

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

JULY 2023

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

WHAT’S SO BEAUTIFUL ABOUT AMERICA?

In 1893, Katherine Lee Bates wrote the beloved poem *America the Beautiful*. Yes... *America The Beautiful* was first written as a poem! Ms. Bates was an English professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, and in the summer of 1893, she left Wellesley on a cross-country trip to Colorado where she had a position to teach summer school. Along the way, she stopped at several iconic American tourist places such as Niagara Falls and National Parks. She crossed the farmland of the Midwest (amber waves of grain), and her last stop before arriving at her place to teach was Pike’s Peak. Taking it all in, from Massachusetts to Pike’s Peak, she was inspired to write her poem *America The Beautiful*. Soon after writing the poem, it was put to music and thus, the creation of the song – *America The Beautiful*.

What’s so beautiful about America? Spacious skies, amber waves of grain, purple mountains majesty, and fruited plains! I say, “Amen” to all that Katherine Bates wrote. There is so much more that is beautiful about America – more than Ms. Bates could write in a song or I can write in an article, but let me add a few more things from the perspective of a Christian.

First, there is our first amendment, especially guaranteeing our right to freedom of religion. Do I wish America was a Christian nation? Yes, but do I want to live in a country that forces people to be Christian? No. That idea has been tried several times in history and didn’t work out very well. If you want to see a modern-day version of state-mandated religion, look at Iran, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Malaysia, and a few other countries.

Second, I think America is beautiful because of the impact of Christianity in America. I would bet there are more hospitals in America started by churches than started as publicly built hospitals. Thanks to the impact of Christianity, we have AIDS clinics, foster agencies, adoption agencies, and once upon a time, the Red Cross, the YMCA and YWCA were Christian organizations. We must not forget all our early colleges/universities were founded either by denominations (including the Catholic Church) or independent Christian groups. America is beautiful because of the impact of Christianity.

Third, America is beautiful because of Democracy. Is democracy an ordained system of government by God? No...the Bible endorses no particular form of government, but democracy is a form of government that allows people to have the power, allows people to change the Constitution, allows the freedom of religion, and allows the separation of political powers. Check it out – wherever democracy and Christianity have gone hand-in-hand, a culture has thrived.

Finally, I think America is beautiful because it is bountiful. Bountiful in food, natural resources, and entrepreneurial spirit. No country produces more food per capita; few countries have more natural resources; and no country is filled with more entrepreneurs than America. All this adds up to one fact: we are greatly blessed by God – and this leads to another fact...we must continue to be the most generous country in the world. I often say that God blesses individuals, and with that comes a responsibility to be a blessing to others. Therefore, what’s true of the individual must be true for a nation as well. God bless America – we are America the beautiful!

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Family of Vicki McCandlish, Family of Sandy Ratchford, Pastor Michal Muwonge (return to Uganda) Pastor Dan Kopp and Pat Twomey (cancer, terminal without a miracle), Our search for a Music Director, Barb Pittenger (shut-in of the month)

Missionaries of the Month – United Brethren Support Staff: No worldwide, organized, and coordinated missionary outreach can happen without an administration/support team behind the missionaries. Within the United Brethren Church that is called U.B. Global. Frank Yang is the Director of Missions, but he has a complete team around him. There is a team of Associate Directors: David Kline, Steve Fish, and Courtney Waterman, and the Administrative Assistant, Teresa Roberts. How can you pray for the staff? Their responsibilities are many including, serving the local church, serving the missionaries, and they also must continually search for potential missionaries. The director and associate directors usually travel out of the U.S. 2-4 times a year – pray for wisdom, safety, and God's guidance.

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

Shut-In of the Month – Barb Pittenger: Perhaps it has been a while since you've seen Barb's name and some of you have never met Barb. If you know Barb, you know that she has always had a positive attitude no matter what her circumstances! Barb has M.S. and has been wheelchair bound for more than 10 years. She currently resides in Johnstown Pointe located on Route 62. Barb and her husband, Robert, came to Franklin Church youth group (no, they were not yet married!). After college they got married and after living in several different states, they moved back to New Albany in the 1990s. They attended Franklin Church until their health prevented them from doing so. They have two married children and two grandchildren.

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need a Ride? Do you enjoy reading our monthly newsletter but miss coming to church? Is transportation keeping you from worshipping with us on Sunday mornings? If so, we would like to help. Please contact the church at 614-855-3276 and leave a message.

Women's Ministry: Canceled in July

Men's Fellowship Breakfast: Calling all men! A few months ago, a new ministry began; we kept it simple and self-descriptive: Men's Breakfast. The fourth Friday from 6:45 AM to 8 AM, men gather at Tim Horton's for coffee/breakfast and spiritual accountability. "What's God doing in your life?" Join in June! Tim Horton's – 7400 Fodor Road, New Albany, OH. Questions? Contact Tom Dague

Church Fellowship Saturday Picnic Was Great! On Saturday, June 24th, we had our first church Fellowship Dinner/Picnic. It was such a great success; we will do it again soon! Thank you, Tom & Dawn Dague!

Did You Know We Support a Food Pantry? We collect food on Sundays, both inside and outside the church. Non-perishable foods only please.