



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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.fbfirst.org

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

Sherry Michel
Musician @ First

Derek Robicheaux, Custodian @ First

Zella Frey, Custodian @ Blythe

Lynn Prieshoff,
Director of Music Ministries @ 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.

4th Sunday of Advent  **December 19, 2021**

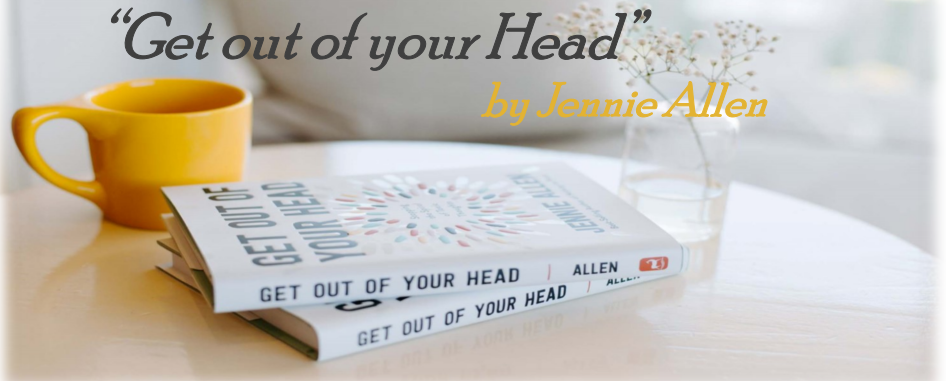


This is a service designed so you may participate from home, in front of Fort Branch First UMC, at Blythe Chapel UMC, on the streets of Fort Branch or by live streaming wherever you are in the world. We can all gather and pause with our hearts and minds on Jesus for a few moments, regardless of location 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 have asked that other church bells ring with us...what a glorious sound that will be! Pastor John will read the Christmas Story LIVE from the steps of the bell tower. 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.

Women's Bible study:

"Get out of your Head"

by Jennie Allen



6 week study in Philippians. It will be five consecutive Mondays starting Monday, January 10 and will conclude the sixth week on Tuesday, February 15. The cost is \$15 (pay the first night of study). Any one interested let Kristi (812-664-1108) know by Monday, December 20.

Remember to reach out

For many people, the holidays bring sorrow, grief and stress. If you're hurting, turn to Jesus and his power. Learn from the woman who, desperate to be healed, reached out to touch the edge of Jesus' robe and was immediately cured.

Sometimes we think our healing process will be so exhaustive that we hesitate to take the first step. Or we doubt that Jesus still performs miracles. Amid your pain, have you reached out? Have you dared to touch Jesus' robe? He is there, waiting to say: "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering" (Mark 5:34, NIV).
—Julie Lee



Savoring simplicity

Clare of Assisi, who lived in the 1200s, founded the Poor Clares, a community of simplicity and service. "O holy poverty," she wrote, "to those who possess and desire you, God promises the kingdom of heaven and offers ... blessed life!"

These ancient words still ring true. We can't serve both God and money, says Jesus, adding that it's a matter of the heart. But before selling your house, consider small steps for embracing simplicity and blessing: Trade an afternoon of shopping for coffee with a friend who's struggling. For guests, prepare a pot of chili rather than a multicourse meal. Donate good-quality items you're not using.

Living simply is challenging, especially at the holidays, but the rewards are simply amazing. "The challenge of simplicity is a magnet to the human spirit," writes Dale Evans Rogers. "Much of the beauty of Christmas lies in its challenge to look further, deeper, until we find its secret in the heart of God."

"GOD GOES TO THOSE WHO
HAVE TIME TO HEAR HIM —
AND SO ON THIS CLOUDLESS
NIGHT HE WENT TO SIMPLE
SHEPHERDS."

—Max Lucado



Women's Conference 2022
Saturday, February 19th
Keynote Speaker ~Kirsten Hart



**Hot Chocolate Sunday
January 9th**
**Hot Chocolate &
Coffee will be served.**



**December
Celebrations**

Nancy Jones ~ 20th
Margaret Ann Duncan ~ 23rd
Kaia Gerts ~ 23rd
John Baylor, Jr. ~ 24th
John Jenkins ~ 24th

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 First.

Nursery
Attendant:



12/19: Laura Nurrenbern
12/26: Sue Ann Steinmetz



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

This Sunday: 4th Advent Sunday
9:00am † Worship
9:30am Ω Sunday School
10:30am Ω Worship & Live
streaming worship
12:00pm Ω Private Use—
Nurrenbern

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~
Tuesday:
Wednesday:
Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~
Friday: CHRISTMAS EVE
6:00pm Outside Services
Saturday: MERRY CHRISTMAS
Next Sunday:
9:00am † Worship
9:30am Ω Sunday School
10:30am Ω Worship & Live
streaming worship

Next Sunday Worship:

"All Things New"
Revelation 21:7-8



The Rev. John Baylor, Jr.

PRELUDE

*THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US

*HYMN #220 9:00am *Angels from the Realms of Glory*
#251 10:30am *Go, tell It on the Mountain*

*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 ~ Peace

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 #219 9:00am *What Child Is This*
#245 10:30am 1,2 &4 *The First Noel*

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-20 NLT

MESSAGE *“The Gifts of the Christmas Event:
The Gift of Care”*



THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

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 AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are opened, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

THE SERVING OF THE BODY AND BLOOD

In this church, all are welcome to the Lord’s Table.

*HYMN #431 9:00am *Let There Be Peace on Earth*
#246 10:30am *Joy to the World*

*BLESSING Pastor

*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD
Acolytes

*DEPARTING SONG: Hymn # 239 *Silent Night*

*Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love’s pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*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, Jake Prieshoff,
Lynn Prieshoff, Richard & Betty
Michel, Becca Manolov,
Carla Jackson, Kyle Stone,
Poppy Petry, Linda McKimmy,
Connie Osborn, Tommy
Osborn, Alec Taylor, Morgan
Whitehead, Lisa & Bill, Linda
Reed, Ryan Steele, Al Rostron,
Amy Casavant, Randy Jones,
Derek Barton, Dennis
Woolston, Sue Mounts, Jerry
McBee. Hattie Kroeger*

*Christmas
BLESSINGS*



Listening Guide
“The Gift of Care”
December 19, 2021

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

In what ways do we see the gift of care given?

Care for the _____ (vs. 1-7)

Care for the _____ (vs. 8-14)

Care for _____ (vs. 15-20)

Personal Application: Jesus cared for us by coming. We will celebrate His ultimate sacrifice once again this morning through Holy Communion. Ask Him to help you take advantage of caring for those around you especially this week.



The Birth of Jesus

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.

The Shepherds and Angels

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

RESPONSE: The Word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!



POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

In Memory of Don Knapp

-Terri & Steve Jarboe

In Memory Dorothy & Kelly Jarboe

-Terri & Steve Jarboe

*In Memory of Herb, Velma & Linda Wening
And Lee Haworth And Elizabeth Rostron*

- Bruce & Marilee Rostron

In Memory of Tom Lewis,

The Parents of Tom Lewis & The Parents of Darla Lewis

- Darla Lewis

In Memory of Marvin & Dottie Steinmetz

And Allen & Margie Cornelison

- Don & Sue Ann Steinmetz

In Memory of Lucile Johnson

- Larry & Carolyn Johnson

In Memory of John Johnson

- Larry & Carolyn Johnson

In Memory of Frank Kuhns

- Larry & Carolyn Johnson

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

In Memory of Jon Teel

- The Todd & Sonya Teel and family

In Memory of Mary Godley

- The Todd & Sonya Teel and family

*In Memory of Charles Boss, Kay Meyers, Jean Dawson,
Bob Fitch & JoAnn Davis-Fitch, Noel Dawson and Gladys Fisher*

- John & Bev Boss

*In Memory of James David Trowbridge
& David L. Trowbridge*

- Trowbridge Family

In Memory of Victor & Medrith Anderson

- Wayne Anderson & Fuhs Family

In Memory of Ermal & Ruby Boren

- Wayne Anderson & Fuhs Family

In Memory of Linda Anderson

- Wayne Anderson & Fuhs Family

In Honor of Our Family & Friends

- Bruce & Sherry Holder

*In Memory of our grandparents,
Dr. & Mrs. Leroy Holder and Carl Kriete*

- Grant, Kelsey & Blake Holder

In Memory of Bill & Martha Jane Russler

- Mike & Sydney Russler

*In Memory of Ralph Davis, Terry Davis,
Kolin Clutter, and Butch Davis*

- John & Bev Boss

*In Memory of Judy Kolb And Pam Ridens
And Tammy Scott*

- Phil & Marla Scott

In Honor of The Woolston Family And The Frey Family

- Bill & Zella Frey

In Honor of Our Family

- Trevor, Alyssa & Gracelyn Moskos