



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

**Office Hours**

Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 am– 2:00 pm

Closed Monday and Friday

Rev. John Baylor, Jr., Pastor

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Melissa Foster,

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Custodian @ First

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**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.

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost July 16, 2023

**Welcomed back to the fold**

When her beloved dogs "returned home from an adventure smelling of eau de skunk parfum," Pastor Joanna Loucky-Ramsey refused to let them in the house. Instead, she cleaned and cared for them outside, slowly reintroducing them to "full participation in family life" once the stink eased.

"The odor left by the skunk could serve as a metaphor for our sin or for the sin others perpetrate against us," she writes. "As much as God loves us, he hates the sin that hides the lovely fragrance of the image of God within each of us. God wants to welcome each of us into his family and into the heavenly home he has prepared for us, but we need to be 'deodorized' from the eau de sin parfum that would mar the entire experience of being in God's fragrant presence."

Loucky-Ramsey continues: "Just as our dogs needed our help to get rid of the smell of skunk, we need God's help to purge us from the offense of sin that permeates our nature and masks who God created us to be. That's what Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection: to make us new and whole."

—adapted from The Wired Word



*Saturday*  
*July 29<sup>th</sup>*  
*9am ~ 12pm*

**\*\*REQUIRED Pre-registration**  
of your students on our website:

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

*Backpacks custom filled for each student and their teacher supply list (when available).*

A Community Event

@ Fort Branch First United Methodist Church

100 W. Vine Street, Fort Branch, IN

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

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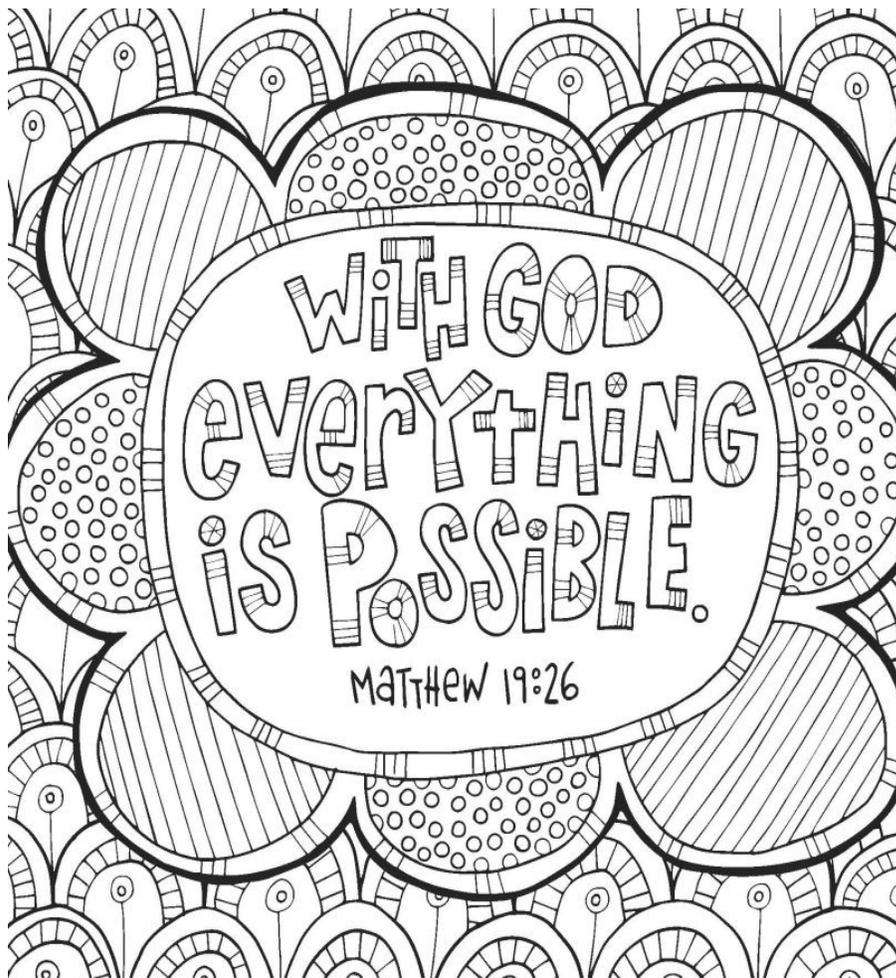
## An abundance of gifts

In 2022, people set some amazing Guinness World Records. A Nebraska man paddled more than 37 miles in a hollowed-out pumpkin boat. A Vermont teen wearing 4-inch heels walked more than 600 feet across a tightrope. And an Oregon man found and alphabetized all 26 letters in a can of alphabet soup in 2 minutes and 8.6 seconds. (The toughest part, he says, is distinguishing subtle differences between letters such as M and W.)

Your talents might not earn you any world records, but they certainly can grow faith and change lives. Whether you're good at teaching, singing, writing, cooking or accounting, the church can put those skills to productive use. Romans 12 lists many more qualities you may not realize are spiritual gifts: graciousness, serving, generosity, acts of mercy, loving and honoring others, extending hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with people, making peace.

You might not be able to outperform the alphabet soup record. But God abundantly blesses each of us to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10, ESV) and in sharing his love.

—Stephanie Martin



## Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man

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

BIBLE  
HOUSE  
HEALING  
HOLE  
FRIENDS  
ROOF  
QUIET  
STRETCHER  
LOOKED  
LOWER  
HAPPY  
JESUS  
COMPASSION  
CROWDS  
MAN  
MIRACLE  
WALK  
PARALYSED  
WOMEN  
JOY

**JULY**  
Celebrations

*Owen Bryant ~ 16th*  
*Steve & Sherry Michel ~ 19th*  
*Nathaniel Schleter ~ 20th*

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 Fort Branch First.



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

#### This Sunday:

9:00am † Worship

10:30am Ω Worship & Live  
streaming worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

6:00pm Ω Port Gibson 4-H

Thursday:

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

9:00 am Ω Methodist Women

Next Sunday:

9:00am † Worship

10:30am Ω Worship & Live  
streaming worship



*Rev. John Baylor, Jr.*

### PRELUDE

Autumn Scott

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

**\*HYMN insert**

*In the Sweet By and By*

**\*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 #469 *Jesus Is All the World to Me***

### 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:**

*a Capella*

**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.**



*Next Sunday's Message:*

*Healing in Response to  
Faith, Part 1*

*Mark 5:27-28; 35-43*



CHILDRENS MOMENT

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Jenni & Jenna Schleiter ~ *Steady My Heart*

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON *insert*

*Luke 5:17-26 NLT*

MESSAGE

*“The Faith of Friends”*

\*HYMN #526

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

\*BLESSING

Pastor

\*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Acolytes

\*DEPARTING SONG:

Hymn # 717 The Battle Hymn of the Republic, chorus

Glory, glory, hallelujah!

Glory, glory hallelujah!

Glory, glory, hallelujah!

His truth is marching on.

\*PASSING THE PEACE:

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

POSTLUDE

Autumn Scott



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, Carla Jackson, Connie Osborn, Tommy Osborn, Morgan Whitehead, Terri Jarboe, Derek Barton, Jo Eckert, Ruby Wilkerson, Scotti Pitts, Deanna Wilson, Don Colvin, Gretchen Young, Effie Dilbeck, June Regenholt, Margie Beal, Lesa Prater, Brian Price, Roger & Nancy Jones, Triston, Tegan, Chad Windell, Pastor John, Kristi Pflug, Thelma & Len Robicheaux,*

**We greatly  
appreciate you and  
your heart,  
Autumn Scott!!**

*Thank You!*

**CHURCH  
YARD  
SALE** Saturday,  
August 5<sup>th</sup>  
8am ~ 1pm



*“I realize we’ve run into the lunch hour, and I’m sorry. Now, who’s the wise guy who ordered pizza?”*

### Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man

<sup>17</sup> One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus.

<sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, <sup>19</sup> but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."

<sup>21</sup> But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? <sup>24</sup> So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

<sup>25</sup> And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup> Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

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

### Listening Guide: "The Faith of Friends"

July 16, 2023

**What impact can the faith of friends have?**

**They took** \_\_\_\_\_ **(vs. 17-19)**

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**They supplied** \_\_\_\_\_ **(vs. 20-21)**

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**They supplied** \_\_\_\_\_ **healing (vs. 22-24)**

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**They** \_\_\_\_\_ **faith (vs.25-26)**

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**Personal Application:** Friendship is very powerful. Sometimes a good friend needs to help another good friend be healed. Is that the type of friends you have? Is that the type of friend you want to be?

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