

The First United
Methodist Church of
Fort Branch



Blythe Chapel United
Methodist Church

8141 S 450 W
Owensville, IN 47665

Our Mission....
To *make disciples* of
Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the
world .

Rev. Randy Anderson

Pastor
randy.anderson@
inumc.org
812/568-4746

Melissa Foster,
Administrative Specialist
melissa@fbfirst.org

www.fbfirst.org
P. O. Box 116
100 W Vine ST
Fort Branch, IN 47648
Phone: (812) 753-4424
Fax: (812) 768-6441
melissa@fbfirst.org

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

One Church

Two Locations

December 14, 2025

Don't miss out!

In his poem “The Inn That Missed Its Chance,” Amos R. Wells writes from the perspective of the “fairly crazed” innkeeper who recalls Bethlehem becoming “a hive at swarming-time.” Of the couple who requested shelter on what became Christmas Eve, the proprietor asks, “Could I know that they were so important?”

*There was a sign, they say, a heavenly light
resplendent; but I had no time for stars.
And there were songs of angels in the air
out on the hills; but how was I to hear
amid the thousand clamors of an inn?*

If the innkeeper had only known Jesus’ true identity, he says, he would have turned the place upside down, sending other guests out to the stables instead. When Jesus returns — “as he will surely come” — the anonymous innkeeper wants everyone to know: “Tell my Lord that all my inn is his, to make amends.”



True hospitality

A 7-year-old boy was chosen to be the innkeeper in the Christmas program. When Joseph and Mary approached him, looking for shelter in Bethlehem, he simply had to say there was no room.

The kindhearted boy tried to take the sting out of the situation, however. “I don’t have room for you in the hotel,” he said. “But I’d love to have you come in for milk and cookies.”

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7, NLT

2 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ² (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. ⁴ And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

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



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 provide a nursery, located in
the education wing near the restrooms.



This Sunday: 3rd Sunday
of Advent
10:30am ~ Worship & Live
streaming worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~
6:30pm ~Faithful: Joseph
Advent Bible Study

Tuesday:
4:00pm ~Yoga

Wednesday:

Thursday:
8:30am-3pm ~ Finish It Thursday

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday
10:30am ~ Worship & Live
streaming worship



Rev. Randy Anderson

PRELUDE

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.

WORSHIP THROUGH GATHERING

*THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US

*HYMN # 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory

ADVENT READING AND CANDLE LIGHTING: JOY

*RESPONSIVE READING

The Innkeeper's Gift

So, Ceasar Augustus wants to know how many of us
there are and where we live. Doesn't he know how hard
this will be? We are a great and distinguished family
with many members!

I have a responsibility to care for my people.

Rachel says we will manage. We are fortunate to have a
large and comfortable home to share. Our sons' families
have doubled up in their rooms. The aunts and uncles in
the upper room are getting settled. The older cousins
are staying in the courtyard.

I will care for my people.

Rachel says, "Nathan, we have more guests."
Oh, my! These two cannot stay in the hubbub!
What can we do?

I must care for my people.

My sons and I will clear the lower level. We will lay
down fresh straw and blankets. We will fence a portion
off for these two.

And we will care for my people.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYING

PRAYER HYMN #240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

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*

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

THE OFFERING: The Gathering of the Gifts

*Presentation of Gifts with Offertory Response:

Hymn #218

*It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,*
from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.*

WORSHIP THROUGH HEARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHRISTMAS ANTHEM

He Made a Way in a Manger

SCRIPTURE (back cover)

Luke 2:1-7, NLT

MESSAGE

"An Unexpected Guest"

WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONDING

*HYMN #230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*BLESSING



Prayer Requests

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

*Jane Marginet, Mark
Fear, Terri & Steve
Jarboe, Liz & Alan
Creamer, Paul & Jeanie
Cardinal, Zach Anderson,
Morgan Whitehead,
Roger & Nancy Jones,
Julie Anderson,
Carolyn Jones, Jim
Feutz, Kathy
Trowbridge, Kelsey
Holder, Mona Davis,
Kenny Ferenbacher*



*TJ Lewis ~ 17th
Nancy Jones ~
20th*

Christmas Candy, Cookies & Goodie Trays



December 21st

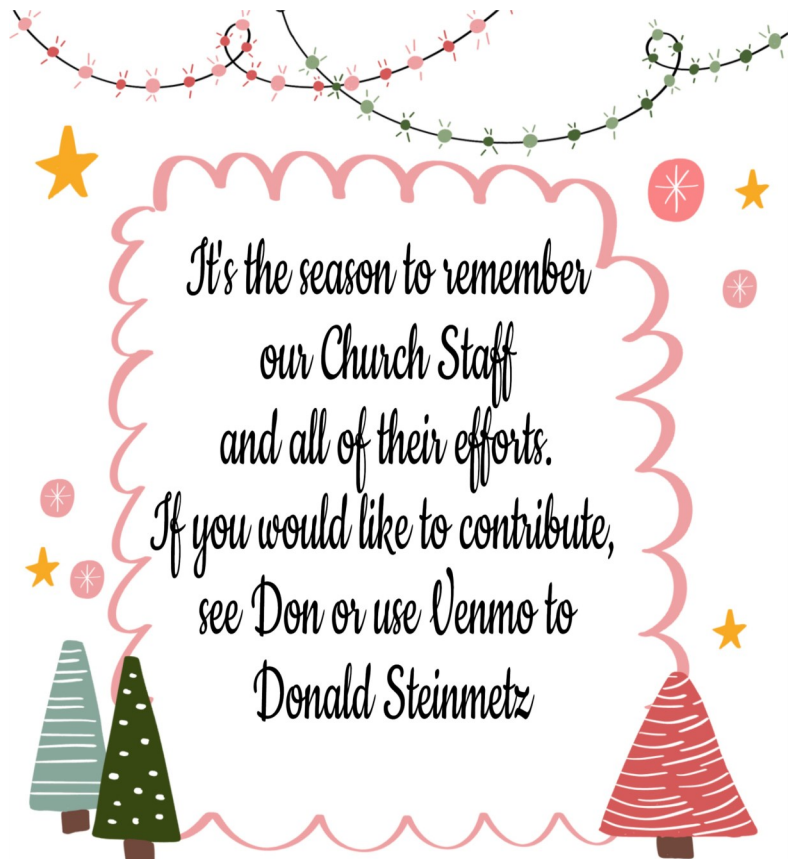
Pre-order by December 13th

Small \$20 Large \$40

*Use order sheet posted on bulletin board
or contact Laura Nurrenbern by email or
text. As always, thanks for supporting*



Christmas Eve Service
8pm @ Blythe Chapel
live music + candle light + a message of hope
Bring family & friends ~ everyone is welcome!





Christmas Flower Dedications

In Memory of Tom Lewis Sr.
~The Tom Lewis Sr Family

In Memory of Marvin & Dorothy Steinmetz
~ Don & Sue Ann Steinmetz & Family

In Memory of Allen & Margie Cornelison
~ Don & Sue Ann Steinmetz & Family

In Memory of Cameron Foster
~ Kelly & Melissa, Brandon, Lauren, Owen, Caleb & Chase

In Memory of Herbert & Velma Wening
~ Bruce & Marilee Rostron & family

In Memory of Alva & Elizabeth Rostron
~ Bruce & Marilee Rostron & family

In Memory of Our Family Members
~ Roger & Nancy Jones

In Memory of Deanna Wilson
~ Wilson Family