



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 - Thursday, 9:00 am– 2:00 pm  
Closed Monday and Friday

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Sherry Michel  
Musician @ First

Derek Robicheaux, Custodian @ First

Zella Frey, Custodian @ Blythe

Lynn Prieshoff,  
Director of Music Ministries @ Blythe

**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.  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** **July 4, 2021**



**Saved from sinking**

For Michael Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time, fame and gold medals weren't enough to shore up a drowning self-esteem. The U.S. swimmer, who faced legal trouble and ended up in rehab, contemplated suicide during the prime of his sports career. "I thought the world would just be better off without me," Phelps told ESPN.

Then a friend, NFL star Ray Lewis, sent Phelps a copy of Rick Warren's bestseller *The Purpose Driven Life*. The book made such an impact on Phelps that he read excerpts aloud to fellow rehab-clinic patients, who dubbed him Preacher Mike. "It's turned me into believing there is a power greater than myself, and there is a purpose for me on this planet," Phelps says. "It helped me when I was in a place where I needed the most help." The swimmer's message to Lewis? By extending a hand and sharing the gospel's message of hope, "You saved my life."

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## Independence Day lessons for church life

• **Return to the basics** — On July 4 we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.

• **Honor the gift of freedom** — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.

• **Enjoy community** — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.

• **Be light in the darkness** — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word *dynamite* and the Greek word for *power* — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.

—Heidi Mann

## Enjoy your freedom

Because many Americans have never known other circumstances, it’s easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites knew firsthand the oppression of slavery. Yet when God finally led them out of Egypt, they had problems adjusting to their newfound freedom. Fearful and rebellious, the Israelites grumbled against their leaders, Moses and Aaron, saying they would’ve been better off as slaves in Egypt.

Our freedom as Christians cost Jesus his life. But we, too, often find it easier to fall back into sinful habits. In Galatians 5:1, Paul offers this encouragement: “For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (NRSV).

We’re no longer bound by sin and death. That “independence” is worth celebrating every day!



*Let's Celebrate*

Andrew Steiner ~ 4th

Karen Devine ~ 6th

Christian Robicheaux ~ 7th

Linda Springer ~ 7th

Sophie Gerts ~ 7th

Bailey Wilson ~ 8th

Jean Fitch ~ 8th

Kelly & Melissa Foster ~ 9th

*Methodist Women's Group*  
Next meeting on  
Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9am

*All women of the church are invited.*

Don't have a Facebook account?  
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/FortBranchFUMC/posts/>

**LIVESTREAM** & **In-person SERVICE**

Join us ONLINE by clicking on this slide

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 offer options. Following the Children's Sharing, children may attend Sunday School at Blythe Chapel or Nursery at First.

Nursery  
Attendant:



7/4: Marilee Rostron  
7/11: Margie Beal

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

### This Sunday: 4th of July

9:00am † Worship  
9:30am Ω Sunday School  
10:30am Ω Worship & Live  
streaming worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday:

Wednesday: ~ Office Closed ~

Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

9:00am Ω Methodist Women

Next Sunday:

9:00am † Worship  
9:30am Ω Sunday School  
10:30am Ω Worship & Live  
streaming worship

Next Sunday Worship:

Encourage  
Each Other

Philippians 4:12-23

# Welcome!

As our nation celebrates Independence Day, let us remember and proclaim that God so loved the whole world that he sent Jesus to share in this life. Let us join in praise!



**Rev. John Baylor, Jr.**

### PRELUDE

\*THE LIGHT OF GOD IS PRESENT WITH US

\*HYMN # 696

*America the Beautiful*

\*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

### PRAYERS

SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYER HYMN #697

*America*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

\*SCRIPTURE LESSON *insert*

*Philippians 4:1-11*

### MESSAGE

*"Encourage Each Other, Part 1"*

\*HYMN #431

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*

# HOLY COMMUNION

ALL ARE WELCOME

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**THE INVITATION**

**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 AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**THE COLLECT**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are opened, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

**THE SERVING OF THE BODY AND BLOOD**

*In this church, all are welcome to the Lord's Table.*

**\*BLESSING**

Pastor

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

Acolytes

**\*DEPARTING SONG:** Hymn #557 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

*Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.*

**\*PASSING THE PEACE:**

Let us greet one another with the peace of God.

**\*THE OFFERING**

*Please place your tithes and gifts in the offering plates  
located at any of the three main sanctuary exits.*

**POSTLUDE**



## Prayer REQUESTS

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

*Jane Marginet, Marty  
Marginet, Mark Dillion, Jake  
Prieshoff, Lynn Prieshoff,  
Richard & Betty Michel, Becca  
Manolov, Carla Jackson, Kyle  
Stone, Mark Fear, Joyce Kruse,  
Lucile Johnson, Poppy Petry,  
Judy Basham, Connie Collins,  
Linda McKimmy, Kim, Connie  
Osborn & Tommy Osborn, Alec  
Taylor, Connie Dunn, Ray  
Kifer, Brenda Kreig, Aimee  
Emmons, Morgan, Lisa & Bill,  
Linda Reed  
Cori Pflug ~ Guatemala  
Mission Trip*

*prayer*

## LOVE in Action

Cards of encouragement  
while Linda recovers  
cancer treatment :  
Linda & Pastor Jeff Reed  
36N Co Rd 450 East  
Avon, IN 46123

**Listening Guide**  
**“Encourage Each Other Part 1”**  
**July 4, 2021**

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:1-11

**How does Paul encourage the Philippians?**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Them (vs. 1)**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Disagreements (vs. 2-3)**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Live** \_\_\_\_\_ **(vs. 4-7)**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **on Good (vs. 8-11)**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Application:** How does Paul encourage the Philippians? Which of the four ways above will you commit to putting into practice in your life beginning this week?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## *Philippians 4:7-11 NLT*

4 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stay true to the Lord. I love you and long to see you, dear friends, for you are my joy and the crown I receive for my work.

### **Words of Encouragement**

<sup>2</sup> Now I appeal to Euodia and Syntyche. Please, because you belong to the Lord, settle your disagreement. <sup>3</sup> And I ask you, my true partner, to help these two women, for they worked hard with me in telling others the Good News. They worked along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life.

<sup>4</sup> Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.

<sup>6</sup> Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. <sup>7</sup> Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. <sup>9</sup> Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

### **Paul's Thanks for Their Gifts**

<sup>10</sup> How I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me. <sup>11</sup> Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have.

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



# 6th Annual Back to School BASH



*Backpack & School Supply*  
(while supplies last)

**DRIVE-THRU**

**Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

**9am – NOON**

A Community Event @

**Fort Branch First United Methodist Church**

100 W. Vine Street, Fort Branch, IN

[melissa@fbfirst.org](mailto:melissa@fbfirst.org) 812-753-4424

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

[www.facebook.com/FortBranchFUMC](https://www.facebook.com/FortBranchFUMC)

Pre-register your students using our website

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

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED**

**New backpacks filled with customized supplies as requested per student's grade/teacher.**

*Dinner and Reception*

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
THE CEREMONY

*Cambridge Golf Club*

1034 BEACON HILL  
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*Vanessa Magana*

AND

*Alec Steinmetz*

INVITE YOU TO SHARE IN THE JOY

WHEN THEY EXCHANGE MARRIAGE VOWS

AND BEGIN THEIR NEW LIFE TOGETHER

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*Cambridge Golf Club*

1034 BEACON HILL

EVANSVILLE, IN 47725

*RSVP to Sue Ann 812-215-0002*

