

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

OCTOBER 2020

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

LIVING IN STRANGE TIMES

A few days ago I was studying for this week's sermon on Revelation when a friend called, half kidding I said to him, "I'm studying Revelation what signs should I tell people to look for near the end of the world?" He said, "Tell them to just look around them." He wasn't kidding. Before COVID really began spreading completely across this country and causing so many deaths someone said to me, "We sure are living in unusual times." I think we have reached the level of living in strange times. What do you think?

We have the worst pandemic since the 1968 Hong Kong Flu where 1 million people died worldwide. Here in the U.S. (and at times in other countries) we are seeing protests that are raising some legitimate points but at the same time are becoming excuses for criminals to do criminal acts. I've said it before and I will say it again to those who think these are the biggest protests ever, "Did you sleep through the protests of the late 1960's and early 1970's?"

In this paragraph let me mention what everyone loves to talk about: politics and religion! We are living in strange and sad political times. Democrats and Republicans cannot agree on the time of day! If one says it is partly sunny, the other argues and says, "No, it's partly cloudy." I will be an equal opportunity offender. Whatever happened to the good ole days when Ronald Reagan (Republican) met with House Speaker Tip O'Neil (Democrat) weekly for lunch? Whatever happened to Bill Clinton's (Democrat) willingness to work with a Republican Senate and Congress to get multiple bills passed. We are such a divided nation. Moving on to religion... more specifically, the state of the church. How is it faring and how will it fare through the pandemic? In spite of obstacles, the church has done a fantastic job of making an effort to help the hurting, but the church is now hurting. Fifty to seventy percent church attendance challenges the faithfulness and the heart of those who are attending. After seeing an actual spike in income the first 3-5 months many churches (but not all) are seeing a deep drop of income. I continue to hear week after week, "I wish we could just return normal church: no facemasks, no social distancing, shake hands or hug and visit again." Brand new first time visitors have stopped in many churches (not surprisingly) and though they are few, some regular attendees have determined not to return until a vaccine is discovered. It is becoming more and more true: the longer one steps away from church the less likely they will return to church (or at least they one they attended before the pandemic.)

As we move closer to the things described in 2 Timothy 4, 2 Peter 2 & 3 and Revelation times, we grow even stronger. Let us hold on to this hope, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, 'Who is, and who was, who is to come, the Almighty'." (Revelation 1:8)

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Marie Ward, Scott Ward, Joyce Brockman, Dick Hickernell, Camp COTUBIC, school teachers, students, hospital staff, and first responders.

Missionary of the Month: Mike & Heather Slagle

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin & Mildred Burdette, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees, and Trish Dolejs

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, ‘Who is, and who was, who is to come, the Almighty’.” (Revelation 1:8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Back to the Past: Beginning this Sunday church starts at 10:15 am

Back to the Future: Women’s Fellowship returns Thursday, October 8th at 12:00 pm

A Revelation Study: October 4th to December 6th we will have a 9:00 am in-person and remote broadcast of a study through Revelation. Our teachers will be a university president and a New Testament professor. To be a member of your class from home, give me a phone call (614-668-7168) or send me an email: mike@franklinub.org.

October 4th: Communion

Everyone Back: Sunday, October 18th we are going to have a Coming Home Celebration church service. A great time to make a return: special music and testimony.

Coming to You Live: Necessary equipment is purchased, training is on the way, target is October 4th to broadcast our service live over the internet. We will be using either Facebook Live or YouTube (TBD).

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