

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

www.franklinub.org

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Service 10:15 am

DECEMBER 2021

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

THE GIFT OF OUR SALVATION

In just a few weeks a lot of gifts will be exchanged. We will hear words like “you shouldn’t have” and “how did you know?” common but sincere phrases of the season. I was just thinking the other day...gifts are changing. Out with the old, in with the new. Millions of I-Phones, I-Pads, Kindles, Docking Stations, and Galaxies will be given as gifts. (Sounds more like a NASA Conference than gift giving!)

Several of those gifts can cost in the \$1,000 range. But do you know the most priceless gift ever given? It cost God everything and it costs us nothing: the gift of salvation. It cost God his Son, if we receive his free offer of forgiveness and surrender our life to Him, salvation is our free gift. Salvation means: to be saved. Saved from what? From what our past sins have earned us: hell. Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death (hell), but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

It is hard for people to believe salvation is a free gift received by repenting of sins and asking for forgiveness and receiving Christ into one’s life. People will more quickly give their life to martyrdom, dedicate their life to service, or be baptized and join a church than they will see themselves as sinners in need of full confession and surrender to Christ (and receive free eternal life). Many people’s attitude is “Do not humiliate me to the level of the most hell deserving sinner and tell me that all I have to do is accept the *gift* of salvation through Jesus Christ.” You see, from childhood we have been taught that to receive approval, accomplish anything worthwhile, obtain things in this life we must earn what we get. Not for eternal life!

We have to realize that we cannot earn or win anything from God through our own efforts. “Blessed are the poor in spirit (humble) for theirs is the kingdom of God.” The greatest spiritual blessing we receive is when we come to the knowledge that we are sinners, and we are destitute in earning our own salvation. God cannot and will not save us as long as we think we are sufficient in and of ourselves. Salvation is his gift – 100% grace to us. How would you feel this Christmas if you gave someone a gift and they said: “It’s about time...after all I’ve done for you I deserve this gift.” That is the attitude we display towards God about our salvation if we say to him anything other than, “Lord have mercy on me a sinner – save me I need your forgiveness.” If you’ve never said that (or something very similar) say it now... say it before you read another line and receive the greatest Christmas gift of all!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Pastor Alan Hicks, Belinda Lee, Clarabell Harlan, Helen Martindale, Sandra Stribick, Haiti Missionary Hostages

Missionary of the Month: Milton and Erica Pacheco

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Lorei Lees, Midge Gathers, and Trish Dolejs

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
(Isaiah 9:6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Sunday (November 28th): Stay and decorate for Christmas and eat all the pizza you want (or however much is available).

December 19th: Don't miss this great Sunday morning of Christmas music! Music, music, and more. Dr. Isaac is working hard and would be happy to have you help, but please let him know by December 1st.

December 24th at 7PM – Christmas Eve Service – The Bells and Organ Are Back: If you have not attended church in a while, you should come and hear what you have been missing! Bell ringers are needed for Christmas, please let Dr. Isaac know by December 1st.

Dr. Isaac Winland Family: Since they have been here four months, it is past time to give a broader introduction than their original. Dr. Isaac's wife, April, grew up in Southwest West Virginia near Huntington. She received her bachelor's degree from Marshall University and her master's from Ashland University. She is an elementary music teacher in the Groveport Madison school district – excellent flute player, multi-talented. Dr. Isaac also received his bachelor's degree from Marshall University and met April in the marching band. He received his master's from Akron University and Doctorate from Ohio State. He grew up in both West Virginia and Ohio. Besides being our Director of Music, he plays in a couple of orchestras and is part-time professor at two universities. He and April still help several high school bands at summer camps. They have a really cute 1 ½ year-old, Ellie, who loves to share whatever she happens to be holding.

THE 15 X 15 CAMPAIGN – PLEASE PRAY AND PARTICIPATE: On November 14th, Tom Dague, Chairman of the Management Team, introduced a great campaign opportunity for us all. An opportunity for us to be used by God and once again demonstrate that when we pray together, pull together, and financially participate together, miracles happen. One of our 51-year-old furnaces “died”. The A.C. that runs through that furnace (31 years old) was on its last “leg”. At the same time, our parking lot is four years past its re-sealing life. The need is this: \$15,000 by May 15, 2022, to cover all costs. The furnace was an “instant need”. Installing the A.C. now instead of next summer saved us nearly \$1,000. The furnace, A.C., and parking lot costs \$15,000. We are in the process of financing \$15,000, but we want to pay that loan off May 15th. Please give, mark “15x15” in your memo.