

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

December 21, 2025

An Inescapable Date

We celebrate Christ's birth by referring to it in the date placed on all our coins, civil records and vital documents. It is inscribed upon metal and written on parchment and engraved on the cornerstones of great buildings. It is on every newspaper, every check, every deed, and it is universally acknowledged at the beginning of a new life.

Every human transaction is related to the birth of Christ. It cannot be avoided or evaded. God has seen to it that this event is more widely advertised than anything on earth that is or that ever has been.



Hope's solid foundation

As he neared death, the atheistic philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre tried — but failed — to resist despair. "I know I shall die in hope," he wrote. "But that hope needs a foundation."

For Christians, that foundation is Jesus, our sure hope amid life's uncertainties. While Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting, it also represents the fulfillment of Jesus' promised birth and the certainty of his promised return. Jesus — the hope of nations — says he's preparing a place for us and coming back for us (see John 14:2-3).

Because our hope's foundation is guaranteed "according to the Lord's word" (1 Thessalonians 4:15, NIV), we don't have to live like people "who have no hope" (verse 13). Praise God!



Theologian Charles Spurgeon wished "there were 20 Christmas Days in the year," because Christ's birth represents "supreme joy." In his writings and sermons, Spurgeon urges people to honor Jesus' birthday "all year round," reminding them that they can come "just as you are" because "no forms of etiquette are required in entering a stable." God offers everyone total acceptance, Spurgeon adds, "for he puts himself into that manger that you may approach him."

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1:26-28, NLT

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

Matthew 20:28, LT

²⁸The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many."

1 John 2:25, NLT

²⁵And this is the promise God has promised us —Eternal Life.

Angel— "I bring you good tidings of great joy—
What is the good tidings?"

"For unto you is born this day a Savior."

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



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: 4th Sunday
of Advent
10:30am ~ Worship & Live
streaming worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday: ~ Office Closed ~

Wednesday: ~ Office Closed ~

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
8:00pm @ Blythe Chapel

Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

Next Sunday:
10:30am ~ Worship & Live
streaming 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 # 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADVENT READING AND CANDLE LIGHTING: LOVE

*RESPONSIVE READING

ISAIAH 9: Birth of Jesus Responsive Reading

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.

And the government will be upon his shoulder

**And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,

**With justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forever more.**

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYING

PRAYER HYMN #238

Angels We Have Heard on High

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:

*Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above it's sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er it's Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.*

Hymn #218

WORSHIP THROUGH HEARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHRISTMAS HYMN #254

We Three Kings

SCRIPTURE (back cover)

Luke 1:26-38, NLT Matthew 23:28, NLT 1John 2:25, NLT

MESSAGE

"The Real Message of Christmas"

HOLY COMMUNION

WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONDING

*HYMN #239

Silent Night

*BLESSING

~
LOVE

Prayer Requests

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

**Jane Marginet, Mark
Fear, Terri & Steve
Jarboe, Liz & Alan
Creamer, Paul & Jeanie
Cardinal, Zach Anderson,
Morgan Whitehead,
Roger & Nancy Jones,
Julie Anderson,
Carolyn Jones, Jim
Feutz, Kathy
Trowbridge, Kelsey
Holder, Mona Davis,
Kenny Ferenbacher,
The family of
Kathryn Fuhs**



 **DECEMBER**
birthdays & anniversaries

*Kaia Gerts ~ 23rd
John Jenkins ~ 24th
Trista Teel ~ 26th*

A lit white candle stands in the center, surrounded by greenery and red berries. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown.

Christmas Eve 8pm @ Blythe Chapel

Live Music ~ Candlelighting ~ Message of Hope

Bring family & friends--
everyone welcome



Christmas Flower Dedications

In Memory of Tom Lewis Sr.
~The Tom Lewis Sr Family

In Memory of Marvin & Dorothy Steinmetz
~ Don & Sue Ann Steinmetz & Family

In Memory of Allen & Margie Cornelison
~ Don & Sue Ann Steinmetz & Family

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

In Memory of Herbert & Velma Wening
~ Bruce & Marilee Rostron & family

In Memory of Alva & Elizabeth Rostron
~ Bruce & Marilee Rostron & family

In Memory of Our Family Members
~ Roger & Nancy Jones

In Memory of Deanna Wilson
~ Wilson Family