



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

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[melissa@fbfirst.org](mailto:melissa@fbfirst.org)

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



Melissa Foster,

Administrative Assistant

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Rexanne Robicheaux

Musician @ First & Blythe

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.

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 2023

We are planning on having a celebration/ potluck dinner  
on Sunday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 church service.  
You are welcome to attend even if you've only been attending  
our services for a short while. All are welcome!

Our church has important  
history that you may enjoy  
viewing after the meal. 150 years!  
What an accomplishment and  
important time in the life of our  
church! Many memories have been  
made!

Please sign up on the  
bulletin board so we can have a  
lunch count, as well as what you  
are willing to bring.



Thank You! Again, All are Invited!

In God's Grace,

Methodist Women's Group

Fort Branch First UMC



Vanderburgh County 4-H

Fairgrounds

#### ANNUAL VENDORS CRAFT SHOW

Saturday & Sunday

September 23-24th

8:30-2pm

See Debi Phillips if you can  
volunteer as a parking  
attendant 812/779-6004

2024  
CHARGE  
CONFERENCE  
Sun., Nov. 5th,  
2pm via Zoom

10/17/23 Charge  
Conference completed  
Packet SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE

10/27/23 Charge  
Conference approved  
packet SIGNATURE  
PAGE submission  
deadline

## Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."



*Terry Marenholz ~ 14th*  
*Jack Caniff ~ 15th*

On December 18, 2001, Congress approved a joint resolution designating September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day." It's a day to remember the more than 3,000 innocent lives lost on that September morning in 2001.

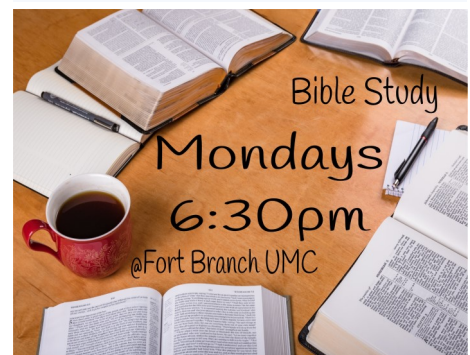
The resolution requests that each year the President issue a proclamation calling on the American people and state and local governments to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities. Those activities include remembrance services, candlelight vigils, moments of silence, and flying the American flag at half-staff.

In his 2003 proclamation President Bush said, "On that day, and in its aftermath, we saw the greatness of America in the bravery of victims; in the heroism of first responders who laid down their lives to save others; in the compassion of people who stepped forward to help those they had never met; and in the generosity of millions of Americans who enriched our country with acts of service and kindness."

Keep them all in your prayers this Patriot Day.



Cold Sodas in the church  
kitchen fridge, hot drink station  
and the snack counter in  
fellowship hall all benefit the  
Back to School Bash.



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 ~

6:30pm Ω Bible Study

Tuesday: ~ Office Closed ~

Wednesday: ~ Office Closed ~

Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

#### Next Sunday:

9:00am † Worship

10:30am Ω Worship & Live  
streaming worship

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

#### *Next Sunday's Message:*



*Rev. John Baylor, Jr.*

### PRELUDE

\*THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US

\*HYMN # 408

*The Gift of Love*

### \*GREETING AND PRAYER

*We offer a cordial greeting to all worshippers 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 # 420

*Breathe on Me,  
Breath of God*

### 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

*Jenni Schleter ~ In the Presence of Jehovah*

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON *insert*

*John 9:35-41 NLT*

## MESSAGE

*“Faith and the Blind Man, Part 4”*

\*HYMN # 407

*Close to Thee*

\*BLESSING

Pastor

\*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Acolytes

\*DEPARTING SONG:

Hymn # 334

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit Refrain*

*Sweet Holy Spirit,  
sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us,  
filling us with your love;  
and for these blessings we lift  
our hearts in praise;  
without a doubt we'll know  
that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.*

\*PASSING THE PEACE:

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

## POSTLUDE

  
*Blessings*  
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE



## 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,  
Morgan Whitehead, Terri Jarboe,  
Derek Barton, Jo Eckert, Ruby  
Wilkinson, Scotti Pitts, Don  
Colvin, Gretchen Young, June  
Regenhold, Brian Price, Triston,  
Tegan, Chad Windell, Pastor  
John, Thelma & Len Robicheaux,  
Wyatt Wagner, Jared Huey*

## Grandparents Day

A woman and her grandson were spending the day together. Suddenly, the boy had an “a-ha!” expression and asked, “Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?”

The grandmother smiled to herself and mentally polished her halo a bit. “No,” she replied. “How?”  
“You’re both old!” the boy said.

Ah, but most grandparents really are like God in many ways — kind, loving, forgiving, understanding, comforting, creative, wise. Above all, they’ve guided us to walk in God’s paths.

Thank you, God, for these special people who have lived long enough to become like you, in many ways.

### Spiritual Blindness

<sup>35</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he found the man and asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

<sup>36</sup> The man answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.”

<sup>37</sup> “You have seen him,” Jesus said, “and he is speaking to you!”

<sup>38</sup> “Yes, Lord, I believe!” the man said. And he worshiped Jesus.

<sup>39</sup> Then Jesus told him, “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.”

<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, “Are you saying we’re blind?”

<sup>41</sup> “If you were blind, you wouldn’t be guilty,” Jesus replied. “But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.”

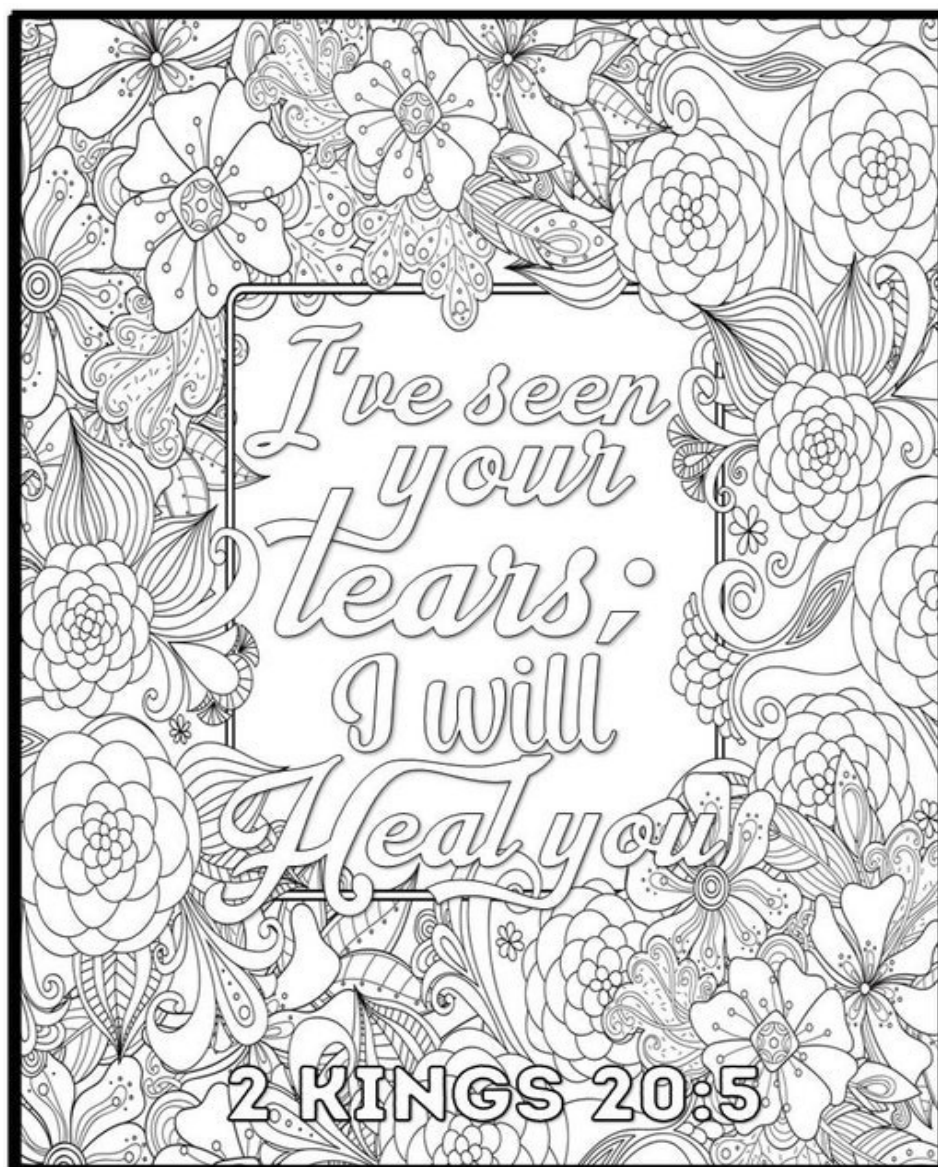
RESPONSE: The Word of God, for the people of God.  
*Thanks be to God!*

### An underappreciated faith hero

Saul, who was converted from persecutor of Christians to the foremost evangelist Paul, is a tremendous role model for surrendering one’s life to Jesus. But another man in that story warrants celebration, too.

Ananias, a disciple of Jesus, lived in Damascus when Saul was led there, blind from his bright-light encounter with Jesus. The Lord told Ananias to visit Saul, lay hands on him and restore his sight (see Acts 9:11-12). Not surprisingly, Ananias resisted; he knew of Saul and his violence toward Christians. Yet the disciple surrendered and obeyed.

To top it off, when Ananias arrived, he spoke the warmest of greetings: “Brother Saul ...” He didn’t just call Saul by name, nor did he berate him. Despite initial misgivings, Ananias claimed this former enemy as a fellow member of God’s family. What an act to follow!



**Listening Guide**  
**“Faith and the Blind Man – Part 4”**  
**September 10, 2023**

**Scripture:** John 9:35-41

**What does Jesus teach about faith and spiritual blindness?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Him (vs. 35-37)

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2. Waited for His \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 38-39)

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3. \_\_\_\_\_ Opposition (vs. 40-41)

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**Personal Application:** Spiritual blindness is a more serious condition than physical blindness. Have you been healed of yours?

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BLIND	SPAT	PASTE
SPITTLE	SIGHT	RESTORED
PROPHET	PARENTS	DISCIPLES
SINNERS	DEVOUT	BELIEVE

