

# THE MESSENGER

**Franklin United Brethren Church**

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

[WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG](http://WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG)

Service 10:15am

Sunday

## MAY 2020

**“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”**

**COVID19: QUITE A JOURYNBE**

Before the Coronavirus began making almost daily headlines in the U.S. (February), it was a central news item in Asia and Europe. I started paying attention in early January because I was to be part of a mission team to China for three weeks this July. Wuhan was a location on my mind before it was spoken of here in the U.S. Well...last week that trip was canceled to no one's surprise. You are not surprised either that the Chinese government was allowing very little news to be reported outside the country, and even less inside the country. To say that news is censored in China and that the Communist Party controls the media is an understatement. If my trip were still on, I wouldn't even consider writing what I just did.

The first two deaths attributed to COVID19 in the U.S. took place in early February in Santa Clara CA. Previously it was thought that the first death was a man in Seattle, Washington. The overall death rate due to the virus was once expected to be about 3%-4%, now it is expected to be well below that: less than 1%. While the majority of deaths are those over age 70, the virus strikes all ages. Pictures of people playing on beaches (before they were closed) saddened (and angered) most rational thinking people. In the initial stages many Americans didn't know how easily and quickly the virus spread. In early March when one of our local teenagers told me he heard they may not go back to school the rest of the school year, I told him he was crazy. When we had our last worship service in the building March 15<sup>th</sup>, I certainly thought we may miss only 3 weeks. Boy was I wrong!

COVID19 has, in some way, changed all our lives. Disruption is the word that describes it best. Disruption in every part of our lives. Last week I preached about when hurricanes hit our life, the passage is found in Matthew 14:22-32. Peter walks (and sinks) on the water. COVID19 is certainly a hurricane, but those who best survive the hurricane of COVID19 do what Peter did – he kept his focus on Jesus. When he changed his focus to the storm, Peter began to drown. We would do well to learn the lesson Peter learned that night – focus, focus, focus, on Jesus.

The journey of living through/with COVID19 is not over. We should all pray that state and federal persons who project cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to be over-projecting. (I really don't believe they do it on purpose, they're just over guessing). No one

knows when the virus will end. It will either be like SARS, where it just disappeared, or they will find a vaccine for it.

In the meantime, Ohio and the U.S. are slowly re-opening. Your church is re-opening May 17, with MANY safety precautions in place. We would LOVE to see you back if you're not ready we understand. My only caution is that the longer you wait to come back, the easier it becomes to take church out of your weekly habit – permanently. I have seen it happen many, many times over the years.

In Christ Love, Pastor Mike

## *PRAYER NEEDS*

All those impacted by COVID19 – sick, in need of supplies, cooped up moms & dads, those without work

Cao (Tao) Quing and Tang Lee – trying to get back from China to home in The Links! Norma Willis, Roland Majors (cancer).

Missionary of the Month: Tim & Karmen Brown, Fellowship of Christian Athletes

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

## *SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH*

*“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about such things” (Philippians 4:8)*

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

*It's Time To Re-Open:* Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> your church is re-opening, praise God. This has been done with a lot of prayer and consultation. The Management Team (your church's Board), along with doctors and childcare personnel input have decided it is as safe as to return to worship at this time. Gov. Dewine said the State of Ohio can do two things at once: open-up the State again and do it safely. If the government can do that, we certainly can. Therefore, when you come to church you will see facemasks available, 6 ft. distancing asked, lots of hand sanitizer, no meeting & greeting, no food or beverages served. How long will these measures be in effect? We really just don't know, at least until June 14<sup>th</sup>. Facemasks will be provided; they are not required but if not worn make the 6 ft. distancing all the more important.

**Financial Update:** Thank-you to all 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](http://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 9:00 a.m. for the Prayer Gathering, a conference call for all. 605-313-5846, when  
prompted push 881885.

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

**Life Groups Offered:**

**Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.** We would like to start a group studying the book of Mark and using Frances  
Chan's video lessons/group discussions through Right Now Media. We can't start this group until we  
have 4 total people please let Pastor Mike know ASAP. [Mike@franklinub.org](mailto:Mike@franklinub.org) or 614-668-7168

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

Note: Please accept my apology in late distribution of the Newsletter this month, Pastor Mike