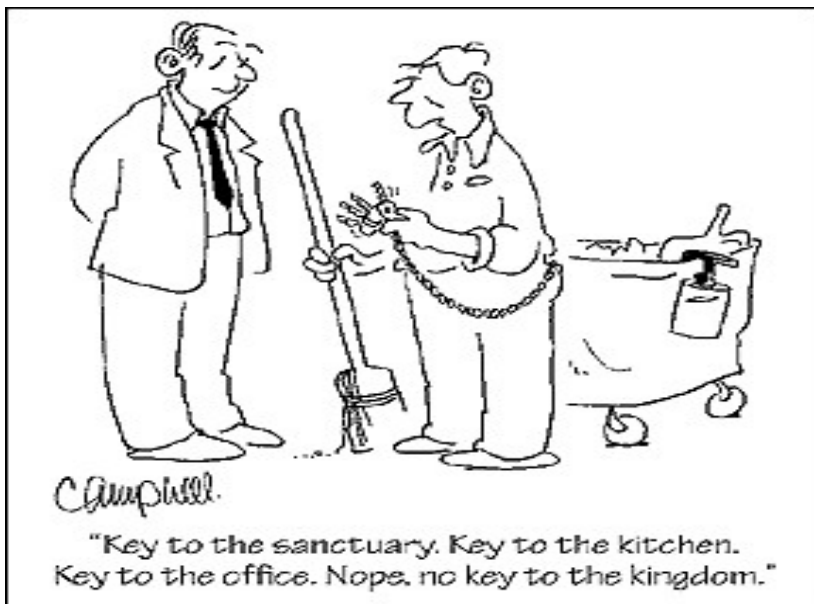
*Kelly Foster ~ 18th*

*Alec & Vanessa  
Steinmetz ~ 21st*

*Nehemie Mathurin ~  
22nd*

*O’Ryan Prater ~ 23rd*

*Shelby Wynn ~ 23rd*



# PARKING ATTENDANTS NEEDED

# Vanderburgh County 4-H Craft Show Sept. 27 & 28

Fundraiser to benefit Hearts for Haiti. Parking attendants both days 8am-2pm ish  
See Debi Phillips for more details and your willingness to participate.



**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.



@ church this week

#### This Sunday:

10:30am ~ Worship & Live  
streaming worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday:

5:30pm ~Yoga

Wednesday:

Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~

Friday:

Saturday:

Next Sunday:

10:30am ~ Worship & Live  
streaming worship



"Usually, the church issues a  
less personal invitation to worship."



*Welcome to worship!*

**Rev. Randy Anderson**

#### 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 #467

**Trust and Obey**

#### \*RESPONSIVE READING

**Hymn 125**

Seek the Lord who now is present,  
call upon the Lord, who is near,

**let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;**

let them return, that the Lord may have mercy on  
them; that our God may abundantly pardon.

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

For as the rain and the snow come down from  
heaven, and return not but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
**so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I intend,  
and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

#### WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYING

PRAYER HYMN #357

**Just as I Am, Without One Plea**

***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***

**Hymn #95**

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

### ***Matthew 12:43-45, NLT***

<sup>43</sup> “When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, ‘I will return to the person I came from.’ So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order. <sup>45</sup> Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before. That will be the experience of this evil generation.”

*RESPONSE: The Word of God, for the people of God.*  
*Thanks be to God!*

## MESSAGE

## ***“Filling the Heart”***

## WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONDING

**\*HYMN # 2152**

## *Change My Heart, O God*

\*BLESSING



# Prayer Requests

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

*Jane Marginet, June  
Regenhold, Mark Fear,  
Terri & Steve Jarboe, Liz  
& Alan Creamer, Paul &  
Jeanie Cardinal, Zach  
Anderson, Morgan  
Whitehead, Roger &  
Nancy Jones, Julie  
Anderson, Carolyn  
Jones, Jim Feutz,  
Ron Dunning*

Sing  
God's  
Praises

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.