

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

AUGUST 2023

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

LIFE IS FRAGILE, HANDLE WITH PRAYER

I know it's an overused phrase, but please don't downplay it, "Life is fragile, handle with prayer." Two weeks ago I conducted the funeral of a very long-time friend, Pastor Dan Kopp. A few days later, I conducted the funeral of a church member's daughter, four days later I attend the memorial service of a nearby neighbor who recently died. You know that long-time saying, "People you know die in 3s?" It's not always true, but it is now more common than you would think. All 3 deaths were expected (2 of 3 cancer), but none of them were expected so soon.

Today I met one of my cousins for lunch – he told me his neighbor's husband died last month from heart issues. Two weeks ago, the neighbor (widow) discovered she has cancer. Our waitress came to us, and we chit-chatted. She seemed a little "down", so I asked her, "Is there anything I could pray about for you?" Through tears she said her husband has been battling throat cancer for 2 years, and he recently decided to stop all treatment and likely has months to live.

Life IS fragile, handle with prayer. James 4:14 reminds us, "Why you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a while then vanishes." I don't quote this to be negative or "get you down"; it is just a reminder of the brevity of life.

I have been reminded of several things these past two weeks. First, love and appreciate each day and the people in your life; they could be gone tomorrow. Don't sweat the small stuff with other people. Is it really worth raising your (or their) blood pressure? Second, don't take people for granted – you'll regret it later. Third, except for bad moral behavior, don't waste your time trying to change adults; we're too stubborn! If someone doesn't know Jesus, do introduce them to Him – you can't change them, but He can. Fourth, when people throw mud at you, just duck; don't throw it back – you will only get dirty. You don't have to have an enemy in the world – someone may make you their enemy, but you can refuse to have an enemy. Lastly, I will end like I began: Life is fragile, handle with prayer. We're always one breath away from our last breath – live like you will meet Jesus soon, because you may!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Rose Farber, Faye Cooper, Milton and Erica Pacheco, our politicians (because the Bible says to pray for them!)

Missionaries of the Month – Milton and Erica Pacheco: Milton and Erica Pacheco and their son, Lucas, have just recently returned to their mission field in Chang Rai, Thailand. Almost three years ago, they went back home to Honduras for a few months of rest and hopefully adopt a child (they had no children). The few months turned into nearly three years because of two main reasons: COVID and the long adoption process. Now that they are back in Thailand, they will resume teaching at the United Brethren Learning Center. Pray for them, especially for Lucas, as he adjusts to the family scenario as well as learns the Thai language and the Thai school adjustment.

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

Shut-In of the Month – Faye Cooper: It hasn't been that long since we featured Faye as our shut-in of the month, but Faye could use extra prayers. Faye and her husband, Harold (deceased), raised two sons who graduated from New Albany. One of the few homes, at the time, that had an in-ground pool – the Cooper's house was the social place to be if you knew "the Cooper boys". Faye came to have a personal relationship with Christ just a few years ago.

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door
will be opened.
Matthew 7:7-8*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need a Ride? Do you enjoy reading our monthly newsletter but miss coming to church? Is transportation keeping you from worshiping 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: Thursday, August 17th – 6PM

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 us! Tim Horton's – 7400 Fodor Road, New Albany, OH. Questions? Contact Tom 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.