

# THE MESSENGER

## Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road  
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

## MARCH 2023

### “WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

#### TO TELL THE TRUTH

In 2010 I interviewed and was hired by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Sounds like a big deal, right? It wasn't! The Department of Commerce is the umbrella agency for the U.S. Census Bureau. What I expected to be a 2-3 month job working nights and weekends 3 days a week turned into a 5-month job. Most of my census area was New Albany, it gave me a great chance to meet the church's neighbors. The first day of training we had to take an oath that I imagine all government workers have to take. Part of the oath says: "I promise to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America". I did get lots of questions while doing my job but I never had to protect or defend the Constitution. My responsibility was to always tell the truth.

In 1983 I took an oath to tell the truth. This oath was a part of my ordination process to be ordained in the Church of the United Brethren In Christ. After all, my citizenship is in heaven. The oath also required me to "preach the whole Word of God", Genesis-Revelation, avoiding no subject that is in the Bible. The oath always required that I tell the truth. Sadly, not everyone who preaches feels an obligation to speak the truth or preach the whole Word of God. The inconvenient truth is that there is a growing minority of those who do not preach the truth. They fit the description of 2 Timothy 4:3, "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear".

You know what itching ears want to hear? That people are not born sinners in nature, that we can get to heaven in a number of ways, that we should never be sick, and if you are not prosperous - it's your fault. Itching ears don't want to hear about sin, hell, or anything else that may not make them happy. You do know don't you that we are not supposed to believe everything that is preached or taught. I John 4:1 says to "test the spirits".

How do you test the spirits? Hold the preaching/teaching you hear up to the Word of God. What is the context of the passage? Is the one preaching/teaching proof texting (using texts out of context to prove something not true). Collapsing verses: using verses from different places, putting them together to create inaccurate false doctrine. Sometimes I really believe the speaker is not intentionally lying but has never been taught the theological science of biblical interpretation (Hermeneutics). Who would preach/teach like this? I took an oath to tell the truth about the Bible so..I am going to get specific with names of those who often preach/teach like inaccurately. Rev. John MacArthur and Rev. John Piper have pointed out false teaching for years. (Men far, far, far greater in preaching than I ever will be). Why name names? Because a pastor and a Bible teacher must warn the flock so...here we go...

Joel Osteen. Yes, one of America's favorite pastors. I like Joel, he is a nice guy. I like his always positive attitude, but he is not bringing the whole Word of God. He's simply a modern-day Robert Shuller. Joel focuses on one thing: "You can feel better, you can have your best life now". Really? I thought our best life was in the future...eternity. Joel shies away from teaching the sinful nature of man. He says little about sins such as lying, adultery, etc. He also rarely warns of hell, lust, and rejecting things of this world. For the sake of space I have to lump all these guys together: Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Creflo Dollar, Joseph Prince, and Rod Parsley. The focus of all these men is "Prosperity Gospel", also called "Health, Wealthy & Prosperity".

In finishing, please let me be clear: I am not the judge of someone's eternal soul only God is. You and I, however, can and should judge whether someone is preaching/teaching biblical truth. I am not a strong proponent of "seeker sensitive" preaching either. It often waters-down the gospel for the sake of non-Christian understanding, It is not in the Bible. Lastly, I think large churches get a bad rap sometimes. Those large churches where the whole gospel is preached are doing a great job of reaching people for Christ. I hope they don't lose sight that the priority of all churches is to make disciples who make disciples of Jesus, and the first priority is to tell the truth.

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Mike*

## PRAYER NEEDS

Pastor Dan Kopp, Debbie Williams, Missy Dunaway, Pat Twomey, Turkey & Syria, and Faye Cooper

**Missionary of the Month - Tim and Karmen Brown, Fellow of Christian Athletes:** Franklin Church has been supporting this missionary "team" for almost 20 years. Tim is well-known in the world of high school and college athletics as a speaker all over central Ohio and the state of Ohio. He has led chapel services for many high schools and college sports programs. He speaks often to the Buckeyes football team, pregame chapel. He is also a frequent guest at Ohio University. He was the featured speaker for M.L.K Day breakfast for the city of Athens in February. Tim and Karmen run all central Ohio FCA sports camps. Tim also has a regular podcast interviewing professional coaches and athletes from around America. Pray for this great husband and wife team.

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

**Shut-In of the Month - Midge Gathers:** Midge has been a member of Franklin Church for over 50 years. When Midge was able to attend, she served the Lord in many, many ways. She was a member of the choir for decades, helped with children, worked the Easter Egg project, and other special events. She is a resident of the Inn at Summit Trail assisted living. Want to write her a note? Her address is: Midge Gathers

Inn At Summit Trail  
8115 Summit Road  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

## SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." - Matthew 19:26*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Chocolate Easter Eggs will be hatching again this year!** Women's Ministry is excited to bring back this fun and delicious project. Orders are due March 5th. Flavor offerings include Peanut Butter, Coconut, Chocolate Nut, and Chocolate. The cost is \$5 per egg. Order forms are available at the church, you can send us an email at [office@franklinub.org](mailto:office@franklinub.org) and include all your information, or you can call the church at 614-855-1391 and leave us a message with your order. If you are interested in helping with the project, we have a place for you! The Easter Eggs will be made on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Speaking of Prayer:** Check out the OUTSTANDING Prayer Board on the wall in the office/classroom wing. Leave a prayer request, share a praise, share answered prayers. Make this a priority please.

**Management Team Meeting:** Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 7PM

**Still Looking for Bible Study Readers:** Each Thursday morning at 10:40AM we read a Bible story to some children in the preschool. We are in real need of readers! See Pastor Mike.