

# THE MESSENGER

## Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road  
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

## SEPTEMBER 2022

### “WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

#### MONEY AND ETERNITY

Cotton Mother, New England Puritan pastor once said, “Religion begat prosperity and the daughter devoured the mother.” How sad, but how true in many cases, especially those church leaders who promote the health and wealth (prosperity) gospel. Prosperity devours religion because it first devours the heart of people. By the time the church was 500 years old materialism and money was already influencing decision-making and politics. By the Medieval Period, Popes, Cardinals, and Priests were power brokers.

Fast-forward to America today. The reason we have the Prosperity Gospel and focus so much on “bigger is better” is because the hearts of Christians have bought into one of the most materialistic countries in history: The United States. A focus on “bigger is better” causes us to lose the eternal perspective of things. Christ’s (and the apostles) teaching was not focused on the temporal but on the eternal. The next time someone tells you the Bible teaches that God wants us to be materially wealthy ask them for scriptural truth. When they think they have provided it to you, ask them to re-read the verse in context and maybe even teachings from a respected commentary, maybe even teachings from Martin Luther, John Calvin, C.S. Lewis, John McArthur, or James Montgomery Boice. (I know, you haven’t heard of them all, but they all are respected writers.)

Let’s talk about materialism in our heart – the root of the problem. The comic strip, “Cathy”, once depicted a young man and woman discussing various items they had acquired: “Safari clothes that will never be near a jungle. Aerobic footwear that will never step foot in an aerobics class. Deep-sea watch that will never get wet. Architectural magazines we don’t read, filled with furniture we don’t like.” Finally, as both characters stand with blank stares, one said to the other, “We’ve moved past the things we want and need and are buying those things that have nothing to do with our lives.”

Ouch, all I need to do is look in my garage or basement and I would have to admit I’m guilty. Materialism fills the pages of scripture. There is not one book of the Bible where materialism and its negative affects is not mentioned. Jesus mentioned materialism and he said plain and simple, “It is stupid.” The Parable of the Rich Fool and the warning about materialism in Mathew 6 are just two places of many where Jesus reminds us, “What good is it if a man gains the world but loses his soul?”

I recently read where a missionary came back to the U.S. for a month on furlough. Just before leaving he was asked, “What struck you the most in the time you were home?” He said, “What struck me the most was how people use their houses to make statements to each other; their houses aren’t just places to keep warm and dry but showcases to display their wealth and impress each other.” Materialism or eternity in heaven you cannot have both. Oh...you can have wealth, you can have a big house, BMW, and nice things, God’s not against that. But when you are concerned with them, when they become forces and God fades in the background, you become a materialist and are in danger of losing your soul.

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Mike*

## PRAYER NEEDS

Pastor Dan Kopp, Doyle Whited, Milton & Erica Pacheco (Our Thailand missionaries), Allyssa Gessler, Helen Smith (shut-in of the month), Margaret Jewett (Now at Otterbein), a new music director

Missionary of the Month: Brian and Rachel Glunt (and 5 kids)

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

## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.....praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

(Acts 2:42-43, 47)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, A New Food Collection:** Beginning this month we will put a first Sunday special emphasis on food collection for the New Albany and Johnstown food pantries. A collection tub will be just inside the main entrance doors. Please impact a family. Non-perishables only!

**Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 3PM – 5PM:** Be in prayer for a very important Boy Scout Troop 450 Committee Council meeting, a lot of important decisions will be made. We have been the Troop 450 chartering organization since the early 1960s. The only other New Albany Troop has united with them, the combined troop is one of the biggest in Central Ohio. They ask for our prayers (and volunteers). They are open to doing whatever they can for the church!

**Welcome Cub Scouts:** We have also become the Chartering Organization of the New Albany Cub Scouts! Families from all across New Albany. Want to meet them? Just ask Pastor Mike

**Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6PM:** Women's Ministry is looking to add more ladies and projects. Interested? See Tamie McVay.

**Want To Serve God?:** Nursery, Toddler, Women's Ministry, Daytime Office Help (computer skills needed), weed pulling, Scouts volunteer, Sunday computer help.