

We seek to better understand
the Teachings of Jesus—
and live those Teachings.



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.fbfirst.org

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Lynn Prieshoff,
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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.

Epiphany Sunday

January 3, 2021

THE MAGI'S STORY — AND OURS

The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did.

We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

Glory to God
in the highest.
and on earth peace,
good will toward men.

Luke 2:14, KJV



HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2021



Church Offices will reopen @ 9am Jan. 5th

All Conference and District Centers will be closed December 24, 2020 - January 4, 2021 to celebrate the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Good News! Great Joy!

It's never too early to start thinking about, shopping for and packing shoeboxes.

With that in mind, we would like to try something new for 2021. We can focus on particular items for each month (see the list on the bulletin board). For January, the items are (but not limited to) hats, gloves and scarves, but any other items are appreciated as well. Any gifts may be brought to the church office or left in the OCC box just outside the sanctuary.

Think of smiles and joy on the faces of children who receive an Operation Christmas shoebox. Not only that but each shoebox brings the Good News of Jesus Christ and the opportunity to receive Him into their hearts and accept Him as their Savior and begin The Greatest Journey with Him. The Good News then often spreads to their families and their villages as well. Great Joy! What a blessing!

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. Our congregation has always been so charitable to our shoebox outreach. God bless all of you and again, Thank You for your support.

Marilee Rostron & Linda Springer
Operation Christmas Child
Coordinators



Sam Steinmetz ~ 4th
Melissa Almon ~ 6th
Kay Weber ~ 8th



Thanks for participating in the first annual Secret Santa. Fun was had by all.



Fort Branch First UMC
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Owensville, IN 47665



AN ONGOING GOAL

Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19th-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it "the only thing in the whole world worth caring for."

Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we're either making progress or backsliding on this goal. "There is no neutral position in the Lord," she writes. "You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you're becoming less like him." And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our "eventual destination," writes Rick Warren, but the "journey will last a lifetime."

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



He must become greater, and I must become less. **John 3:30**

Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

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CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

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

This Sunday: *Epiphany*

9:00am † *Worship*
online with *Communion*

Monday: ~ *Office Closed* ~

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

9:00am **The Lord's Pantry
is open to all
Haubstadt & Fort
Branch Residents**

Thursday:

Friday: ~ *Office Closed* ~

Saturday:

Next Sunday:

9:00am † *Worship online*



Next Sunday Worship:

Reset for the New Year

"Enjoy Life"
Romans 12:9-21



God of the Ages, I offer you my heart, anew
with this new year. Help me love you and my
neighbors all year long, one day at a time.

Rev. John F. Baylor, Jr.

MESSAGE

"New Year Reset: Commit to the Lord"

Romans 12:1-8

Our Father

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,
for ever and ever.
Amen

SVG PDF 



Missed the LIVE message?
Don't have a Facebook account?
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/
FortBranchFUMC/posts/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/FortBranchFUMC/posts/)

Romans 12:1-8 NLT

A Living Sacrifice to God

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

³ Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. ⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

RESPONSE: The Word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!



***"You wish to see; listen.
Hearing is a step toward vision."***

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

PRAYER REQUESTS



Jane Marginet, Marty Marginet,
Joann Davis Fitch, Mark Dillion,
Jake Prieshoff, Lynn Prieshoff,
Richard & Betty Michel, Becca
Manolov, Kyle Stone, Deven Pohl,
Julia Gentry, Beeper & Joyce Kruse,
Lucile Johnson, Mark Fear, CJ Hinkle

Prayer Requests —last names are printed for individuals requesting prayer for themselves or with explicitly given permission.



FRIENDS

*One day, all of us will
get separated from
each other.*

*We will miss our
conversations. Days,
months and years will
pass until we rarely
see each other. One
day, our children will
see our photos and ask,
"Who are these
people?" And we will
smile with invisible
tears and say, "It was
with them that I had
the best days of my
life."*



Listening Guide
“Commit to the Lord”
January 3, 2021

Scripture: Romans 12:1-8

How does Paul advise us to commit to the Lord?

_____ of Ourselves (vs. 1-2)

Being _____ **with Ourselves** (vs. 3-5)

Willingness to _____ **(vs. 6-8)**

Personal Application: 2021 Goal #1 is to commit to the Lord. Will you join me in setting that goal for this new year?



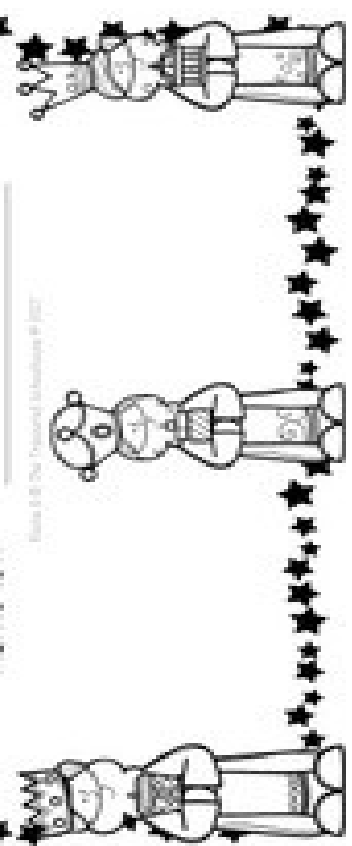


Name: _____

Visit of the Kings Scramble

Unscramble letters to make words having to do with Epiphany.

- etwctMh _____
- dhlear _____
- rast _____
- Bmtheethel _____
- oasCpr _____
- lzooarhEt _____
- Mohicnie _____
- dalg _____
- yhrrm _____
- enifrskenca _____
- aise _____
- mgja _____
- rehet _____
- knisg _____
- mecla _____
- nsme lew _____



"The Epiphany" Word Search

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

- Age
- Beautiful
- Big
- Chord
- Coming
- Cool
- Discovered
- Einstein
- Epiphany
- Figured
- Game
- Going
- Happy
- Ideas
- Imagine
- Interesting
- Life
- Mind
- Moment
- Notes
- Past
- Planted
- Play
- Remember
- Thoughts
- Tucked
- Usefulness