

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

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Office Hours

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

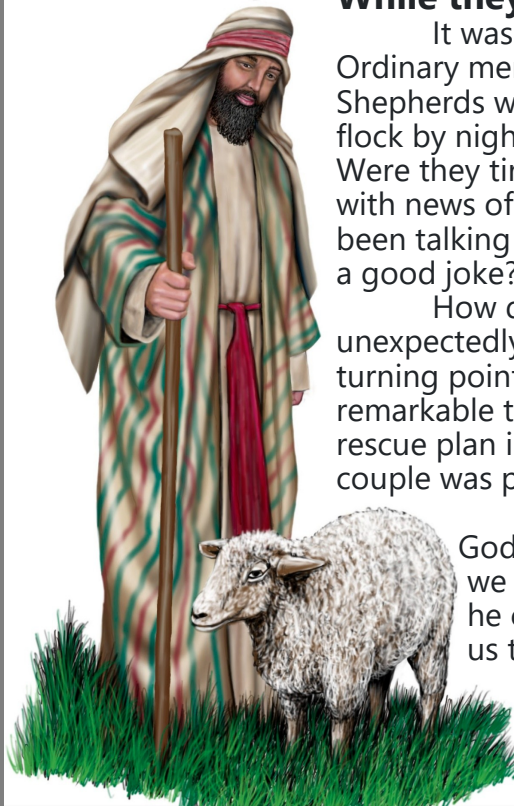


While they were sleeping

It was an evening like any other. Ordinary men were doing an ordinary job. Shepherds were “keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8). Was it chilly? Were they tired? When angels appeared with news of a Savior, had the shepherds been talking about their troubles or sharing a good joke?

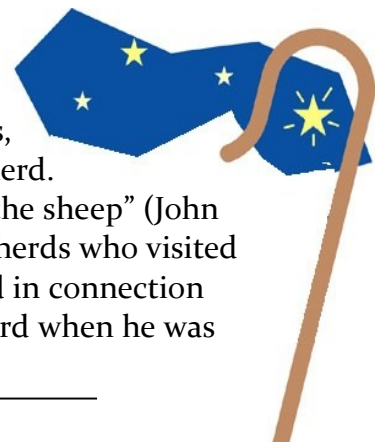
How quickly, how mysteriously, how unexpectedly an ordinary night became the turning point of human history. How remarkable that God chose to set his great rescue plan in motion when only a young couple was paying attention and only a few shepherds were awake.

God’s work is sometimes so secret we may wonder if he’s there or if he cares. The Christmas story tells us that God works out breathtaking plans for our lives in the dark, often while we’re sleeping or going about our ordinary routines.



Shepherd's Crook

The shepherd’s crook is a symbol for Jesus, the Good Shepherd. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). The crook also symbolizes the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It’s also used in connection with King David, who worked as a shepherd when he was young.



Never the same again

After the birth of Jesus, the shepherds returned to the same old world from whence they came. Yet, there must have been a new excitement in that familiar world. Life must have taken on new meaning, for no one is ever the same again after being in the presence of the Lord.

The Shepherds and Angels

Luke 2:8-20, NLT

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

¹³Suddenly, 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."

¹⁵When 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."

¹⁶They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, ¹⁹but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰The 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!*



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: 2nd 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: 3rd Sunday
of Advent

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 #238 *Angels, We Have Heard on High*

ADVENT READING AND CANDLE LIGHTING: PEACE

*RESPONSIVE READING *Shepherd's Song at Christmas* by
Langston Hughes

*Look there at the star! I among the least, will arise
and take a journey to the East. But what shall I
bring as a present for the King? What shall I bring
to the Manger?*

***I will bring a song,
a song that I will sing, in the Manger.***

*Watch out for my flocks, do not let them stray.
I am going on a journey far, far away. But what
shall I bring as a present for the Child?
What shall I bring to the Manger?*

***I will bring a lamb, gentle, meek and mild,
a lamb for the Child in the Manger***

*I'm just a shepherd boy, very poor I am—But I know
there is a King in Bethlehem.*

What shall I bring as a present just for Him?

What shall I bring to the Manger?

I will bring my heart and give my heart to Him.

I will bring my heart to the Manger.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYING

PRAYER HYMN #211

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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 #221*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give him my heart*

WORSHIP THROUGH HEARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHRISTMAS MUSIC HYMN #245

The First Noel

SCRIPTURE (back cover)

Luke 2:8-20, NLT

MESSAGE

"The Shepherds"

WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONDING

*HYMN #227

The Friendly Beasts

*BLESSING


PEACE


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*



Bill Frey ~ 7th

*Rick Wilson ~
8th*

*Susan Ahlfeld ~
9th*

*John & Karen
Windell ~ 9th*

Dear Church Family:

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

With your prayers, donations, packing and transporting again this year, our Operation Christian Child shoebox collection was a huge success. We collected 1002 boxes, being a Drop-off collection site, which was 2 more than what we'd hoped for.

Our 4 county district which includes Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh and 1/2 Pike collected a total number of 11,039, which is 11,039 children who will receive a shoebox and have the opportunity to hear the Gospel and receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

May you all be blessed abundantly in this important mission knowing you may helping to make a difference in the life of a child.

Thank you so much!

Marilee and Linda

Christmas Candy, Cookies & Goodie Trays



Pre-order by December 13th

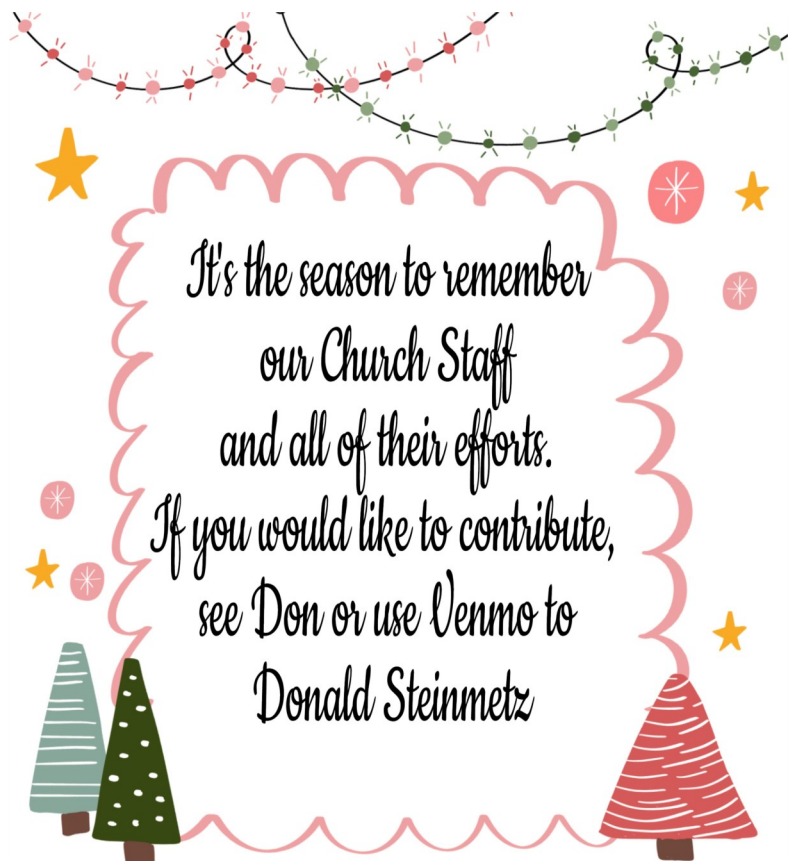
Small \$20 Large \$40

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!



12 Christmas PRAYERS

1.Expectation

Fill us with hope, knowing that God kept his promise to send his Son to earth. *(See Isaiah 9:6-7.)*

2.Wonder

Just as the angel's message left Mary in awe, remind us of the joyful news of Jesus' coming. *(See Luke 1:31-33.)*

3.Humility

Like Joseph, make us willing to trust God and humbly care for others. *(See Matthew 1:20-21.)*

4.Obedience

On our earthly journey, teach us to follow your commands, just as Joseph and Mary obediently traveled to Bethlehem. *(See Luke 2:4-5.)*

5.Provision

Thank you for meeting all our needs, as you provided a stable and manger bed for Baby Jesus. *(See Luke 2:6-7.)*

6.Peace

Fill us with your perfect peace, which the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born. *(See Luke 2:13-14.)*

7.Praising

Remind us to follow the shepherds' example of celebrating and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. *(See Luke 2:16-18.)*

8.Grateful

Keep us thankful for God's greatest gift, which Mary treasured on the first Christmas. *(See Luke 2:19.)*

9.Saved

May Jesus' precious name remind us of his power to save us from our sins. *(See Matthew 1:21.)*

10.Fulfilled

Give us content hearts, just as Simeon and Anna found fulfillment in the promised Savior. *(See Luke 2:28-32.)*

11.Worshipful

Like the gift-giving Magi, equip us to give Jesus our very best. *(See Matthew 2:10-11.)*

12.Wisdom

Help us seek your guidance as we follow and grow with Jesus. *(See Luke 2:49-52.)*

