

# THE MESSENGER

## Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road  
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

## NOVEMBER 2022

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

### THANKSGIVING

It's November...where has the year gone? NOVEMBER, can you believe it? Winter turned into spring – spring into summer and here we are in November, hello Fall. A few more days/weeks until Thanksgiving, a few more weeks and Christmas is here, ready or not.

What do I like most about the year-end holidays? A lot of things including “time to reflect.” Oh, the food is good, delectable fattening morsels connected with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. The family time is great, the gathering, the hugging, the sharing and of course the food again. Church is especially meaningful during the holidays. A great time to give thanks to God, sing Christmas songs (my favorite) and talk about blessed hope for the New Year. But one of my favorite things of all is still: time to reflect.

Many years ago, a short film was made called *The Giving Tree*. I know a little bit about it, it's about a boy, a tree and growing old together. When the boy was young the tree would say: “Come let's play.” The little boy would swing from the tree branches, climb all over the tree, eat its apples, sleep in its shade. Such happy carefree days, the boy was happy, the tree was happy. But as the boy grew, he spent less and less time with the tree. “Come on, let's play,” invited the tree on one occasion, but the boy was now a young man and interested only in money. “Take my apples and sell them said the tree.” He did and the tree was happy. And the young man was happy but only for a while.

The young man didn't return for a long time, but the tree smiled when he passed by one day. “Come on, let's play.” The young man was no longer so young – now a middle-aged man who just wanted to get away from it all! “Cut me down. Take my large trunk and make yourself a boat, then you can sail from here and get away from it all.” The man did, and the tree was happy. The man was happy, but only for a while. Many seasons passed – summers and winter days and lonely nights – and the tree waited. Finally, the man returned but now he was an old man, worn – down by the challenges of life. Too old and tired to play, to pursue riches, or to dream and sail the seas. The tree said: “I have a pretty good stump left old friend, why don't you just sit down here and rest? He did and the tree was happy. And the man was happy as he reflected on the days of swinging from the branches, climbing up and down and eating the apples. The longer he sat there the happier he was as he remembered all the tree had done for him over the years, all the good things in life the tree had given him.

How many Giving Trees have there been in your life? How many people (parents, siblings, friends, teachers, and neighbors) have given a part of themselves to you so that life could be better, easier, and happier? I imagine a lot of people have. Jesus, of course, has given the most. He died on a tree so that you and I can live eternally. As you head into the holidays find a good place to sit down – a couch, a chair, or a tree stump and say: “Thank you Lord for all the giving trees in my life.”

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Mike*

## PRAYER NEEDS

Pastor Dan Kopp, Brian and Rachel Glunt (Thailand Missionaries), Allyssa Gessler, Trisha Dolejs and Midge Gathers (shut-ins of the month), Faye Cooper, Grace Irwin, Anna Louise Beaver, Sandy Estep

Missionary of the Month: Michael Muwonge (Uganda)

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Barb Pittenger, Midge Gathers, Trish Dolejs, Clarabell Harlan, and Margaret Jewett

## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.*

(Psalm 95:1-3)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Food Pantry Collection:** First Sunday special emphasis on food collection for the New Albany food pantry. A collection tub will be just inside the main entrance doors. Please impact a family. Non-perishables only!

**Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6PM:** Women's Ministry is looking to add more ladies and projects. Interested? See Tamie McVay.

**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> AM Worship:** Baby dedication for Noah Pittenger

**Do you need any housework or yardwork done?** We are the sponsoring organization of the only Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Troop in New Albany. They want to help if you have any need for yardwork or housework, they may be able to help. Need help? If so, contact Pastor Mike, who will connect you to the Scout and Troup leadership.