



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

## THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

[www.fbfirst.org](http://www.fbfirst.org)

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<b>Blythe Chapel</b> 8141 S. 450 W. Owensville, IN	<b>Fort Branch First</b> 100 W. Vine St. Fort Branch, IN
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### Office Hours

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

Rev. John Baylor, Jr., Pastor  
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Rexanne Robicheaux  
Musician @ 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.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day** **December 31, 2023**

## Ponderings at the end of a day — or year

Dutch Catholic priest and theologian Henri Nouwen found it useful to reflect on several questions at the end of the day: "Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing?" Pondering such questions may prove valuable at the end of a year as well: "How did I contribute to peace in the world this past year? Did I bring smiles to others' faces? Did I offer words of healing?" Nouwen continued, and we can too: "Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love?"

Many of us set New Year's resolutions for self-improvement, asking, "What are my goals? How can I better myself, my weight, my work-life balance, my habits?" But Nouwen said of his self-inquiry: "These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and [in] the life to come." His resolution was to share God's love with others. With God's help, it can be ours as well, for each new day and each new year.

*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.

## RESOLVE TO GO MICRO

Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why "micro-resolution" is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.

Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!

# Inspirational words

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

## Predictions for the new year

Author Ronald Wilson, in *Stretching the Soul*, describes being certain that four things will occur in the days ahead.

- Trouble will come. Life is difficult. I must mourn as well as dance.
- In this long journey [of life], I'm not in control. God has reminded us of this.
- Many times I will fail.
- I will find forgiveness and get up and go on. God will wipe up the mess I've made of things, take me by the hand and set me back on the right path.

Praise God for his sure presence during the joys and challenges the new year brings!



value	understand	winner	trust	think	smile
self control	practice	perseverance	patience	passion	mindfulness
kindness	hope	honesty	goals	gratitude	forgive
envision	drive	determination	confidence	commitment	challenge
believe	ambition	accomplish	live	faith	seek
warrior	laugh	focus	blessed	courage	worthy

We're so glad  
**YOU'RE  
 HERE!**

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

### This Sunday:

9:00am † Worship

10:30am Ω Worship & Live  
streaming worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

### Next Sunday:

9:00am † Blythe Chapel

10:30am Ω Fort Branch First &  
Live streaming

Complete Schedule @  
[www.fbfirst.org](http://www.fbfirst.org)

Behold, I Make All Things  
**New!**  
REVELATION 21:5

**Rev. John Baylor, Jr.**

### PRELUDE

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

**\*HYMN # 254**

***We Three Kings***

### **\*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 # 217**

***Away in a Manger***

### PASTORAL PRAYER

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

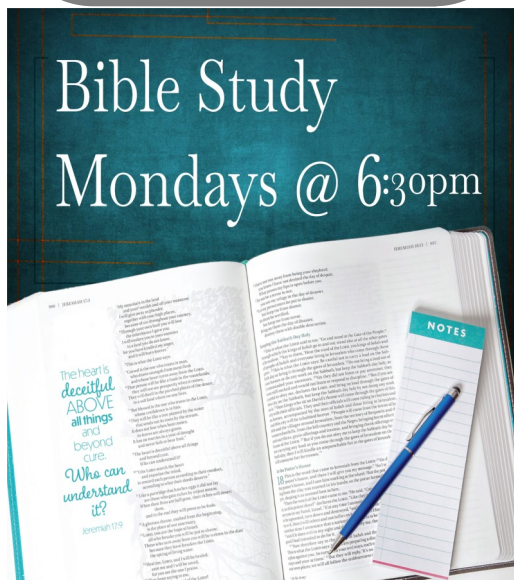
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For 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

## \*SCRIPTURE LESSON

## MESSAGE “

## \*HYMN # 246

## \*BLESSING

## \*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

## \*DEPARTING SONG:

Hymn #219

*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

*Derek Robicheaux*

*Revelation 21:1-8 NLT*

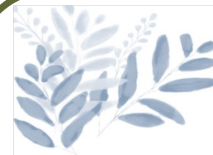
*All Things New”*

*Joy to the World*

Pastor

Acolytes

*What Child Is This*



## 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, Jo Eckert, Ruby  
Wilkinson, 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 family of Derek Barton*



May the faith of God  
be with you this year.  
May the peace of God  
surround you, ✨  
and may you be blessed  
each day!

*Happy New Year*



Because of generous  
donations received in  
2023, each of these  
missions received  
**\$575** from the  
**Faith Promise Fund.**  
*Thank You!!*

## The New Jerusalem

<sup>21</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

<sup>3</sup> I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one sitting on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new!” And then he said to me, “Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> And he also said, “It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

<sup>8</sup> “But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

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



**Listening Guide**  
**“All Things New”**  
**December 31, 2023**

**Scripture:** Revelation 21:1-8

**What does it mean to have everything new?**

**Everything's** \_\_\_\_\_

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**God with** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Everything's** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Personal Application:** Let's give ourselves to the Lord fresh and new today and ask Him to use us in the new year as He sees fit. Let's ask Him to help us to take advantage of the opportunities that lie in front of us and let go of the things that distract us. Let's make all things new today before Him.

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