

# THE MESSENGER

## Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road  
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

## JANUARY 2021

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

### HOPE IN 2021

Good-bye 2020! Few people are sad to see you go. The year started out not too bad. December '19 to February 28th we only had 3 measurable snowfalls. You may not remember it, but January was a phenomenal weather month. January 11<sup>th</sup> we hit a record high of 67 degrees and the first 15 days it was over 50 degrees several times. Heading into March the economy and stock market were setting record highs. Then...quicker than a winter cold front in Alaska the bottom dropped out. It was late February/early March America learned how serious COVID-19 could become. A “Shelter in place” order began March 23<sup>rd</sup>. In mid-April the name changed to “stay at home order” and was extended until early May. We were not able to re-start indoor church services until May 17<sup>th</sup>.

We need a lot of things now in America. Certainly, in America and around the world we need a vaccine that works. We need businesses able to open up again. Obviously, we need the spread of the virus to stop, we need unemployment to go in a reverse direction. Perhaps most of all, we need HOPE. Christians, more than anyone, need to share and proclaim a message of HOPE. Talk about it on New Year's Day, talk about it at the dinner or lunch table, talk about it around your work environment (which may be by telephone). Things may not look hopeful, but let me remind you about a guy in the Bible who was in circumstances that seemed hopeless...

Daniel in the lion's den. You will find the events in Daniel 6. Daniel was a devout follower of God taken from his home country (Israel) and forced to go to Iraq after they crushed Israel. The king of Iraq saw tremendous wisdom and skills in Daniel and his friends. Daniel was promoted to a political cabinet level position. The Iraqi cabinet members were jealous, got the king to sign a decree that for 30 days no one could pray to any god except the king. The king did not know about Daniel's daily prayer practices. Daniel goes on praying, the Iraqis report him, the king has no choice but to drop Daniel into a den of lions. You know the outcome. To the king's delight Daniel is not touched and (maybe) to Daniel's delight his enemies were tossed into the den and they were dinner before they hit bottom.

Daniel was a man of hope. How did he maintain it? First, he had his priorities in order. He moved from Israel where he was dirt poor and had nothing to Iraq where he was rich and could have anything. His priorities never changed, it was God first, second, and third. Want hope in 2021? Make sure you have the same priorities as Daniel. Second, Daniel was a man of prayer. Once the order was given to pray only to the king Daniel knew that sooner or later, he would be caught praying to the true God. He prayed often and let nothing stop him from praying. Want a better year than last year? Imitate Daniel's prayer life. Third, Daniel at peace. At peace in a lion's den. Wow! He was at peace because he knew that live or die, he had nothing to fear. He lived in faith and he would (if necessary) die in faith. Do not fear this year, have faith this year, and remember God's in control. Your keys to HOPE in 2021 – priorities in the right order, be a person devoted to prayer, and live in faith and not in fear.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

## *PRAYER NEEDS*

Dick Hickernell, Frank Hammond, COVID-19 vaccine success  
Missionary of the Month: Mike & Heather Slagle (University Ministry)  
Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees, and Trish Dolejs

## *SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH*

*““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)*

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**COMING TO YOU LIVE WEEKLY 10:15 A.M:** We are live streaming the worship service every week as it happens. Go to the church Facebook page and watch!

**Stewardship Update General Fund as of December 20<sup>th</sup> :**

Year to Date Budgeted: \$123,165

Year to Date Received: \$104,178

Year to Date Deficit: (\$18,987)

**Help Dent the Deficit:** As you can see above, the General Fund has a large deficit. A couple weeks ago we sent a congregational letter to all regular attenders (as of March 15<sup>th</sup>). The letter contained an update about activities and also announced: “Dent the Deficit”. We would rally like to put a dent in the deficit, will you help? If you send a check, mark it General Fund.

**Another way to Watch:** Sometime in January we will add another virtual way of joining the church service live via YouTube. We will let you know when it launches.

**2020 Giving Statements:** We will be mailing out offering statements during the month of January to those not attending at this time.

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

On the website you will find: weekly sermons, weekly announcements, special program information, our doctrine, history, and much, much more

**Your Help Is Needed:** We need volunteers to staff the nursery/toddler room. At this time we are likely going to need to combine the care. We need to be ready each week as needed.

**Re-Purposing Your Line, Lent:** The pastor is starting a sermon series called Re-purposing Your Life. This begins on February 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have The Purpose Driven Like book available for purchase.