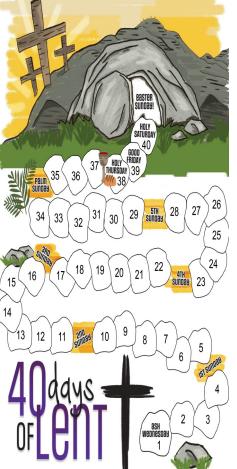


*The Way...* The earliest Christians were called *The People of the Way.* This weekly publication is provided to show how our congregations are living *The Way* today. <u>1st Sunday of Lent</u> February 26, 2023



## **LENTEN SIGNALS**

Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the



hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.



100% Proceeds to help with expenses for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox.

## Going out of our way

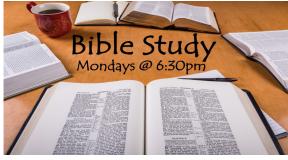
In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: "If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Further, "whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.

Fort Branch First UMC P. O. Box 116 Fort Branch, IN 47648



# The river of life

The Red River of the North, in the north-central U.S. and central Canada, takes countless twists and turns. A close-up aerial photo or map shows its frequent sideswipes and Uturns. One could cross the river several times without changing direction while hiking or biking along the border between Minnesota and North Dakota. You might wonder at points if it has completely turned back south — which raises another point: While most rivers flow south, the Red River flows north.

Sometimes life meanders, but that doesn't mean we're off course. Sometimes we seem to be going in the opposite direction of most people, but that doesn't mean we're not headed the right way. Sometimes it feels like it takes us a long time to make progress, but that doesn't mean we're not moving. We might just be taking in more of life's scenery! Follow your own unique trajectory, letting God, the creator of all rivers and all life, serve as the current that moves you ever onward.





Stuart & Krissie Michel ~ 27<sup>th</sup> John Windell ~ 1st Sherry Michel ~ 4th



AARP TaxAide volunteers will be available to prepare in person Federal and Indiana state taxes free for those who are over 55, low to moderate income, beginning Thurs and Fri, Feb 9, 10 and each Thurs and Fri from 9:30 -1:30 by appointment. TP may signup in person at the Princeton Public Library on S Main St. and pickup a required form on Thurs and Fri. No phone calls please. Any amended returns will be done late Mar/ early Apr. The program is also available at many **Evansville Public** 

Libraries and SWIRCA.

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 Fort Branch First.



† Indicates location is Blythe Chapel  $\Omega$  Indicates location is First UMC

### This Sunday Lent ~ week 1

*9:00am* 

+ Worship 10:30am  $\Omega$  Worship & Live streaming worship

~ Office Closed ~ Monday:  $\Omega$  Bible Study 6:30pm Tuesdav: Wednesday: Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~ Friday: Saturday

### Next Sunday: Lent ~ week 2

9:00am † Worship 10:30am Ω Worship & Live streaming worship

Complete Schedule @ www.fbfirst.org

# Next Sunday's Message:





# Rev. John Baylor, Jr.

# PRELUDE

### **\*THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US** \*HYMN # 500 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

### \*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.

## LENT REFLECTION CANDLE LIGHTING

### **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 #361 **Rock of Ages**

# 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** Derek Robicheaux ~ We Will Remember Jenni Schleter ~ Heal the Wound

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 22:39-46 NLT

**MESSAGE** "Lent, Jesus' Example of Faith: Faith in the Garden"

\*HYMN # 452

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

#### \*BLESSING Pastor **\*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD**

### **\*DEPARTING SONG:**

Thank You, Lord,

Thank You, Lord,

Thank You, Lord,

for giving to me Thy great salvation

so rich and free.

for making me whole;

Acolytes Thank You, Lord

for saving my soul;

### **\*PASSING THE PEACE:**

Let us greet one another with the peace of God.

### POSTLUDE





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, Terri Jarboe, Derek Barton, Jo Eckert, Ruby Wilkerson, Scotti Pitts, Deanna Wilson, Don Colvin, Gretchen Young, Effie Dilbeck, Bill Conklin, Frances Burns, June Regenhold, Sam Smith, Ruth Ann Sokeland, Margie Beal,

With the current tax laws, not everyone will need to itemize their

# 2022 Federal Income

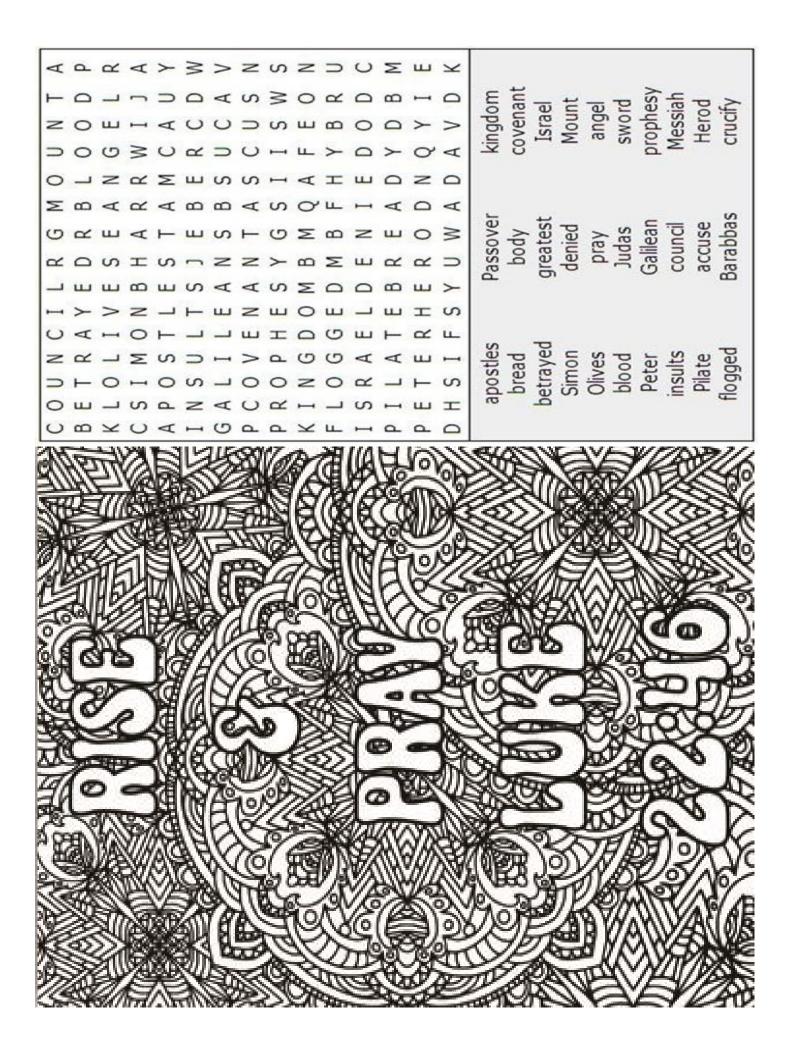
<u>Taxes.</u>



As to save our Financial Secretary (aka volunteer) a lot of extra work. a financial statement of your offerings and tithes will only be prepared for you

> upon request. Please contact Paul Cardinal

email: redbird937@hotmail.com



# Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

<sup>39</sup> Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. <sup>40</sup> There he told them, "Pray that you will not give in to temptation."

<sup>41</sup> He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." <sup>43</sup> Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup> He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.

<sup>45</sup> At last he stood up again and returned to the disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted from grief. <sup>49</sup> "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation."

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

> Listening Guide "Faith in the Garden" February 26, 2023

### How does Jesus exercise faith in the Garden?

Through	(vs. 39-40)	
Through	(vs. 41-44)	
 Through	(vs. 45-46)	

**Personal Application:** This is a well-known scene. Jesus shows His humanness and exemplifies faith more here than anywhere else. How do you follow His example?