



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

THE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

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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 & 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.
1st Sunday of Lent **February 18, 2024**

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
Tammy Whitehurst
\$25
conference, lunch & t-shirt
RSVP to Kristi Pflug 812/664-1108
by February 17, 2024
Please indicate t-shirt size.

Invaluable!

"The kingdom of heaven," said Jesus, "is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:45-46, NRSV).

In 2021, the Good News Network reported that a crab fisherman in Thailand stumbled upon a valuable Melo pearl while cutting up a snail for lunch. In wonder, he brought it to his brother to verify the discovery. "My family had been fishing for generations," said Prasarnphon Phunwan, "but I believe our fate is about to change because of my lunch." Several months prior, another fisherman had been offered \$351,000 for a similar pearl.

Likewise, God's priceless love immeasurably alters our eternal fate. If we fully comprehended the value of that love, we'd give up everything to obtain it. But the greater wonder is that we don't have to buy it. God gives it to us as a gift! Whether we seemed to encounter Jesus by chance or someone joyfully shared the Gospel with us, our Savior is the merchant who "sold all that he had" — even his life. So priceless is salvation! So valuable are we!

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Learning to forgive

Forgiveness is great in theory, and it's a wonderful blessing to receive. But granting forgiveness can be another story. As C.S. Lewis said, "Everybody says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive." Likewise, forgiveness doesn't simply happen over time, as forgetting often does. Instead, it's "an act of volition," said Simon Wiesenthal, "and only the sufferer is qualified to make the decision."

Because forgiveness has many spiritual, emotional and even physical benefits, the secular world is taking notice. Colleges now offer classes about forgiveness skills and strategies. "You practically never hear sermons on forgiveness that are practical and give clear instructions on how to approach it," Professor Robert Enright tells the Washington Post.

Graduate student Shyanne Sporrer says a forgiveness class helped her realize the danger of holding grudges. "Forgiving does not mean you are giving up power," she says. "On the contrary, when you forgive, you are the person who is in control. By forgiving, you can empower yourself to move forward from the anger and resentment to be a better version of yourself."

JESUS PRAYED IN A GARDEN

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

DISCIPLES

GARDEN

SLEEP

TEMPTATION

GOD'S WILL

AWAKE

JOHN

JAMES

PETER

GETHSEMANE

PRAYED

JESUS

A new perspective

I have a knack for making most tasks bigger than they need to be. Whether it's my go-getting nature or overcompensating "just in case," I often complicate the simplest of activities. When asked to bring a potluck side dish, I bring two. What if someone has an allergy? Or I join two Bible studies because I don't want to offend either facilitator.

Jesus understands people like me. "For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light," he says in Matthew 11:30 (NLT). In *The Soul's Slow Ripening*, Christine Valters Paintner explores various Bible-based and spiritual practices. While reading it, I began adopting her insights into the rhythm of my own life. But without a filter or prayerful consideration of what God wanted me to discern, I just kept adding — creating an unnecessary burden.

"Your call may not be to change anything in your life other than your perspective," Paintner concludes. That provided newfound freedom. Of course, our good Savior — whose burden is light — will help us navigate decisions and commitments. The only takeaway may be a much-needed shift in our perspective. —Janna Firestone



FEBRUARY
 Birthdays and Anniversaries

Shelby Workman ~ 19th
Lauren Foster ~ 20th
Linda Russell ~ 20th
Madison Marginet ~ 22nd
Riley Bryant ~ 23rd

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: † *1st Sunday of Lent*

9:00am † *Worship*

10:30am Ω *Worship & Live
streaming worship*

Monday: ~ *Office Closed* ~

6:30pm Ω *Bible Study*

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday: ~ *Office Closed* ~

Friday: ~ *Office Closed* ~

Saturday:

9am-2pm *Women's Conference*

Next Sunday: † *2nd Sunday of Lent*

9:00am † *Blythe Chapel*

10:30am Ω *Fort Branch First &
Live streaming*

Complete Schedule @
www.fbfirst.org



Rev. John Baylor, Jr.

PRELUDE

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

***HYMN #424** 9:00am *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone*
AV 10:30am *How He Loves*

*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

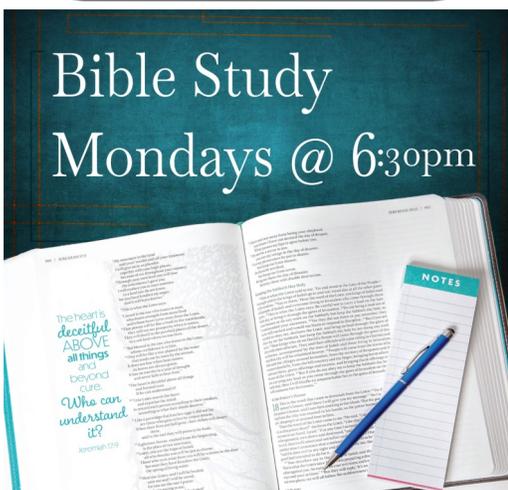
SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYER HYMN #496 9:00am *Sweet Hour of Prayer*
AV 10:30am *Love Lifted Me*

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

*Derek Robicheaux ~ Because He Lives
Jenna Schleter ~ The Commission*

*SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 22:39-45 NLT

*MESSAGE

“The Garden Scene”

*HYMN #395 9:00am
AV 10:30am

*Take Time to Be Holy
In Christ Alone*

*BLESSING

Pastor

*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Acolytes

*DEPARTING SONG:

Hymn *chorus*

*Glory to His Name!
Glory to His Name!
There to my heart was the blood applied.
Glory to His Name!*

*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, Becca Manolov,
Morgan Whitehead, Terri
Jarboe, Jo Eckert, Ruby
Wilkerson, Scotti Pitts,
Gretchen Young, June
Regenhold, Brian Price,
Triston, Tegan, Pastor John,
Thelma & Len Robicheaux,
Wyatt Wagner, Mary & Roy,
Roberta & Duncan, Mark
Fear, Kim Stratman, Deanna
Wilson, Kenny Shaw, Laynie
Speicher*

With the current tax laws,
not everyone will need to
itemize their

2023 Federal Income Taxes.



As to save our Financial
Secretary (aka volunteer)
a lot of extra work,
a financial statement
of your offerings and tithes
will only be prepared for you
upon request.

Please contact

Don Steinmetz

email: don.steinmetz@frontier.com
or via phone (812)664-8705

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

³⁹ Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. ⁴⁰ There he told them, “Pray that you will not give in to temptation.”

⁴¹ He walked away, about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” ⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood

⁴⁵ At last he stood up again and returned to the disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted from grief.

RESPONSE: The Word of God, for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Listening Guide

“The Garden Scene”

Scripture: Luke 22:39-46

Question: How did Jesus work toward accepting His call in the Garden Scene?

He Stayed in _____ (vs. 39-40)

He Prayed _____ (vs. 41-44)

He _____ Them (vs. 45-46)

Personal Application: This was Jesus’ first true step towards acceptance of His calling. He started with prayer. Do we?

