

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

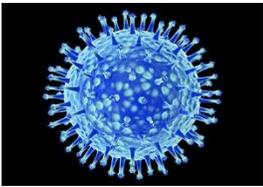
Sunday Service 10:15am

APRIL 2020

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

HOW ARE YOU HANDLING COVID19?

As I write this article people continue to get diagnosed with COVID19 every hour. The expansion of and accessibility to testing continue to reveal just how large and widespread this virus is. Fortunately, in China and other countries the numbers are going down. Sooner or later the numbers will also be going down in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Italy and the rest of the world. To me, it was really encouraging to hear Gov. Mike DeWine in his first or second news conference say: “This will go away”. We must not forget this....the dramatic changes due to COVID19 will eventually go away and our lives will return to normal.



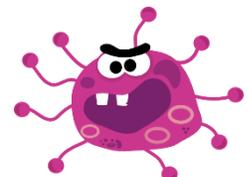
Can I share with you a couple reminders that would be helpful at this time? First, let me begin with saying COVID19 is a very serious virus. The loss of one single life is tragic, we should take this virus seriously. Having said that, let me share some facts that may help you put this into perspective. The rate of death and the numbers of those who contract it are nowhere near the top 5 pandemics in world history, not

even close. Here are some facts on just 3 of the top 5 pandemics in world history... The plague of Justinian, A.D. 541-543. Called “The plague where no one was left to die”, between 30-50 million people died, a very high percent of the world’s population died. The 1400’s Smallpox outbreak...Mexico’s population alone dropped from 11 million to 1 million, a 90% death rate. The largest plague? The Bubonic Plague in 1347: 200 million people died, 60% of the world's population. COVID19 at its' current rate will not even kill as many people as die annually worldwide from regular influenza (the flu). Estimates are that between 250,000 & 500,000 will die in 2019-2020 from the flu, the average yearly range.

How should we respond to COVID19? What should non-Christians see in the behavior of Christians? First, faith not fear. One of the many things I've learned through these tough times is: you cannot fight fear. Facts don't work, trying to change the other persons focus doesn't work and arguing with them certainly doesn't work-it's a complete waste of time. My advice concerning faith not fear...take every precaution necessary and follow the advice of the Ohio Dept. of Health. As a Christian, you should become known to others as a person of great faith in God.

Christians should also be known as ones who pray and don't panic. Every opportunity you get ask the person you are speaking with: "How can I pray for you and your family?" I seriously doubt that you will have anyone say: "No, we're good right now, don't need any prayers". We all have a whole lot more time than normal at home, why not spend a whole lot more time praying? Through this long battle with COVID19 this would be a great time to follow the words of Jesus: "...you should pray and not give-up" (Luke 18:1).

Lastly, Christians should witness and not worry. Fear, in this case is the emotion



that feels like one runs a high, high, likelihood of contracting COVID19 and may die. Fear is "Just waiting for the shoe to drop". On the other hand, worrying is the constant feeling that many things are going bad - things beyond COVID19, but related to the virus. Christians must not be in a state of worry. If Christians worry it has 2 negative effects. First, it says "I don't believe God will provide". Second, it is not a good witness to non-believers.

I really appreciate what Lt. Gov. John Husted said the other day at a news conference. He was told a true story about 2 people fighting over toilet paper in a grocery store and he said something like this: "Think about your behavior people. When this is all over how do you want others to think about you? Do you want to be remembered for being rude and fighting over toilet paper or do you want to be remembered as being kind and helpful in a time like this?"

In Christ Love, Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

All those impacted by COVID19 – sick, in need of supplies, cooped up moms & dads, without work
Missionary of the Month: Pastor Michael Muwongee (Uganda)

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Norma Willis, Melvin & Mildred Burdette, Barb Pittenger, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.
Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed."*

- 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday April 12th – Easter Sunday! TENTATIVE on the Governor's order. Sunrise service will start at 7am, followed immediately by breakfast (approx. 7:40am). Then our traditional Easter service will start at 10:15am.

Financial Update: Thank-you to several people who have continued giving/tithing to the church during suspension of all activities. We still need much more participation as the church's expenses do continue. Please send checks to the church in your usual giving time frame. If you wait until you return it will create a hardship on the church.

Stay Connected: Don't forget to check out our website each day! www.franklinub.org

This is the best place to stay informed. Look for regular emails directly to you, also check out the [Facebook](#) page.

AND join us Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for the Prayer Gathering, a conference call for all. 605-313-5846, when prompted push 881885. **This is subject to change after April 5.**

Need Anything, Groceries, etc.? So far, so good, we have heard of no cases in our congregation where anyone needed groceries, medicines, etc. but **IF YOU DO**, please let Dr. Tricia Bhat know, she and Dr. Sunil will run errands as well as Dr. Julie Chen and we have several other volunteers, including our **Boy Scout Troop 450!**

Year Through the Bible Contact Kirk McVay to find out how to get involved. Also, search online for Robert Murray M'Cheyne for the detailed plan.

Life Groups Offered:

Beginning Wednesday April 15, 7:00 pm a new L.I.F.E. Group! We will be studying the Book of Mark led by Pastor Mike at the home of Julie Chen - 6997 New Albany Links Drive.

- 9:00 a.m. Each Sunday, Margaret Jewett teaches a Bible lesson.

Coffee Hosts – Sign up at the board or see Dawn Dague

Children's Ministry Volunteers – We need you!! Sign up at the board or talk to Mary White

LOOKING FORWARD

What can I pray about? Where can I serve?

Church to Resume!!!