



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

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

[www.fbfirst.org](http://www.fbfirst.org)

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**Blythe Chapel**  
8141 S. 450 W.  
Owensville, IN

**Fort Branch First**  
100 W. Vine St.  
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](mailto:john@fbfirst.org)  
Parsonage: (812) 615-0053

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Rexanne Robicheaux  
Musician @ First

Derek Robicheaux  
Custodian @ First

Zella Frey  
Custodian @ 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.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**      **December 18, 2022**

**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.

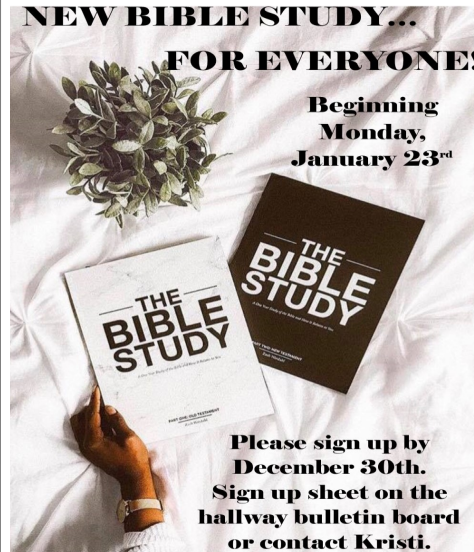


You may also give them to Don in person or place in the offering plate by December 18th.

**NEW BIBLE STUDY...**

**FOR EVERYONE!**

Beginning  
Monday,  
January 23<sup>rd</sup>



Please sign up by  
December 30th.  
Sign up sheet on the  
hallway bulletin board  
or contact Kristi.

*Time to Celebrate!*

*Nancy Jones ~ 20th*

*Margaret Ann Duncan ~ 23rd*

*Kaia Gerts ~ 23rd*

*John Baylor, Jr. ~ 24th*

*John Jenkins ~ 24th*

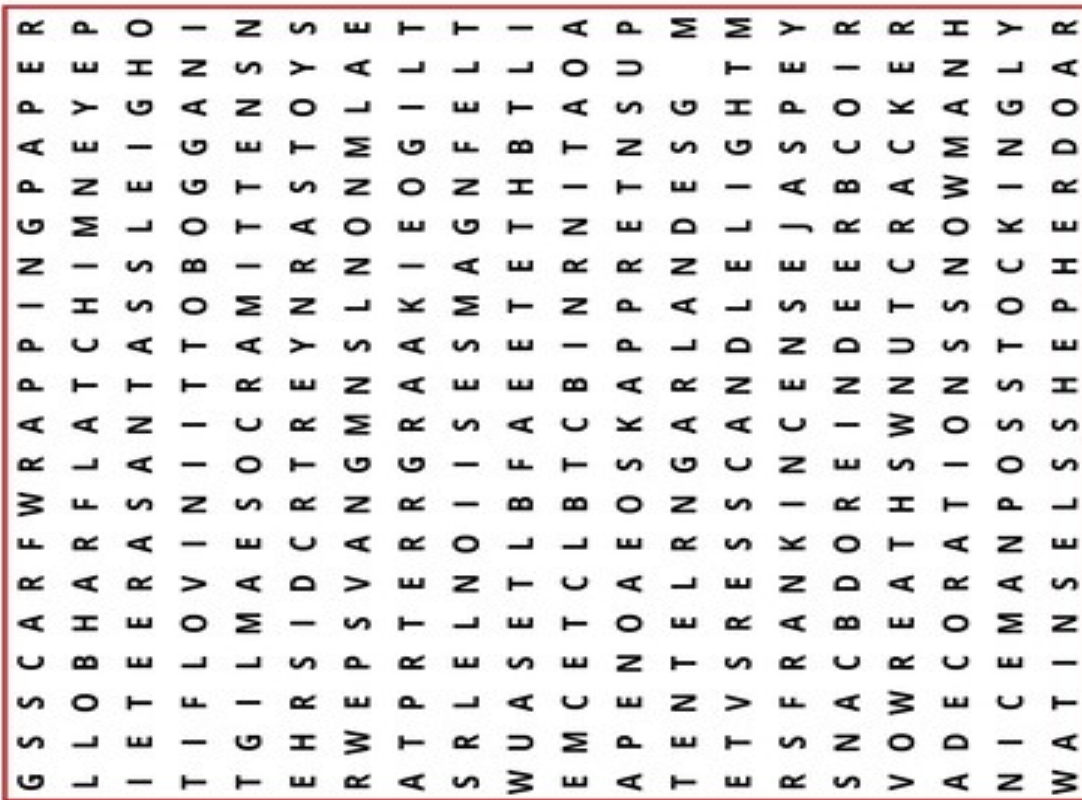
**The Upside-down of Christmas**

Theologian Halford Luccock once saw a shopper “who looked like an animated Christmas tree with packages dangling from every limb.” When he retrieved some dropped bags, she grumbled that Christmas “turns everything upside down.” Luccock replied, “That is just what it was made for!”

He explained: “Christmas is a story about a baby, and that is a baby’s chief business, turning things upside down. ... A baby in a family divides time into two eras, just as Christmas does. There is B.C., which means ‘before child,’ and A.D., which means ‘after deluge.’”

When God became flesh, the lowly, last, least and lost were exalted, added Luccock. As a result, “the locked-up treasures of kindness and sympathy come from the inside of the heart, where they are often kept imprisoned, to the outside of actual expression in deed and word.” The Christ-child “enables all [people] to get at the best treasures of their lives and offer them for use.”





- ANGEL
- BELLS
- CANDLELIGHT
- CAROLLERS
- CHIMNEY
- CHRISTMAS TREE
- DECORATIONS
- EVERGREEN
- FAIRY LIGHTS
- FIREPLACE
- FRANKINCENSE
- GARLAND
- GIFTS
- GLITTER
- ICE SKATING
- MISTLETOE
- MITTENS
- MYRRH
- NUTCRACKER
- ORNAMENTS
- POINSETTIA
- PRESENTS
- REINDEER
- RIBBONS
- ROOFTOP
- SACK
- SANTA'S SLEIGH
- SCARF
- SHEPHERD
- SLEIGH
- SNOWMAN
- STOCKING
- SWEATERS
- TANNENBAUM
- TINSEL
- TOBOGGAN
- TRUMPETS
- WRAPPING PAPER
- WREATHS

## From trashed to treasured

In December 2017, Jimmy Amisial, a Texas State student home in Haiti on break, noticed a crowd peering into a trash can. A 4-month-old infant lay inside, but no one moved. So Amisial scooped up the baby and took him home to his mom. They washed and clothed him, gave him milk and sought medical care.

After investigators failed to locate parents, a judge asked if Amisial would serve as legal guardian. Sensing “this had happened for a reason,” he “took a leap of faith.” Now Amisial is raising funds to adopt Emilio. “I’m glad I got the opportunity to transform his life from being abandoned in the trash to being a wonderful treasure,” he says.

Likewise, God did not leave humankind trapped amid the trash of sin and evil, destruction and death. Instead, God came to us as Jesus, scooped us into his loving arms and claimed us as his own. Like Emilio, we’ve been transformed and are treasured.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



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.



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

### *This Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday*

9:00am † Worship  
9:30am Ω Sunday School  
10:30am Ω Worship & Live  
streaming worship  
4-8pm Ω Private Rental

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday: Christmas Eve  
6:00pm Ω Bell Tower outside  
service

Next Sunday: Christmas Day  
9:00am Ω Worship & Live  
streaming worship

*Next Sunday:*



*Rev. John F. Baylor, Jr.*

### PRELUDE

\*THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US

\*HYMN # 234

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

### \*GREETING AND PRAYER

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

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING ~ LOVE

### 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 #240 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

### 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

*Luke 1:26-38, NLT*

MESSAGE

*“Love! Fourth Sunday of Advent”*

\*HYMN #245

*The First Noel*

\*BLESSING

Pastor

\*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Acolytes

\*DEPARTING SONG: \*Hymn #234 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord*

\*PASSING THE PEACE:

Let us greet one another with the peace of God.

POSTLUDE



FOURTH SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

THIS  
WEEK'S  
PRAYER  
REQUESTS

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

*Jane Marginet, Jake Prieshoff,  
Richard Michel, Becca Manolov,  
Carla Jackson, Connie Osborn,  
Tommy Osborn, Alec Taylor,  
Morgan Whitehead,  
Derek Barton, Jo Eckert,  
Ruby Wilkerson, Terri Jarboe,  
Scotti Pitts, Deanna Wilson,  
Patti Knowles,  
Don Colvin, Gretchen,  
Effie Dilbeck, Ida Miller,  
Marcy Marvel, Frances Burns,  
June Regenholt*



Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>pm</sup> @ Fort Branch First UMC  
Bell Tower Steps  
(abbreviated outside service only)

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
9<sup>am</sup> @ Fort Branch First UMC  
Morning worship with  
Communion  
(no service @ Blythe Chapel building)

*Luke 1:46-56, NLT*

### **The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. <sup>28</sup> Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

<sup>29</sup> Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. <sup>30</sup> "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

<sup>34</sup> Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

<sup>35</sup> The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For the word of God will never fail."

<sup>38</sup> Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

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

*Thanks be to God!*

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### **A prayer to the Christ-child**

You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.

—Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

Listening Guide  
"Love"  
December 18, 2022

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

How does this account show the power of love?

Through God's \_\_\_\_\_

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Through His \_\_\_\_\_

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Mary's \_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Application:** What is your response to God's power? We are in the heart of the Christmas season and all of the busyness that it entails. As we have focused on love today and its power, what is your response, what will your response be today of the power of love?

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## Christmas crackups

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?  
*It's Christmas, Eve!*

What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?  
*Cookie sheets.*

What do you sing at a snowman's birthday party?  
*"Freeze a jolly good fellow!"*

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?  
*Ornaments.*

What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?  
*Santa walking backward.*

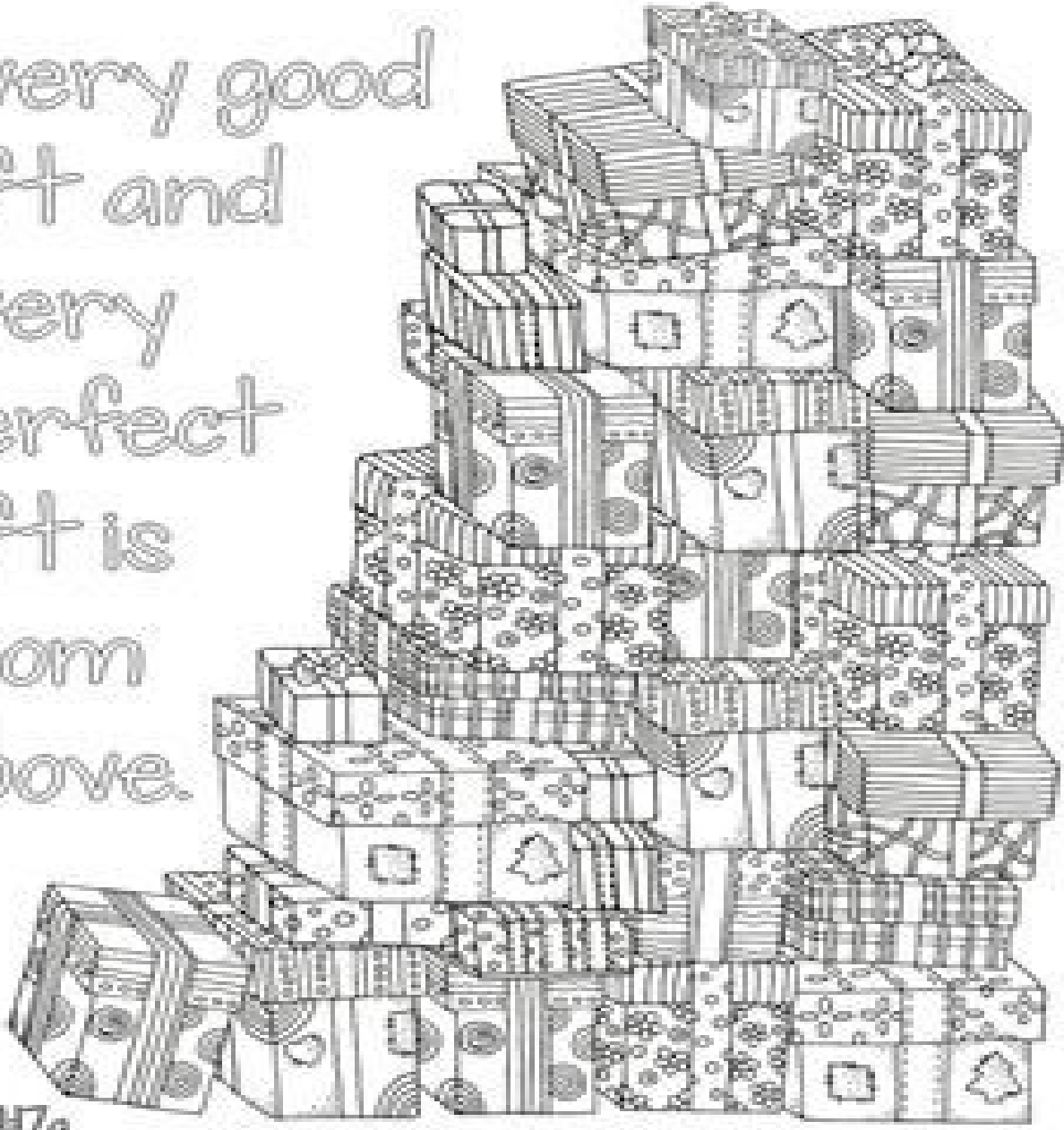
Why did Rudolph get a bad report card?  
*Because he went down in history.*

What is an elf's favorite kind of music?  
*Wrap music!*

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?  
*Nothing. It was on the house!*

What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?  
*Elfies.*

Every good  
gift and  
every  
perfect  
gift is  
from  
above.



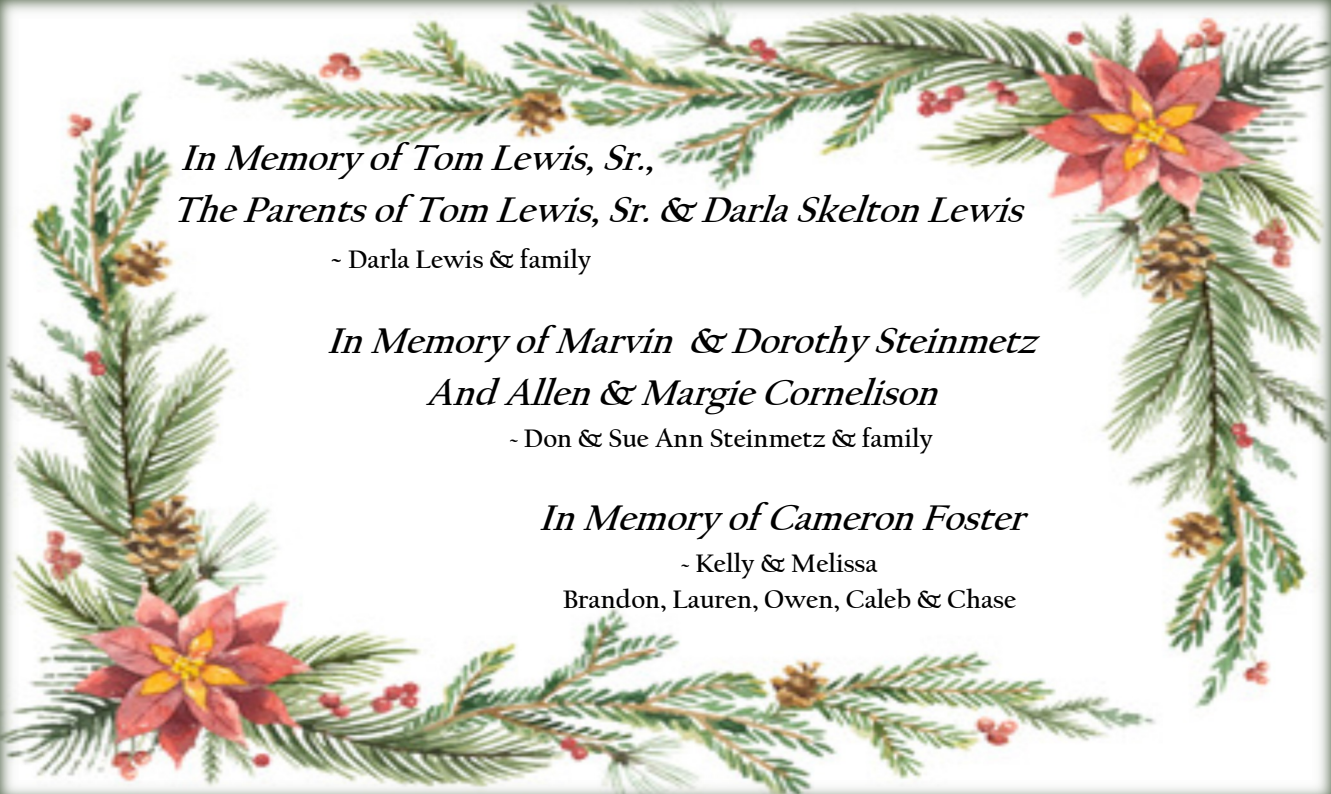
James H7a



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.*

## POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS



*In Memory of Tom Lewis, Sr.,  
The Parents of Tom Lewis, Sr. & Darla Skelton Lewis  
- Darla Lewis & family*

*In Memory of Marvin & Dorothy Steinmetz  
And Allen & Margie Cornelison  
- Don & Sue Ann Steinmetz & family*

*In Memory of Cameron Foster  
- Kelly & Melissa  
Brandon, Lauren, Owen, Caleb & Chase*





## *POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS*

*In Memory of Jon Teel*

- Todd & Sonya Teel and family

*In Memory of Mary Godley*

- The Todd & Sonya Teel and family

*In Memory of Ralph, Butch, Terry Davis, Kolin Clutter,  
Joann Fitch, Charles, Kay Boss, Jean Dawson*

- John & Bev Boss

*In Memory of James David Trowbridge*

- Trowbridge Family

*In Memory of David L. Trowbridge*

- Trowbridge 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 Fred Fuhs & Grandparents*

- Wayne Anderson & David & Sarah Fuhs Family

*In Memory of Linda Anderson & Grandparents*

- Wayne Anderson & David & Sarah Fuhs Family

*In Memory of Russell Butts & Daughter*

-Carolyn Butts

*In Memory of Bill & Martha Jane Russler*

- Mike & Sydney Russler

*In Memory of Our Siblings: Judy, Tammy & Pam*

- Phil & Marla Scott

*In Honor of Ennes & Ruby Woolston and*

*Hubert & Dorothy Frey*

- Bill & Zella Frey

*In Memory of Joe Howland*

- Trevor, Alyssa & Gracelyn Moskos