



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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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
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Parsonage: (812) 615-0053

 Melissa Foster,
Administrative Assistant
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Rexanne Robicheaux
Musician @ Blythe Chapel

Zella Frey
Custodian @ 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.

3rd Sunday of Easter **April 14, 2024**

Blessed are you

The Beatitudes receive little attention, lamented novelist Kurt Vonnegut. "But, often with tears in their eyes, [Christians] demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And, of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard [anyone] demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere."

Jesus' Beatitudes have much to teach about selflessness, mourning, peacemaking and more. Jim Berger, author of *Being Sermon on the Mount Christians*, explains that those teachings were once "viewed as a mandate for the faithful." Post-Reformation, they became less law-like and more of a "liberating directive." Berger writes, "For Jesus, being and doing are inseparable. The Sermon is at once theory and praxis. It is not enough to read it or hear it. Jesus intends it to be how we live."



CHURCH

YARD
SALE

Saturday,
June 8
8am ~ 12pm

*Donations can begin to
be dropped off in
fellowship hall on June
2, not before.
Contact is Kristi
812/664-1108*

*Please note, we will not be participating in the town
wide event in August.*

Cultivate the 'ah-ha'

Some historians have said that Thomas Edison "invented the twentieth century," a claim difficult to dispute. We live near his home in Fort Meyers, Florida, and hundreds of stories are circulated in this area about his eccentric genius. My favorite is about his daily fishing routine. Every day after lunch, he spent several hours alone fishing on a 300-foot pier that had been constructed on his riverfront property. But here is the catch - he never used bait or hooks for fear that catching fish would interrupt his thoughts....

If you believe in a God who wants to illuminate your mind and guide your path, you'll probably be more receptive at a time or in a place when your guard is down and it is not forced.
-Bruce Larson, in *The Meaning and Mystery of Being Human*



Following the 'Perfect Fool'

Theologian Frederick Buechner, who died at age 96 in 2022, explored how the "foolishness of God" (see 1 Corinthians 1:25) compares to human wisdom. He pondered the safety stickers that warn, "The life you save may be your own."

"That is the wisdom of [humans] in a nutshell," wrote Buechner. "What God says, on the other hand, is 'The life you save is the life you lose.' In other words, the life you clutch, hoard, guard and play safe with is in the end a life worth little to anybody, including yourself, and only a life given away for love's sake is a life worth living."

Buechner continued, "To bring his point home, God shows us a man who gave his life away to the extent of dying a national disgrace without a penny in the bank or a friend to his name. In terms of [human] wisdom, he was a Perfect Fool, and anybody who thinks [they] can follow him without [being] something like the same kind of a fool ... is laboring under not a cross but a delusion."



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:

Wednesday:

3:30pm Ω Port Gibson 4-H

Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday

Next Sunday:

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



Welcome



A little girl who went fishing with her dad gave up after about 10 minutes of holding her pole. "Dad, I'm quitting," she said. "I'm not being waited on by any fish."

The child's comments may have been echoed by the frustrated disciples in John 21:1-14, NRSV.

Rev. John Baylor, Jr.

PRELUDE

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

***HYMN #463** 9:00am
AV 10:30am

*Lord, Speak to Me
God So Loved*

*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 #396 9:00am *O Jesus, I Have Promised*
#2064 10:30am *O Lord, You're Beautiful*

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 21:1-14 NLT

MESSAGE

“Peter’s Restoration, Part 1”

*HYMN #128 9:00am
AV 10:30am

*He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought
Give Thanks*

*BLESSING

Pastor

*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Acolytes

*DEPARTING SONG: #2152 *Change My Heart, O God*

*Change my heart, O God,
make it ever true.*

*Change my heart, O God,
may I be like you.*

*You are the Potter,
I am the clay.*

*Mold me and make me,
this is what I pray.*

*Change my heart, O God
make it ever true.*

*Change my heart, O God
may I be like you.*

*PASSING THE PEACE:

Let us greet one another with the peace of God.

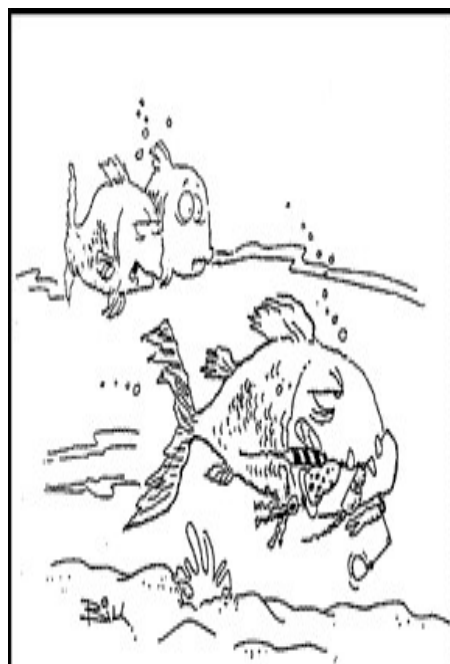
POSTLUDE



Prayer Requests

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

Jane Marginet, Richard Michel, Morgan Whitehead, Terri Jarboe, Ruby Wilkerson, Scotti Pitts, Gretchen Young, June Regenhold, Brian Price, Triston, Tegan, Pastor John, Thelma & Len Robicheaux, Wyatt Wagner, Mark Fear, Kim Stratman, Deanna Wilson, Kenny Shaw, Laynie Speicher, Scott Ingler, Cathy Starky, Duncan & Roberta Maikranz



"His biggest brag to date is that he was supposed to be number one-hundred-and-fifty-four in Simon Peter's great catch of fish."

Epilogue: Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

²¹ Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. ² Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

³ Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.”

“We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

⁴ At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. ⁵ He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?”

“No,” they replied.

⁶ Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

⁷ Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. ⁸ The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. ⁹ When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

¹⁰ “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said. ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn.

¹² “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. ¹⁴ This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.



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

John 21 1-14

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

fifty-three disciples charcoal appeared
hundred dragged clothes fishing
Peter Jesus bread Lord
fish eat net