

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



A special baby

Mark Lowry, who wrote the lyrics to the Christmas song "Mary, Did You Know?" says he's always been amazed by Mary's silence at the cross, as her son was being crucified. Maybe she was remembering back to that first Christmas, he wonders, when she counted Jesus' fingers and toes.

"I wonder if she realized then that those were the same fingers that had scooped out the oceans and formed the seas. I wonder if she realized those were the same feet that had walked on streets of gold and been worshiped by angels. Those little lips were the same lips that had spoken the world into existence. When Mary kissed her little baby, she wasn't just kissing another baby; she was kissing the face of God."

Mary silently watched her son die 33 years later, Lowry notes — not just for the world but also for his own mother. "The baby boy she had delivered on that first Christmas was now on a cross delivering her."



Mary's "yes" calls us to Love

In *Wholehearted Faith*, Rachel Held Evans writes: "I am a Christian not because of anything I've done but because a teenage girl living in occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous moments in history said yes — yes to God, yes to a wholehearted call she could not possibly understand ... yes to a vision for herself and her little boy of a mission that would bring down rulers and lift up the humble, that would turn away the rich and fill the hungry with good things, that would scatter the proud and gather the lowly, yes to a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her son's. ... And through Mary's example, God invites us to take the risk of love."

St. Anne, grandmother of Jesus

Though never mentioned in the Bible, St. Anne (or Ann) is traditionally known as the mother of Mary and grandmother of Jesus. Her name comes from the Hebrew *Hannah*, meaning "grace." Legend holds that she believed herself barren until finally, after 20 years of marriage, she gave birth to the baby who would become Jesus' mother. As the story goes, Anne later had two more daughters, Mary Cleopas and Mary Salome, each of whom gave birth to boys who came to be followers of their cousin Jesus: James the Younger and James the Elder, Simon, Jude and John the Evangelist.

Statues and pictures of Anne often show her teaching Mary to read. Others show her with both her oldest daughter and her grandson Jesus.

Blythe Chapel
December 24th @ 8pm
Live music + Candlelight
A Message of Hope

Bring family & friends— everyone is welcome!



Candles That Tell a Story

Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent.

Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the

everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.

- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.



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: 1st Sunday
of Advent

10:30am ~ Worship & Live
streaming worship

Monday: ~ Office Closed ~
6:30pm ~ Faithful: Joseph
Advent Bible Study

Tuesday:
4:00pm ~ Yoga

Wednesday:

Thursday:
8:30am-3pm ~ Finish It Thursday

Friday: ~ Office Closed ~

Saturday:

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday
of Advent

10:30am ~ Worship & Live
streaming worship



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 #196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

ADVENT READING AND CANDLE LIGHTING: HOPE

*CALL TO WORSHIP & RESPONSE *Canticle of Mary*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
who has looked with favor on me,
a lowly servant.

From this day all generations shall call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is the name of the Lord,
whose mercy is on those who fear God
from generation to generation.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYING

PRAYER HYMN #216

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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 #95

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

WORSHIP THROUGH HEARING

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

CHRISTMAS MUSIC HYMN #215 ***To a Maid Engaged to Joseph***

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:35, NLT

³⁵ *The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.*

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

MESSAGE

"Mary, mother of Jesus"

WORSHIP THROUGH RESPONDING

*HYMN #242

Love Came Down at Christmas

*BLESSING

HOPE

Prayer Requests

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

***Jane Marginet, Mark
Fear, Terri & Steve
Jarboe, Liz & Alan
Creamer, Paul & Jeanie
Cardinal, Zach Anderson,
Morgan Whitehead,
Roger & Nancy Jones,
Julie Anderson,
Carolyn Jones, Jim
Feutz, Kathy
Trowbridge, Kelsey
Holder, Mona Davis,
Kenny Ferenbacher***



***Makenson Saint Fleur ~
2nd***

Zella Frey ~ 2nd

Ellie Beckett ~ 4th

Maylee Mosser ~ 4th



"It's the perfect Christmas gift - Hope on a Rope."



A long tradition for Advent is to purchase individual plants for dedication to loved ones and enjoy them through the month of December during morning worship service. We tried something new last year with great success and enjoyment that we are going to do it again this year!

An array of live Christmas plants will be purchased for our sanctuary. By completing the DEDICATION FORM at the bottom and returning it with a \$10 donation, you will have the opportunity to honor loved ones. You can place your dedication in the offering plate, leave in Melissa's mailbox in the hallway or drop off during office hours.

Thank you for considering your participation in what may become our new tradition during the Advent Season.

The last day to submit dedications with donation will be

Sunday, November 30th

In Memory or In Honor
(please select one)

Dedicated to: _____

From: _____

Requested Donation of \$10 each _____

FBFUMC Worship Committee

Bible Scavenger Hunt

FOR ADVENT

Prepare for Christmas with this Bible-based Advent activity. Each day in December, look up the answer to one question.



1 What will God's Son be called?
(Isaiah 7:14)

2 Where will Jesus reign?
(Isaiah 9:7)

3 Where will Jesus be born?
(Micah 5:2)

4 How many generations are between Abraham and the Christ?
(Matthew 1:17)

5 Who tells Mary she is having a baby?
(Luke 1:26-31)

10 Who issues the decree about a census?
(Luke 2:1)

9 What does Jesus' name mean?
(Matthew 1:21)

8 Until his son John the Baptist is born, what can Zechariah not do?
(Luke 1:20, 64)

7 What does Mary say that God has done for her?
(Luke 1:49)

6 Which relative of Mary is also having a baby?
(Luke 1:41)

11 From where do Joseph and Mary start their journey to Bethlehem?
(Luke 2:4)

12 What does Mary use to wrap up baby Jesus?
(Luke 2:7)

13 What serves as Jesus' first bed?
(Luke 2:7)

14 Who tells the shepherds the good news about Jesus' birth?
(Luke 2:8-12)

15 When the shepherds tell others about Jesus, how do people react?
(Luke 2:8-12)



20 Where does Joseph flee with his family for safety?
(Matthew 2:14)

19 What three gifts does Jesus receive from the wise men?
(Matthew 2:11)

18 Who is upset to hear about a newborn King?
(Matthew 2:3)

17 From what direction do the wise men (or Magi) come to worship Jesus?
(Matthew 2:1-2)

16 On what day is Jesus presented in the temple?
(Luke 2:21)

21 When does Jesus' family return to Israel?
(Matthew 2:19-21)

22 In what district does Jesus grow up?
(Matthew 2:22)

23 What free gift does God give us through Jesus, his Son?
(1 John 5:11)

24 Where do all our gifts come from?
(James 1:17)

25 How should we respond to our gifts?
(2 Corinthians 9:15)



Answers: 1. Immanuel 2. On David's throne 3. Bethlehem 4. 42 5. The angel Gabriel 6. Elizabeth 7. Great things 8. Speak 9. He will save his people from their sins 10. Egypt 11. After Herod dies 12. Cloths, or swaddling clothes 13. A manger 14. An angel of the Lord 15. They are amazed, or in wonder 16. The eighth 17. The east 18. Herod 19. Gold, frankincense and myrrh 20. Egypt 21. After Herod dies 22. Galilee 23. Eternal life 24. From above, from the Father of lights 25. Give thanks to God!