

# THE MESSENGER

## Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road  
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 9:00 am

## SEPTEMBER 2020

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

### HOPE

At the beginning of each year I take some extended prayer and Bible reading time to seek out both a personal and church theme for the year. Out of that theme I look for a key word and try to especially keep that in mind. On January 14<sup>th</sup> of this year the theme I felt God gave me for the church was: GIVE HOPE AND THE JOY OF THE LORD. The theme word was HOPE. At the time I had no idea HOPE would be so critical throughout 2020. On January 14<sup>th</sup> we heard about some virus in China and pretty much expected it to be “their” problem. The political infighting was focused mostly among the Democrats – we had no idea how strong the fighting could get between the two parties. Peaceful-good protests had not started. Looters and criminal behavior was nowhere on the horizon. The economy was setting all kinds of positive records. Seven months from January 14<sup>th</sup> it has all changed – so much seems so hopeless!

I heard someone the other day say that COVID-19 is hitting people so hard emotionally even IF they do not have it. Why? Because we cannot see the end of it! Think about it: we know approximately when hurricanes and tornadoes are going to end. We know approximate length of time when most illnesses will end. We even know about how long a recession will last. But COVID-19? We know cases will mostly disappear when a vaccine is found, but no one knows WHEN the vaccine WILL be found. It is the not knowing that can steal our hope.

Christians can have hope in these seemingly hopeless times. The word hope appears about 350 times in the Bible. Most of the time it points to God as our source of hope. The scripture verse connected to the theme word is this: “For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11) Look very closely at the last line: “plans to give you hope and a future.” You and I, AND Franklin Church can have hope! It is ours for the receiving! Will you receive it? Hope is defined as: “To desire with expectation of obtainment.” We can count on obtaining what God promises in Jeremiah 29:11!

In Christ’s Love, Pastor Mike

## *PRAYER NEEDS*

All those impacted by COVID19 – sick, in need of supplies, cooped up moms & dads, those without work & Helen Martindale, Stan Eller, Lyle Starr  
Missionary of the Month: Mike & Heather Slagle  
Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin & Mildred Burdette, Barb Pittenger, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees

## *SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH*

*“Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation” (Psalm 95:1)*

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**Sept. 27, Service Time TBA**

**Have You Considered “Coming Home?”** We’d love to see you back! As we head into the Fall and important COVID-19 numbers have begun trending down have you recently re-considered returning to church? Wear a mask and others are protected. Social distance and sanitize your hands, and you will be protected.

**Live-Streaming Update:** In order to live-stream we may need to buy some equipment, you will be informed as soon as we can make it happen.

**Catch The Service:** Weekly sermon on the website [www.franklinub.org](http://www.franklinub.org). Go to sermons and newsletters.

**Extra Giving? Catch-Up Time:** Attendance is down as expected but church income is down beyond what is expected. Nine out of 10 weeks we have not met budget. Now would be a very critical time to catch-up if you haven’t contributed lately. Just mail to the church office. It’s not your money, or the church’s money but God’s money.

**Food Pantry:** Please bring a non-perishable food item to church this Sunday for the Food Pantry which serves people in surrounding New Albany area.

**Stay Connected:** Don’t forget to check out our website each day! [www.franklinub.org](http://www.franklinub.org)