

IN TOUCH WHAT'S NEW?

Dear Friend:

We are about to close the book on another year of our life and pick-up a new book called 2023. All year long we will be writing new words that become new chapters that become a new book called 2023. So, what will your book say? Some of the book will be about things that you have no control over, and some of the book will be about things you have control over. Focus far more writing time on the things you can control!

Last evening when I was wondering what to write about in this devotional we call "In Touch", the word "new" came to my mind. The word new is used 150 times in the KJV. Let's look at a few examples and tie them into the start of our new year. I don't mean to contradict myself but I want to start with the creation story. The word new is not directly mentioned in the first chapter of Genesis but it is mentioned indirectly. One of the Hebrew words for new is Bara, in Hebrew and it means to create something out of nothing, something brand new! You know Genesis 1:1, did you know the word Bara is used. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...". No Big Bang, no Evolution, no colliding of planets. No...God created earth brand new, no pre-existing condition.

2 Corinthians 5:17a says: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation...". If you do not know Christ as Savior start out this new year as a new creation. One of the best promises in the Bible is Revelation 21:1a, recorded by the Apostle John in a vision from God: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...". Are you looking forward to this? I hope so, I am. AS the new year begins take a few minutes and look-up verses associated with the word new – you might see some scriptures in a new way! Happy NEW Year, Pastor Mike

IMPORTANT REMINDER: This Sunday only, church starts at 10:00 a.m. Why? Because we are truly having a joint worship service with New Albany Presbyterian Church. Several Franklin members will be involved in conducting the service.

January 8th, After Church: Stay for 1 hour or less, help take-down Christmas decorations

Also January 8th: Details are not final but it is likely that our new music director, Shelley, will be with us and you will get to meet her. Watch for details in next week In Touch