

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



## PERSPECTIVES ON PATRIOTISM

While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44. "Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings."

This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.

# Oh Butta!

July Missions in Motion: we're asking for butter or margarine sticks for The Lord's Pantry. Please utilize the church fridge as our collection site.



## Friends with binoculars

At a beautiful outdoor wedding reception in the Colorado foothills, a group of us noticed a family of black bears on the next hill. We were so excited because we'd never seen them in the wild! When some friends grabbed binoculars from their car, however, we realized the creatures were merely grazing cows.

Now I tell this story whenever I'm asked what exciting wildlife I've encountered in the mountains. It gets a good laugh but also reminds me that I desperately need friends with binoculars. Instead of surrounding myself with people who automatically agree with me and don't challenge my perceptions, I need friends in my life who search with me for answers, accuracy and truth. Let's all be on the "lookout" for friends with binoculars! —Janna Firestone

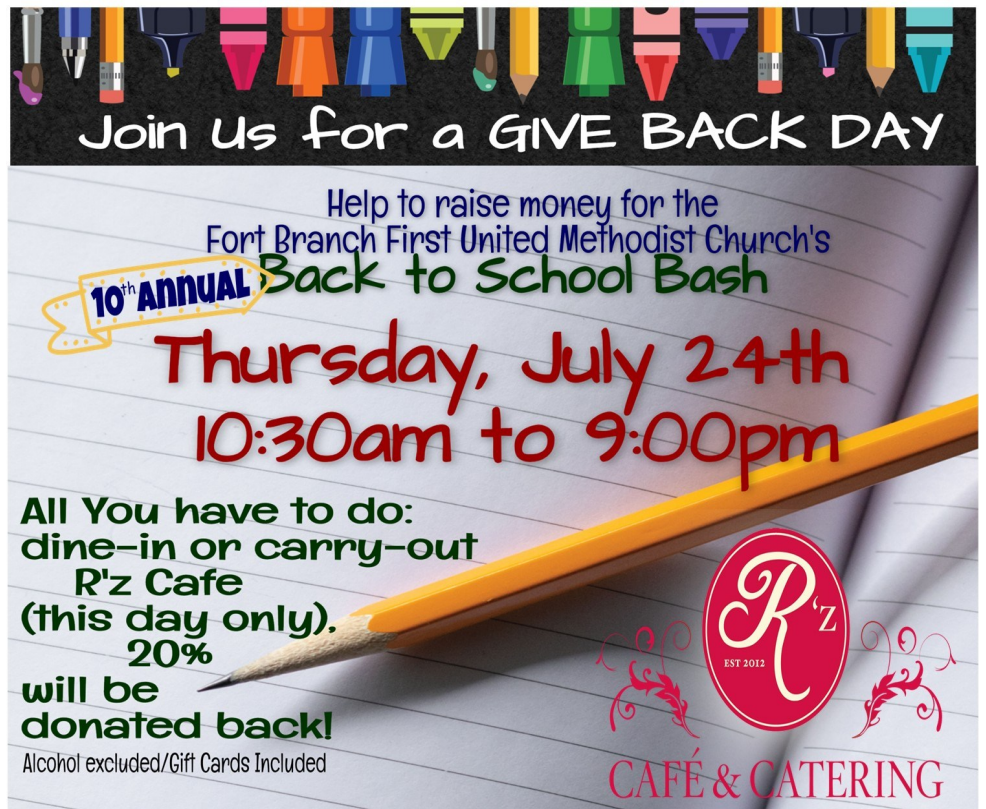


## When your ducks aren't in a row

On the surface, people, like ducks, can seem to glide effortlessly through life. We're often the picture of calm, in perfect control. But underneath, we may be paddling like mad to keep up a façade — or just to keep up.

Although we like to look and feel as if we have it all together, the truth is we often don't. Think how much better we'd feel if we could just admit our weaknesses and doubts. Think how much more genuine our churches would be if we didn't have to pretend we're okay when we're actually struggling.

Surely, God wants the pretense to stop. Set an example for friends and fellow worshipers by ending the mad paddling, embracing honesty and helping one another.



**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:

10:30am ~ Worship & Live  
streaming worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~

Tuesday:

5:30pm ~Yoga

Wednesday:

Thursday: ~ Office Closed ~

Friday: Happy 4th of July

Saturday:

Next Sunday:

10:30am ~ Worship & Live  
streaming worship



Full calendar of events:  
[www.fbfirst.org](http://www.fbfirst.org)



**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 #400 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#### \*RESPONSIVE READING

*If you hold to my teaching,  
you are really my disciples.  
Then you will know the truth,  
and the truth will set you free.*

*Everyone who sins is a slave to sin.  
Now a slave has no permanent place in the family,  
but a son belongs to it forever.  
So if the Son sets you free,  
you will be free indeed.*

#### WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYING

PRAYER HYMN #395

*Take Time to Be Holy*

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 #70**

***Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.***

**WORSHIP THROUGH HEARING**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE

***John 8:31-32, NLT***

***Jesus and Abraham***

*<sup>31</sup> Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. <sup>32</sup> And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

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

MESSAGE

***"CELEBRATE GODLY FREEDOM"***

**WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONDING**

\*HYMN # 399

***Take My Life, and Let it Be***

\*BLESSING

*Prayer Requests*

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

***Jane Marginet, June Regenhold, Mark Fear, Deanna Wilson, Terri & Steve Jarboe, Norman Bullock, Liz & Alan Creamer, Frances Burns, Paul & Jeanie Cardinal, John & Beverly Boss, Zach Anderson, Morgan Whitehead, Roger Jones, Pastor Randy & Julie, Carolyn Jones, Jim Feutz***



***Bill Conklin III ~ 30th  
Kayla Hall ~ 2nd  
Paul Cardinal ~ 3rd  
Todd Teel ~ 3rd  
Emery Robicheaux ~ 4th***

