



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

**THE UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

[www.fbfirst.org](http://www.fbfirst.org)  
P. O. Box 116,  
Fort Branch, IN 47648  
Phone: (812) 753-4424  
Fax: (812) 768-6441  
[melissa@fbfirst.org](mailto:melissa@fbfirst.org)

Blythe Chapel      Fort Branch First  
8141 S. 450 W.      100 W. Vine St.  
Owensville, IN      Fort Branch, IN

**Office Hours**

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

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

Melissa Foster,  
Administrative Assistant  
[melissa@fbfirst.org](mailto:melissa@fbfirst.org)

Rexanne Robicheaux  
Musician @ Blythe Chapel

**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.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany      January 14, 2024

**First, contact**

In *Unclean: Meditations on Purity, Hospitality and Mortality*, Richard Beck writes powerfully about Jesus healing a leper in Matthew 8:1-5. "What is intriguing about this story is the sequence. Jesus touches the leper first. Then the command 'Be clean!' is offered. That is, Jesus' first move is into ritual defilement. By first touching the leper, Jesus ... [is] standing in solidarity with the unclean." Beck finds this "striking" because, typically we expect purification before contact. But Jesus' actions reverse the pattern: "Contact occurs first."

How fortunate for us, too, that God didn't wait to reach out to us until he had cleansed us of sin. God didn't save us from afar and only *then* come to live among us. Rather, "God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8, ESV). And continuously, Jesus loves us, comes to us and touches our hearts, even when we are at our worst — straying from God, trapped in sin, unworthy, unclean, unrighteous. For it's not *our* righteousness or purity that heals and saves us, but Christ's.

*Women's Conference*  
**WE LOVE  
BECAUSE  
HE FIRST  
LOVED US.**  
1 JOHN 4:19

February 24      9am-2pm  
*Guest Speaker*  
**Jammy Whitehurst**  
\$25  
conference, lunch & t-shirt  
RSVP to Kristi Pflug 812/664-1108  
by February 17, 2024  
Please indicate t-shirt size.

Fort Branch First UMC  
100 W Vine ST, Fort Branch, IN 47648

**The Heart of our Faith**

Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.  
—Martin Luther King

# Zacchaeus

R P C Z A C C H A E U S P Q E E Y  
 H G P O S S E S I O N S E N Y L  
 S V F W K A A V D Z C F W C G W W  
 A S F C Q D H R P L T J C H I E A B  
 V Y V H Z H R P L T J C H I E A B  
 L C T A L H X U N A M E O C S L Y  
 C A R N O X P O O R Y S R K T T A  
 L M E G J E S U S J W T L M H M  
 J O E E S D O W N R C P B E O Y V  
 T R D D A B L G U V T A X P J J E  
 J E Q L H S Q K C H E A T E D O W  
 R H M I M M E D I A T E L Y K S N  
 Q O W I M L O O K E D M B F F L Y  
 W O E H A E E B C O L L E C T O R  
 F C L I M B E D R P O Y Z I H P  
 Y C H O Y X S Y B E W R Z G I D P  
 C R O W D P B K W A R K C C Z P D

name	looked	guest	changed
immediately	cheated	wealthy	possessions
house	poor	down	tree
sycamore	climbed	collector	tax
short	crowd	Jesus	Zacchaeus

## Making the most of ordinary time

In liturgical churches, more than half of the church-year calendar is labeled as Ordinary Time. Although that merely means the weeks are designated by ordinal numbers (*First Sunday after the Epiphany*, etc.), people may assume that "ordinary" means not special, or not a church holiday.

Ordinary gets a bad rap, but it represents the bulk of daily life. Not all days contain mountaintop experiences that warrant Facebook posts. Yet "simple, consistent, sometimes boring faithfulness" can lead to out-of-the-ordinary results, according to blogger Karl Vaters. "When you're following God's will for your life and you string a bunch of ordinary but necessary actions together, extraordinary things can happen," he writes at ChristianityToday.com.

Likewise, although Christians may strive to be radical, out-of-the-ordinary followers of Jesus, everyday discipleship leaves a powerful legacy. In *The Ordinary Christian Life*, pastor Michael Horton extols the value of "the regular preaching of Christ from all of the Scriptures, baptism, the Supper, the prayers of confession and praise, and all of the other aspects of ordinary Christian fellowship." He says the result of participating in "the ordinary life of the covenant community" is quite extraordinary: "steady maturation in Christ."

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



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

## THIS WEEK *At Church*

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

### This Sunday:

9:00am † *Worship*

10:00am † *Un-decorating*

10:30am Ω *Worship & Live  
streaming worship*

Monday: ~ *Office Closed* ~

6:30pm Ω *Bible Study*

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday: ~ *Office Closed* ~

Friday: ~ *Office Closed* ~

Saturday:

### Next Sunday:

9:00am † *Blythe Chapel*

10:30am Ω *Fort Branch First &  
Live streaming*

Complete Schedule @  
[www.fbfirst.org](http://www.fbfirst.org)



*Rev. John Baylor, Jr.*

### PRELUDE

\***THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US**

\***HYMN #400** 9:00am *Come, Thou Found of Every Blessing*  
AV 10:30am *Who You Say I Am*

### \*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.*

### 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 #399** 9:00am *Take My Life,  
and Let It Be*  
AV 10:30am *They that Wait  
Upon the Lord*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

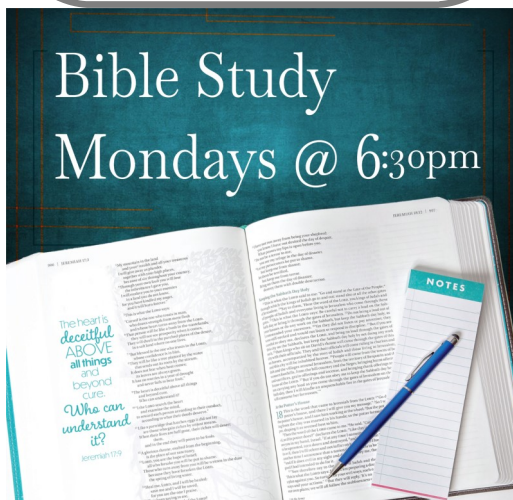
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For 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.**



## CHILDRENS MOMENT

## MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Derek Robicheaux  
Jenna Schleiter ~ Heal the Wound*

## \*SCRIPTURE LESSON

*Luke 19:1-10 NLT*

## MESSAGE

*“Seeking Jesus”*

\*HYMN #396 9:00am  
AV 10:30am

*O Jesus, I Have Promised  
Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

## \*BLESSING

Pastor

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

Acolytes

## \*DEPARTING SONG:

Hymn #261 *chorus Lord of the Dance*  
*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

## \*PASSING THE PEACE:

*Let us greet one another with the peace of God.*

## POSTLUDE

*prayer*

## Three powerful prayers

Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), an Irish Protestant missionary, served in India for 55 years. Much of her work was with children, especially rescuing them from sexual slavery. Carmichael wrote 35 books and many articles about her mission work. The Church of England remembers her on January 18, the anniversary of her death.

The following brief but powerful prayers are attributed to Carmichael:

- May thy grace, O Lord, make that possible to me which seems impossible to me by nature.
- Holy Spirit, think through me, till your ideas are my ideas.
- God, hold us to that which drew us first, when the cross was the attraction, and we wanted nothing else.



Friends  
needing  
prayers

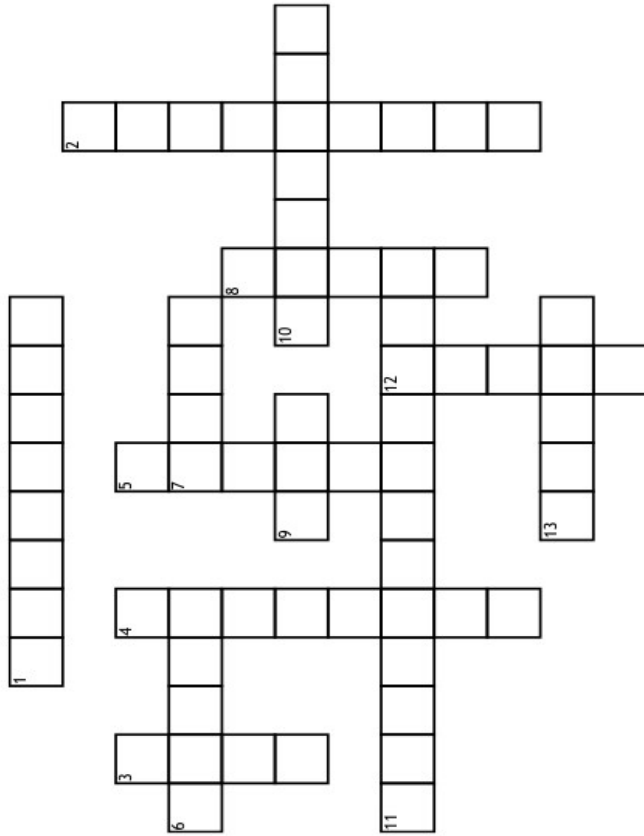
*Prayer Requests —last names are printed  
for individuals requesting prayer for themselves or  
with explicitly given permission.*

*Jane Marginet, Richard  
Michel, Becca Manolov,  
Morgan Whitehead, Terri  
Jarboe, Jo Eckert, Ruby  
Wilkerson, Scotti Pitts,  
Gretchen Young, June  
Regenhold, Brian Price,  
Triston, Tegan, Pastor John,  
Thelma & Len Robicheaux,  
Wyatt Wagner, Mary & Roy,  
Roberta & Duncan, Koda,  
Brenda & Robin Hooker,  
Mark Fear, Kim Stratman,  
Deanna Wilson, Kenny Shaw,  
Doug Shaw*

*Thank you*

To Our Church  
Family—Thank you  
for the generous gifts  
for Christmas. We  
feel very blessed to  
have the opportunity  
to serve the Lord  
through music and  
are so grateful for  
your love and  
support.

# Zaccheus



- Across**
- Zaccheus solved his problem by \_\_\_\_\_ a tree
  - Zaccheus had lots of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Jesus called Zaccheus by his \_\_\_\_\_
  - the bible says each one of us is "lost" in our \_\_\_\_\_
  - many tax collectors \_\_\_\_\_ people. They told the people to pay more than what was owed.

- Zaccheus was the chief \_\_\_\_\_
- people were going to eat with the tax collector \_\_\_\_\_
- the amount of money that Zaccheus paid back to the people \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus said his mission was to seek and save the \_\_\_\_\_

- The song says that he climbed what type of tree \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus changed Zaccheus from the \_\_\_\_\_ out
- Zaccheus could not see in large crowds because he was \_\_\_\_\_
- money people pay the government to help fix roads and pay for things \_\_\_\_\_

### Jesus and Zacchaeus

19 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. <sup>2</sup> There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. <sup>3</sup> He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

<sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. <sup>7</sup> But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

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



### Listening Guide "Seeking Jesus"

**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10

**What does Zacchaeus teach us about seeking Jesus?**

\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 1-4)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5-7)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 8-10)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Application:** When a person makes a serious effort to experience Jesus, they are rewarded. How serious is our effort?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_