

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

Pastor

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Office Hours

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

One Church Two Locations

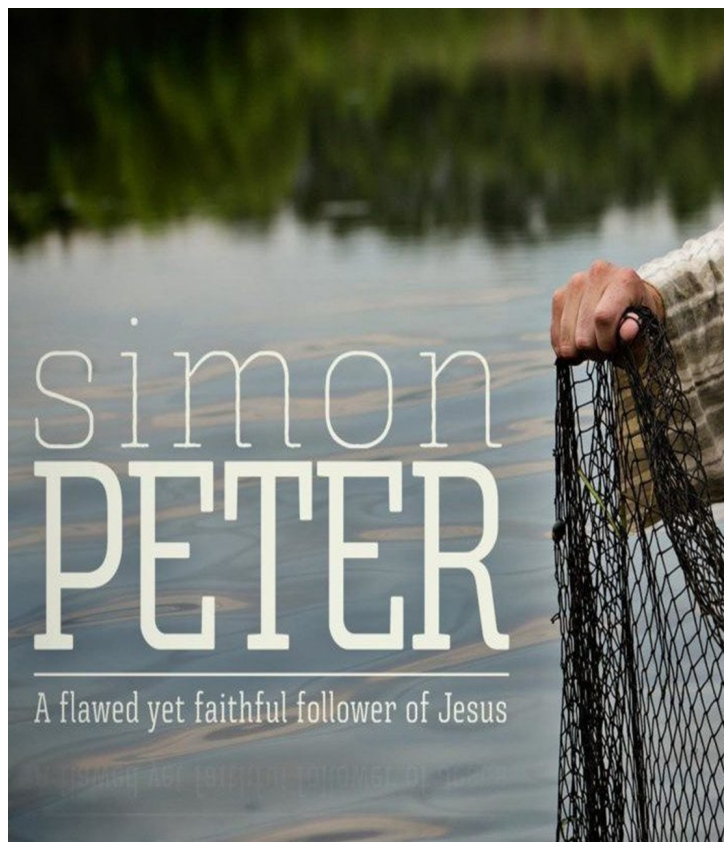
August 24, 2025

Our God of hope

Near the end of a long bout with cancer, Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson realized that hope for recovery wasn't credible. The year before he died, he wrote a Christmas message from "the antiseptic wonderland of the holiday hospital ward," asking, "What sustains hope when there is scant reason for it?"

The answer, Gerson said, is found in our "God of hope," who became vulnerable, "cloaked in blood and bone and destined for human suffering." Rather than fulfill our deepest earthly wishes, God offers eternal security: "He promises a transformation of the heart in which we release the burden of our desires, and live in expectation of God's unfolding purposes, until all his mercies stand revealed."

That hope-filled message echoes Gerson's 2012 Christmas column, written in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook shooting. "The point of Christmas is not a sentimental optimism about the human condition or even a teaching about the will of God," he wrote. "It is an assertion that God came to our rescue, and holds our hand, and becomes, at the worst moments, our brokenhearted brother. It is preposterous, unless it is true. And then it would be everything."



New Bible
Study on
Mondays
@ 6:30pm

October 13-
November 17

Reserve your
book today.
\$15

Study led by
Pastor Randy

Hope defined

Hoping does not mean doing nothing. It means going about our assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and the conclusions. It is not compelled to work away at keeping up appearances with a bogus spirituality. It is the opposite of desperate and panicky manipulations, of scurrying and worrying.

And hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning an illusion or fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident, alert expectation that God will do what he said he will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it his way and in his time. It is the opposite of making plans that we demand that God put into effect, telling him both how and when to do it.

—Eugene Peterson, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*



THE SNACK BAR

We need to know your favorite snacks, please send Melissa a note.

It's becoming more difficult to offer items like candy bars due to the purchase cost.

All proceeds support the Back to School Bash Ministry.



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.



August's Mission in Motion:

Collecting "milk money",
to purchase milk for
The Lord's Pantry patrons.



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



Kiana Mosser ~ 29th

Jeff & Laura
Nurrenbern ~ 29th



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 #419

I Am Thine, O Lord

*RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From whence does my help come?

My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

*The Lord will not let your foot be moved,
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.*

**Behold, the One who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper;

the Lord is your shade

on your right hand.

The sun shall not smite you by day,

nor the moon by night.

*The Lord will keep you from all evil,
and will keep your life.*

The Lord will keep

**your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.**

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYING

PRAYER HYMN #133

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

***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***

***Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Jeremiah 29:11, NLT

¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord.

“They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

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

MESSAGE

“Hope that Anchors the Soul”

WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONDING

***HYMN # 514**

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

*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

[illegible]