

#### THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.fbfirst.org

P. O. Box 116, Fort Branch, IN 47648 Phone: (812) 753-4424 Fax: (812) 768-6441 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 Parsonage: (812) 615-0053

Melissa Foster,
Administrative Assistant
melissa@fbfirst.org

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.

Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2023



This is a service designed so you may participate from home, in front of Fort Branch First UMC, at Blythe Chapel UMC, on the streets of Fort Branch or by live streaming wherever you are in the world. We can all gather and pause with our hearts and minds on Jesus for a few moments, regardless of location or denomination of faith. FUMC & Blythe Chapel will start ringing their church bells at 6pm with everyone, everywhere invited to ring their own bell for 2 minutes. We invite other church bells to ring with us...what a glorious sound that will be! Pastor John will read the Christmas Story LIVE from the bell tower steps. A Christmas carol will be sung as we all light a candle. This is to be a community event, so be sure to spread the word and invite your neighbors to step outside for a few minutes.

Christmas Bells: They are rung to announce the arrival of the Christmas season, to proclaim the birth of Christ.

#### YOUR LIGHT HAS COME

In the introduction to his book *For All God's Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, "Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it."

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn't a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. "Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today's world," he adds. "There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies."





## **Celebrate the Light**

Bursting through December nights that could be long and cold, our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy with colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops, and from trees both small and tall,

the lights cry out, "We have good news!

We want to shout to all.

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold. the sorrow, war and fear; but God has sent his Son for to show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.

Christ's with us day by day, illuminating paths so we can follow in his way."

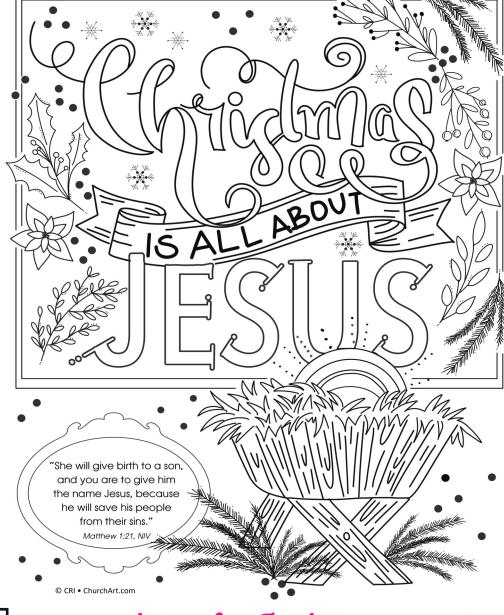
Light homes and streets and candles.

Make your world shine clear and bright.

God's love surrounds and blesses us.

Come, celebrate God's Light!

—Peggy Ferrell





Fred & Debra Stephenson ~ 12th Garry Russell ~ 16th

Maylee Fo Mosser

Arrived on December 4

Congrats to new parents Kiana & Chase

Grandparents, Tim & Tona Smith Great-grandparents, Bill & Zella Frey

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

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

This Sunday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Sunday

9:00am † Worship

10:30am Ω Worship & Live

streaming worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~ 6:30pm Ω Bible Study

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday 9:00am + Worship

10:30am Ω Worship & Live

streaming worship 3:00pm Ω Private Rental ~

Schleter

Complete Schedule @ www.fbfirst.org





Rev. John Baylor, Jr.

**PRELUDE** 

## \*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.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING ~ LOVE

9:00 am ~ Kathy Trowbridge 10:30am ~ Darla Lewis & Linda Springer

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

### 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 # 230 O Little Town of Bethlehem

## 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  $Derek Robicheaux \sim Emmanuel$  $Jenni Schleter \sim The Manger$ 

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-18 NLT

MESSAGE "Second Sunday of Advent: The Gift of Love"

\*HYMN # 249

There's a Song in the Air

\*BLESSING Pastor

\*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Acolytes

### \*DEPARTING SONG:

Hymn #219

What Child Is This

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.

## \*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, Richard
Michel, Morgan Whitehead,
Terri Jarboe, Derek Barton,
Jo Eckert, Ruby Wilkerson,
Scotti Pitts,, Gretchen Young,
June Regenhold, Brian Price,
Triston, Tegan, Pastor John,
Thelma & Len Robicheaux,
Wyatt Wagner, TJ Lewis,
Mary & Roy, Roberta &
Duncan, Koda, Brenda &
Robin Hooker, Nathan Hargiss,
Mark Fear. Kim Stratman



## Pastor John & Staff Christmas Gifts

will be presented during Christmas Eve Worship.
Anyone wishing to participate should mail their contribution either to the church office or

Don Steinmetz 253 E 750 S Fort Branch, 47648.

You may also give them to Don in person or place in the offering plate by

December 17th.

## John1:1-18 NLT

Prologue: Christ, the Eternal Word

1 In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,

and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup>He existed in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>God created everything through him,

and nothing was created except through him.

<sup>4</sup>The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness,

and the darkness can never extinguish it.



<sup>6</sup>God sent a man, John the Baptist, <sup>7</sup> to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. <sup>8</sup>John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. <sup>9</sup>The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup> They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

<sup>14</sup> So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

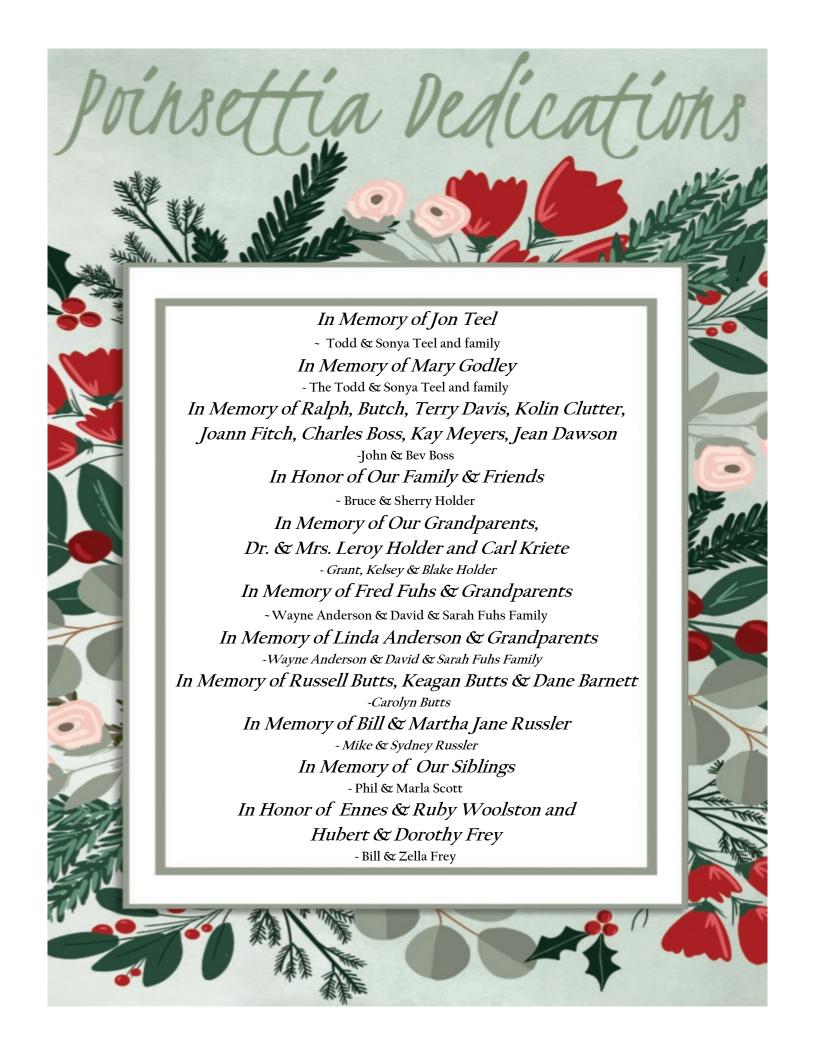
<sup>15</sup> John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me."

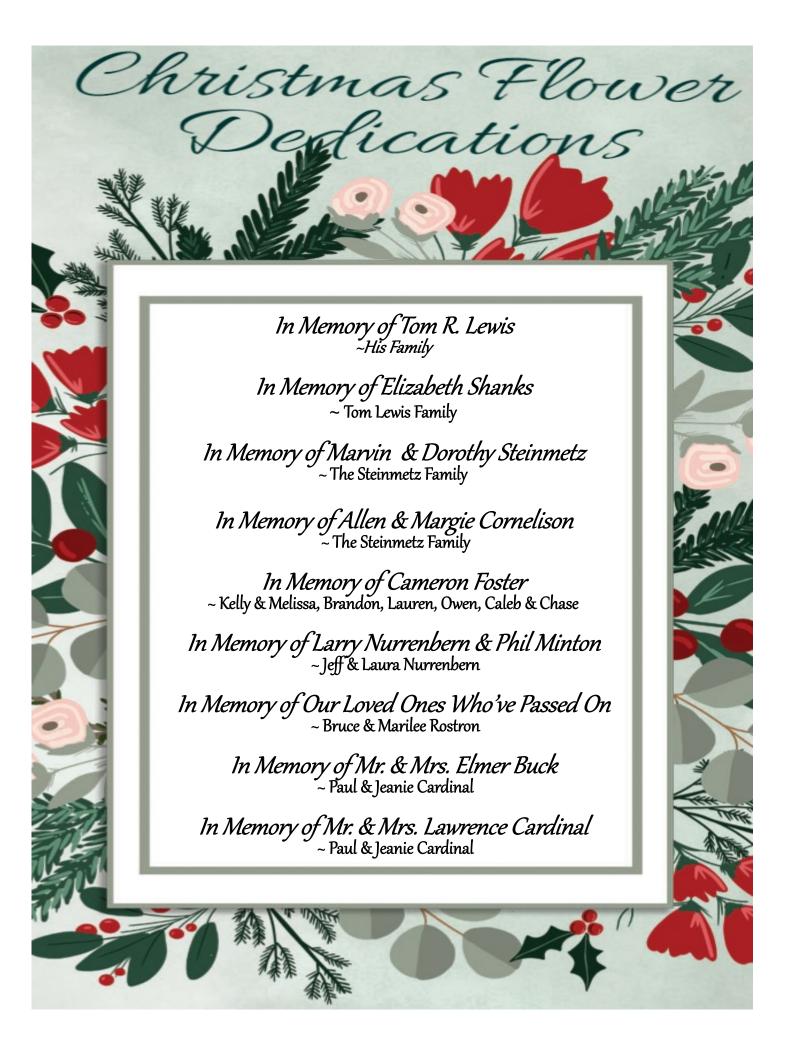
<sup>16</sup> From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.

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

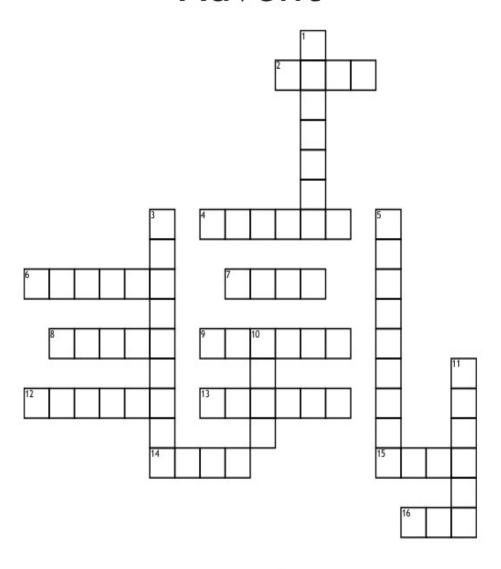
# Listening Guide "The Gift of Love" December 10, 2023

Scripture: John 1:1-18 How do we receive love at Christmas? a Way (vs. 1-5) (vs. 6-13) \_\_\_\_\_ Model (vs. 14-15) \_\_\_\_\_\_ Revelation (vs. 16-18) Personal Application: The greatest gift that one person can give to another is the gift of love. Jesus' coming to earth was one way that God gives that gift to us. Have you received His love? Are you extending His love to others?





# Advent



Across  2. 3 purple, one  4 is the time for hoping, waiting, expecting, preparing and praying.  6. The coming of  7. Advent lasts weeks  8. The Gabriel came to Mary and Joseph.		<ul><li>9 Night</li><li>12. Jesus' earthly father is</li><li>13. Away in a</li></ul>		Down  1. Three followed a star.  3. Jesus was born in  5. Advent is the time for for Christ's coming  10. Advent is not the same as 11. We light one candle every in Advent.	
		14. The Mother of Jesus is the Virgin 15, Frankincense, and Myrrh 16. The pink candle on the Advent wreath means			
Word Bank	<u>(</u>				
Lent	Joseph	four	Silent	Mary	preparing
Gold	Wisemen	Angel	pink	Bethlehem	Sunday
Advent	Christ	Manger	joy		•