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 Phone: (812) 753-4424 Fax: (812) 768-6441 melissa@fbfirst.org

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

#### **Office Hours**

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

Rev. John Baylor, Jr., Pastor john@fbfirst.org Parsonage: (812) 615-0053

Melissa Foster,
Administrative Assistant
melissa@fbfirst.org

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.

3 Sunday After Epiphany January 21, 2024



## One hooky day a year

On a random Saturday, I threw the to-do list out the window, packed up the kids and headed to the mountains. Because Saturdays are usually for catching up on chores, my sons were surprised by their new, carefree mom. We played, laughed and explored — all with no agenda. I introduced them to the concept of a hooky day.

As a child, my parents allowed me one of those per year. It wasn't a sick day but a day off, just because. I could take it any time (but not to avoid a test), and I didn't need to plan ahead. It was okay to wake up one morning and play hooky.

Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV) wisely states, "A merry heart does good, like medicine." What will you do with an impromptu day off? Will you set your own pace walking through a park? Maybe stop at a restaurant you've wanted to try? Whether a fun day off includes spending time alone or with a friend, make the most of it as a God-given gift.

—Janna Firestone

### Jesus Told Nichodemus How to Be Saved

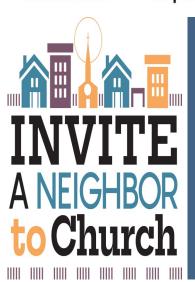


accept gift admit salvation sinner forgiveness pray repent lord confess saves savior faith believe christian sin



We are requesting rotation of cleaning, maintenance and general upkeep VOLTUNTEERS. We are off to a great start of purging and cleaning, but we all need to do a

little to keep the momentum. Every little chore helps! There is a suggested list posted on the bulletin board. At this time, we are requesting volunteers for a 6 month period, if you can. Any questions or additions, see Don or Sue Ann Steinmetz or Larry Johnson.





FREE 2024
Wall Calendars are
available in the
narthex, courtesy of
Stodghill Funeral
Home









Ashley Hauschild ~ 21 Alan McBee ~ 22<sup>nd</sup> Owen Foster ~ 23<sup>rd</sup> Izabella Hargiss ~ 25<sup>th</sup> Shane Springer ~ 25<sup>th</sup> Eli Robicheaux ~ 26<sup>th</sup>

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

† Indicates location is Blythe Chapel  $\Omega$  Indicates location is First UMC

## This Sunday:

9:00am + Worship 10:30am Ω Worship & Live

streaming worship

Monday:

~ Office Closed ~

6:30pm Ω Bible Study

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

~ Office Closed ~

Friday:

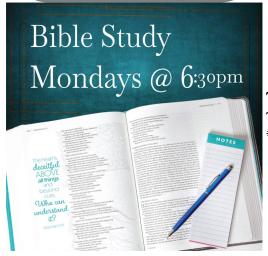
~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

## **Next Sunday:**

9:00am † Blythe Chapel 10:30am  $\Omega$  Fort Branch First & Live streaming

> Complete Schedule @ www.fbfirst.org





Rev. John Baylor, Jr.

#### **PRELUDE**

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

\*HYMN #384

9:00am 10:30am Love Divine, All Loves Excelling Here I Am to Worship

#### \*GREETING AND PRAYER

AV

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 #298 9:00am

When I Survey the

Wondrous Cross

AV

Shout to the Lord

#### 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

Jenna Schleter ~ Wonderful Merciful Savior

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON

AV

John 3:1-21 NLT

**MESSAGE** 

"The Rewards of Seeking"

\*HYMN #159

9:00am 10:30am Lift High the Cross I'm a New Creation

\*BLESSING

Pastor

\*THE LIGHT OF GOD LEADS US INTO THE WORLD

Acolytes

#### \*DEPARTING SONG:

Hymn #261 chorus Lord of the Dance
Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

#### \*PASSING THE PEACE:

Let us greet one another with the peace of God.

#### **POSTLUDE**



Colson Wayne Odom 🤇

January 8th

Congrats to Kyra & Kirk
Tim & Tona Smith





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, Koda,
Mark Fear, Kim Stratman,
Deanna Wilson, Kenny Shaw,
Doug Shaw

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: <a href="mailto:don.steinmetz@frontier.com">don.steinmetz@frontier.com</a> or via phone (812)664-8705

# Listening Guide "The Rewards of Seeking" January 21, 2024

Scripture: John 3:1-21

What are the rewards of seeking after Jesus?

esus	(vs. 4-5)	
	(vs. 16-17)	
	(vs. 18-21)	
-	How are you seeking Jesus? What are you do	oing to draw closer to Him?



3 There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. <sup>2</sup> After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the

Kingdom of God."

<sup>4</sup> "What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his

mother's womb and be born again?"

<sup>5</sup>Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit." Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. <sup>7</sup>So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> "How are these things possible?" Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus replied, "You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don't understand these things? "I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won't believe our testimony. <sup>12</sup> But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. <sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> God sent his Son into the

world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

18 "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. 19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. 20 All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. 21 But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

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