



We Seek to Better Understand
the Teachings of Jesus—
and Live those Teachings.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.fbfirst.org

P. O. Box 116, Fort Branch, IN 47648
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Blythe Chapel **Fort Branch First**
8141 S. 450 W. **100 W. Vine St.**
Owensville, IN **Fort Branch, IN**

Office Hours

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

Rev. John Baylor, Jr., Pastor
john@fbfirst.org
Parsonage: (812) 615-0053

Melissa Foster, Administrative Assistant
melissa@fbfirst.org

Sherry Michel
Musician @ First

Derek Robicheaux, Custodian @ First

Zella Frey, Custodian @ Blythe

Lynn Prieshoff,
Director of Music Ministries @ Blythe

WELCOME

Whoever you are,
and wherever you find yourself
on the journey of faith, you are
welcome to this church as you
are to receive the riches of
God's grace...

The Way...

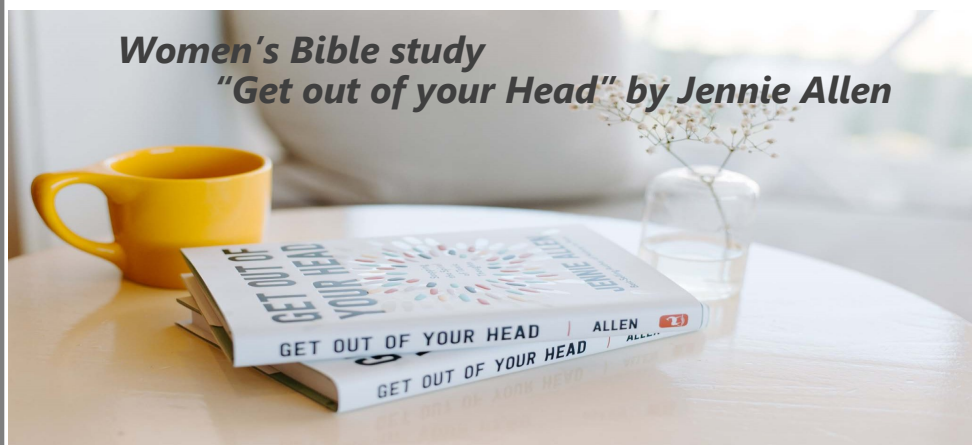
The earliest Christians were called *The People of the Way*.

This weekly publication is provided to show
how our congregations are living *The Way* today.

3rd Sunday of Advent  **December 12, 2021**



This is a service designed so you may participate from home, in front of Fort Branch First UMC, at Blythe Chapel UMC, on the streets of Fort Branch or by live streaming wherever you are in the world. We can all gather and pause with our hearts and minds on Jesus for a few moments, regardless of location or denomination of faith. FUMC & Blythe Chapel will start ringing their church bells at 6pm with everyone, everywhere invited to ring their own bell for 2 minutes. We have asked that other church bells ring with us...what a glorious sound that will be! Pastor John will read the Christmas Story LIVE from the steps of the bell tower. A Christmas carol will be sung as we all light a candle. This is to be a community event, so be sure to spread the word and invite your neighbors to step outside for a few minutes.
Christmas Bells: They are rung to announce the arrival of the Christmas season, to proclaim the birth of Christ.



6 week study in Philippians. It will be five consecutive Mondays starting Monday, January 10 and will conclude the sixth week on Tuesday, February 15. The cost is \$15 (pay the first night of study) . Any one interested let Kristi (812-664-1108) know by Monday, December 20.



Dear Church Family,
 Thank you so much for the delicious meal you provided following the service.

Also thank you for your past and present prayers, cards, thoughts and words of comfort.

Having a caring church family helps get through these tough times.

There's a saying "Friends multiply joys and divide sorrows." We have found that is definitely true at this time.

Again, Thank You & God Bless You All!
 Bruce & Marilee Rostron & families

Lil Titans Daycare

Who hates to cook on Christmas morning? These Lil elves have you covered! Enjoy Christmas morning with your family and let us cook for you!

Take and Bakes

Sausage/Egg or Cinnamon Roll
 Casseroles

Small is \$15 and Large is \$25

Orders due Dec 17th

Lora Naas 812-664-7879

Advent & Christmas Worship Services

Dec. 12th ... Advent Sunday ~ Joy @ 9 & 10:30^{am}
 Dec. 19th ... Advent Sunday ~ Peace @ 9 & 10:30^{am}

Dec. 24th ... Christmas Eve ~ 6pm @
 Blythe Chapel & Fort Branch First
 A very special outside service!

Dec. 26th ... 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Pastor John & Staff Christmas Gifts

will be given the week of Christmas. Anyone wishing to participate should mail their contribution either to the church office or

Don Steinmetz
 253 E 750 S

Fort Branch, IN 47648.

You may also give them to Don in person or place in the offering plate by December 19th.



December Celebrations

Fred & Debra Stephenson ~ 12th

Garry Russell ~ 16th

TJ Lewis ~ 17th

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 offer options. Following the Children's Sharing, children may attend Sunday School at Blythe Chapel or Nursery at First.

Nursery
Attendant:



12/12: Janet McBee
12/19: Laura Nurrenbern



† Indicates location is Blythe Chapel
Ω Indicates location is First UMC

This Sunday: 3rd Advent Sunday

9:00am † Worship
9:30am Ω Sunday School
10:30am Ω Worship & Live
streaming worship
11:30am Ω Trustees' Meeting
11:45am Ω Cookie Swap

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday: ~ Office Closed~

Friday: ~ Office Closed~

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 4th Advent Sunday

9:00am † Worship
9:30am Ω Sunday School
10:30am Ω Worship & Live
streaming worship
12:00pm Ω Private Use-



Next Sunday Worship:
"The Gifts of the Christmas Event:
The Gift of Care"

God, you went ahead of Elijah to
Zarephath to provide for him and the
widow's family (1 Kings 17). Remind me
that wherever I go this week,
you're already there, preparing the way.



Welcome

The Rev. John Baylor, Jr.



PRELUDE

*THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US

*HYMN #220 9:00am *Angels from the Realms of Glory*
#240 10:30am *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*GREETING AND PRAYER

*We offer a cordial greeting to all worshippers who have come to
praise the Lord. Your presence helps lift our spirits, and we welcome you in
Christ's name.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING ~ Joy

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.*

PRAYERS

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYER HYMN #219 9:00am *What Child Is This*
#229 10:30am *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

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.**

THE OFFERING:

The Gathering of the Gifts

*Presentation of Gifts with **DOXOLOGY:**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him all creatures here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25 NLT

MESSAGE *“The Gifts of the Christmas Event:
The Gift of Obedience”*

***HYMN** #431 9:00am *Let There Be Peace on Earth*
#234 10:30am *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

***BLESSING** Pastor

***THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD**
Acolytes

***DEPARTING SONG: Hymn # 239** *Silent Night*
*Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!*

***PASSING THE PEACE:**
Let us greet one another with the peace of God.

POSTLUDE



Prayer Requests

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

*Jane Marginet, Jake Prieshoff,
Lynn Prieshoff, Richard & Betty
Michel, Becca Manolov,
Carla Jackson, Kyle Stone,
Poppy Petry, Linda McKimmy,
Connie Osborn, Tommy
Osborn, Alec Taylor, Morgan
Whitehead, Lisa & Bill, Linda
Reed, Ryan Steele, Al Rostron,
Amy Casavant, Randy Jones,
Derek Barton, Dennis
Woolston, Sue Mounts, Jerry
McBee. Hattie Kroeger*

Christmas
BLESSINGS



Listening Guide
“The Gift of Obedience”
December 12, 2021

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Question: How did Joseph give the gift of obedience?

He was a _____ Man (vs. 18-19)

He was _____ (vs. 20-23)

Joseph _____ (vs. 24-25)

Personal Application: Joseph gave the gift of obedience. He was completely obedient. He didn't cut any corners. Is the same true of us?

Matthew 1:18-25 NLT

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

²⁰ As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

²² All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

²³ "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,
which means 'God is with us.'"

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

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

Thanks be to God!



POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

In Memory of Don Knapp

-Terri & Steve Jarboe

In Memory Dorothy & Kelly Jarboe

-Terri & Steve Jarboe

*In Memory of Herb, Velma & Linda Wening
And Lee Haworth And Elizabeth Rostron*

- Bruce & Marilee Rostron

In Memory of Tom Lewis,

The Parents of Tom Lewis & The Parents of Darla Lewis

- Darla Lewis

In Memory of Marvin & Dottie Steinmetz

And Allen & Margie Cornelison

- Don & Sue Ann Steinmetz

In Memory of Lucile Johnson

- Larry & Carolyn Johnson

In Memory of John Johnson

- Larry & Carolyn Johnson

In Memory of Frank Kuhns

- Larry & Carolyn Johnson

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

In Memory of Jon Teel

- The Todd & Sonya Teel and family

In Memory of Mary Godley

- The Todd & Sonya Teel and family

*In Memory of Charles Boss, Kay Meyers, Jean Dawson,
Bob Fitch & JoAnn Davis-Fitch, Noel Dawson and Gladys Fisher*

- John & Bev Boss

*In Memory of James David Trowbridge
& David L. Trowbridge*

- Trowbridge Family

In Memory of Victor & Medrith Anderson

- Wayne Anderson & Fuhs Family

In Memory of Ermal & Ruby Boren

- Wayne Anderson & Fuhs Family

In Memory of Linda Anderson

- Wayne Anderson & Fuhs Family

In Honor of Our Family & Friends

- Bruce & Sherry Holder

*In Memory of our grandparents,
Dr. & Mrs. Leroy Holder and Carl Kriete*

- Grant, Kelsey & Blake Holder

In Memory of Bill & Martha Jane Russler

- Mike & Sydney Russler

*In Memory of Ralph Davis, Terry Davis,
Kolin Clutter, and Butch Davis*

- John & Bev Boss

*In Memory of Judy Kolb And Pam Ridens
And Tammy Scott*

- Phil & Marla Scott

In Honor of The Woolston Family And The Frey Family

- Bill & Zella Frey

In Honor of Our Family

- Trevor, Alyssa & Gracelyn Moskos