

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

FEBRUARY 2022

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE

Matthew 13 is an interesting chapter. It is one of the longest chapters of Matthew and it is filled with Jesus' teaching about what it takes to be his follower. His teaching style in the chapter is called comparative analysis and it's all about the kingdom of heaven. How can you explain to people (mere mortals) the concept of an invisible, spiritual kingdom? Do not think about the traditional view of heaven – that is not the view in Matthew 13. Jesus' explanation about the kingdom of heaven encompasses the Trinity, angels, those who have died in Christ, those who live in Christ, and God seated on the throne. The kingdom of heaven is God's current active spiritual family.

What is so unique about Matthew 13 and the kingdom of heaven? First, the sheer number of times Jesus teaches about it. Five times in the chapter Jesus uses comparative analysis to teach the concept of the kingdom of heaven. My two favorite are: the farmer sowing his seeds and the hidden treasure. The farmer sowing his seeds scattered it on four types of soil. The path (hard), the way (shallow), the thorny soil, and the good soil. All four soils represent people's heart, the seed represents the Word of God. Only the good soil (heart) accepted the Word of God. Is your heart good soil or has your heart choked out the Word of God or been distracted lately? Have you been reading his Word lately and have you received his Word in church worship regularly? Only the good soil represents people that are a part of the kingdom of God.

My second favorite parable (every kingdom of God story is a parable) is called, “The Parable of the Hidden Treasure”. It is only two sentences long, but its meaning is abundantly clear. When a man finds an extremely valuable treasure in a field not his, he hides the treasure back in the ground. He then goes home, sells everything he owns, then goes back and buys the field with the treasure in it. So too is the kingdom of heaven; it is such a throne that we need to give-up everything we own to be a part of the kingdom. God is the king of the kingdom and we need to make Him the king of our life.

It is my hope and prayer for you that you have made him king of your life. That your heart is like good soil and that you allow him to produce in and through you the fruit of the spirit, great work for him, and you too spread the seed: the Word of God!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Pastor Alan Hicks, Belinda Lee, Harry Kring, Mike Ripley, Milton & Eric Pacheco, Marie Lubuda, Dick Lees (pacemaker), Cathy Cotton, Jessica Pittenger (pregnancy)

Missionary of the Month: Pray for the staff behind the United Brethren Missionaries. The United Brethren missionary support staff includes: Frank Yang (Director), Associate Reverend Steve Fish, David Kline, Michelle Harris, Angel Vincent (Administrative Assistant). Without this staff, there would be no United Brethren missionaries.

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

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

“But the seed (word of God) falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Matthew 13:23

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Website Update: We are in the process of some major updates to our website: www.franklinub.org. Visit it if you haven't done so lately! But more is coming! If you lead a ministry, please do a “write-up” about your group and submit it to Ruth Eller: ruthaeller@yahoo.com.

Impact a Life: Pray for and/or volunteer to serve in children's ministry nursery and toddler room. If not you, then who? If not now, when? Remember....to say, “Somebody will do it” is like saying, “Nobody will do it.” Please talk to or contact Ruth Eller: ruthaeller@yahoo.com

The 15 x 15 Campaign – Please Pray and Participate: Are you praying about your participation? Your church needs \$15,000 by May 15th so that the blacktop can be resealed, striped, and potholes filled (\$5,200). The furnace and A.C. cost \$9,285. We are taking out a short-term loan. Your participation keeps your church from paying much interest. Pray and give what God says. You have till May 15, 2022.

9:00 AM Bible Study Coming Soon: Christianity 101: A Study of Paul's Epistle to the Romans. What is law? What is sin? What is grace? What is the source of faith? What is righteousness? What does it mean to be justified and sanctified? In short, what does it mean to be a Christian, for now, for eternity?

Find these answers and more as we study Paul's epistle to Romans.

The reformer Martin Luther referred to Romans as “the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel... the daily bread of the soul,” of which he said “it can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.” What is law, what is sin, what is grace, learn this and much more.