



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

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.fbfirst.org

P. O. Box 116, Fort Branch, IN 47648

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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 - 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.

Christmas Eve December 24, 2023



CHRISTMAS EVE

"Let us now go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has come
to pass; which the Lord has
made known to us."

Luke 2:15; NKJV



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.*

Christmas Scramble

Answers on bulletin board.

1. HEPSE _____
2. NOS FO ODG _____
3. MPRHE _____
4. SWEI MNE _____
5. SHEOPJ _____
6. EERHT ITGSF _____
7. LBATSE _____
8. SPSERNET _____
9. DOENKY _____
10. ODGL _____
11. RCSSO _____
12. YRAM _____
13. RAEGNM _____
14. USESJ _____
15. HMITSSACR ETRE _____
16. ESNFKNETRCNA _____
17. ILAMSNA _____
18. BYBA _____
19. MBLA _____
20. RIHISCANT _____

New office hours for 2024
Tuesday & Wednesday
9am ~ 2pm

Church Office will be closed
Dec. 22 through Jan. 1

Women's Conference
**WE LOVE
 BECAUSE
 HE FIRST
 LOVED US.**

1 JOHN 4:19

Fort Branch First UMC
 100 W Vine ST, Fort Branch, IN 47648

February 24 9am-2pm

Guest Speaker
Jammy Whitehurst

\$25
conference, lunch & t-shirt

RSVP to Kristi Pflug 812/664-1108
 by February 17, 2024
 Please indicate t-shirt size.

DECEMBER
Birthdays and Anniversaries

John Baylor, Jr. ~ 24th
John Jenkins ~ 24th
Trista Teel ~ 26th
Derek Robicheaux ~ 29th



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 *At Church*

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

CHRISTMAS EVE

This Sunday:

9:00am † Worship

10:30am Ω Worship & Live
streaming worship

6:00pm ~ Fort Branch First
Bell Ringing & Candle lighting

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday: ~ Office Closed ~

Wednesday: ~ Office Closed ~

Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

New Year's EVE

Next Sunday:

9:00am ~Blythe Chapel

10:30am ~Fort Branch First &
Live streaming

Complete Schedule @
www.fbfirst.org



“Silent night, holy night! All
is calm, all is bright” (Joseph
Mohr). Silent and calm, until
a newborn wails and angels
illumine the fields! Holy
indeed. Merry Christmas, and
welcome to worship!

Rev. John Baylor, Jr.

PRELUDE

*THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US

*HYMN # 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*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 LIGHTINGS ~ PEACE & CHRIST

9:00 am ~ Scott Family

10:30am ~ Schleter Family

*PEACE Congregation: We wait as people who yearn for
peace that bears the fruit of community, equity and
flourishing for all.*

*CHRIST Congregation: We live as people in the
in-between who celebrate the arrival of the Light that
shines in lost and broken places as we wait for the day
when we will live in the fullness of God's kin-dom.*

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 # 239

Silent Night, Holy Night

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.

CHILDRENS MOMENT

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Derek Robicheaux ~ O Holy Night*
The Chancel Choir Alumni ~ Noel

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-20 NLT

MESSAGE *"Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Gift of Peace"*

A Christmas Communion

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 # 245

The First Noel

*BLESSING

Pastor

*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Acolytes

*DEPARTING SONG:

Hymn #219

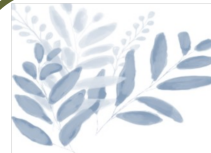
What Child Is This

*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

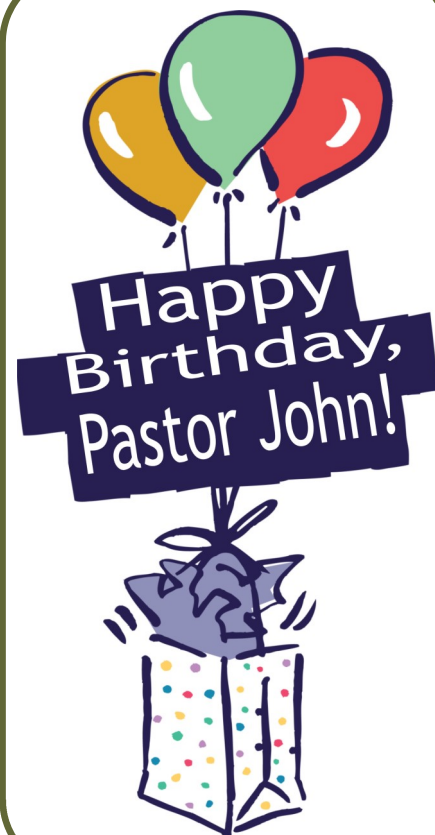


Friends
needing
prayers

*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, Mark Fear.*

Kim Stratman



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!

Listening Guide

"The Gift of Peace"

December 24, 2023

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

How do you find peace at Christmas?

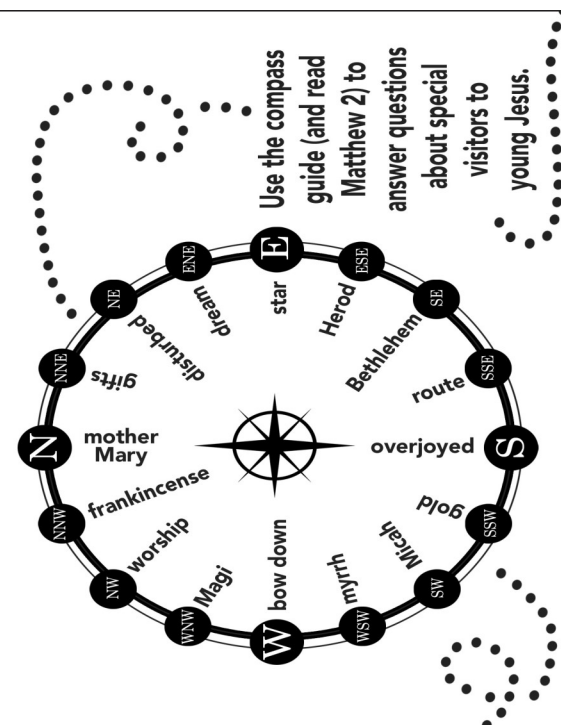


_____ God (vs. 1-7)

_____ to God (vs. 8-14)

_____ God (vs. 15-20)

Personal Application: Sometimes Christmas is the most difficult time of the year to find peace. Peace in any season comes from God, as we have talked about this morning. Will you look to Him to find peace during this Christmas season?



- Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
- Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNNW)
- How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
- Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
- In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
- King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
- What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
- When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
- Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
- Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
- Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus. _____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
- These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
- What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
- The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micaiah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold; frankincense, myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route

Poinsettia Dedications

In Memory of Jon Teel

~ Todd & Sonya Teel and family

In Memory of Mary Godley

~ The Todd & Sonya Teel and family

*In Memory of Ralph, Butch, Terry Davis, Kolin Clutter,
Joann Fitch, Charles Boss, Kay Meyers, Jean Dawson*

~ John & Bev Boss

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 Fred Fuhs & Grandparents

~ Wayne Anderson & David & Sarah Fuhs Family

In Memory of Linda Anderson & Grandparents

~ Wayne Anderson & David & Sarah Fuhs Family

In Memory of Russell Butts, Keagan Butts & Dane Barnett

~ Carolyn Butts

In Memory of Bill & Martha Jane Russler

~ Mike & Sydney Russler

In Memory of Our Siblings

~ Phil & Marla Scott

*In Honor of Ennes & Ruby Woolston and
Hubert & Dorothy Frey*

~ Bill & Zella Frey

Christmas Flower Dedications

In Memory of Tom R. Lewis
~His Family

In Memory of Elizabeth Shanks
~ Tom Lewis Family

In Memory of Marvin & Dorothy Steinmetz
~ The Steinmetz Family

In Memory of Allen & Margie Cornelison
~ The Steinmetz Family

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

In Memory of Larry Nurrenbern & Phil Minton
~ Jeff & Laura Nurrenbern

In Memory of Our Loved Ones Who've Passed On
~ Bruce & Marilee Rostron

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Buck
~ Paul & Jeanie Cardinal

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Cardinal
~ Paul & Jeanie Cardinal



Christian Christmas

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

Presents
 Donkey
 Animal
 Joseph
 Manger

Christmas Tree
 Merph
 Wise Men
 Mary
 Stable

Son of God
 Frankencence
 Baby
 Lamb
 Christian

God
 Gold
 Cross
 Three Gifts
 Jesus