

# THE MESSENGER

## Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road  
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

## DECEMBER 2023

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

### THE CHRISTMAS GIFT: "PRICELESS"

Remember the Mastercard commercial that used to show "perfect" people having a perfect time. I don't remember exact details, but it was something like the All-American family on a beach vacation, together in a sailboat, then supper at an expensive restaurant. The commercial closed with a phrase similar to this: "Seaside hotel \$200 a night, sailboat ride \$300, dinner with your family \$200, memories of a lifetime - priceless. For everything else there's Mastercard." Sorry, I don't watch enough T.V. to memorize commercials, but you get the idea. There are just some things you can't put a price on. There may be a tangible cost you can count, but the benefits are priceless.

Let's apply that to Christmas. I'm not talking about the buying of gifts and the hours spent shopping. I want to talk about the priceless gift – the gift of God to all mankind: His Son Jesus for all of history from His birth forward. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The gift of eternal life is only possible because of the gift of His Son! Ephesians 2:8 says: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Catch that? Being saved is a graceful gift from God. Gifts are not earned; gifts are freely given. What kind of Christmas would it be this year at your house if that before everyone received their presents, they were handed the bill to pay before getting the gift? Not much of a merry Christmas.

When it comes to receiving salvation, Jesus "paid the bill." Don't think there was no price to pay when God sent His Son to earth as a gift for all mankind. God paid a price – He had to let His Son leave the perfect heaven to live on the imperfect planet earth. God had to turn His back while His Son paid the high price of the cross. Jesus paid for the gift of eternal life with His life. Enjoy Christmas this year ... freely share presents and take plenty of trips down memory lane but as you receive your gifts be sure to thank God for sending the gift of His Son!

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Mike*

### SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

## PRAYER NEEDS

Middle East War, Ukrainian War, Bonnie Boone, Families of bus accident victims, Cathy Cooley (ready for heart transplant), Sue Sloan (liver transplant recipient), Cao & Tang Lee (in China)

**Missionary of the Month – Alex and Christina Nuñez:** We continue our spotlight on the staff at Good Soil Community Center by sharing the lives of Alex and Christina Nuñez with you. They are the second couple from Honduras to join our missions effort in Chang Rai Thailand and are brand new there. The other couple is Milton and Erica Pacheco. Alex and Christina have 3 sons, all under the age of 12! They hope to help out in several areas including youth ministry. Thailand is less than 1% Christian, so pray that Alex and Christina do not become discouraged. Other prayer requests include: finish their fundraising needs (United Brethren missionaries have to raise all their own money), and pray for their English language classes to go well. They must learn English because the classes that teach the Thai language are taught in English!

**Shut-Ins:** Helen Smith, Barb Pittenger, Trish Dolejs, Faye Cooper, Betty McCombs, Clarabell Harlan, and Margaret Jewett

**Shut-In of the Month – Margaret Jewett:** If you know Margaret, you know a sweet, soft-spoken woman. Margaret had quite a family life. She had 3 sisters (a twin named Margie) and a brother. All 3 of her sisters attended Franklin for a long period of time (Clarabell, Helen, and Margie). Margaret's mom passed away when she was only about 3 years old, so Margaret was raised by her father and paternal grandmother on a farm in Westerville near St. Ann's hospital. Margaret is known as a long-time adult Sunday school teacher. She was very proud to have retired from Ohio State where she was an office manager for the aviation department. She had a hand in being sure dignitaries flying into Ohio State were taken care of. She also helped make sure air travel for all sports teams went smoothly. She has some great stories to tell about many Ohio State coaches. Most were nice, a couple not so nice and her favorite was Woody Hayes. Margaret has 3 children: Dennis, Ron, and Esther. Margaret accepted Jesus as a young child but made a deeper commitment to Him while attending here.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Women's Ministry Meeting:** Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6PM

**Men's Breakfast Meeting:** December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:45AM

**December 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM:** Our Help Is Needed: The Hilltop United Brethren Church urgently asks that we put ministry into action. They will be feeding around 100 people a Christmas dinner, they need servers and greeters. Meal is served at 1:00PM. Desserts needed - Questions? Ask Pastor Mike.

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service:** Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7PM

**Beat the Deficit in December:** Each year we make a goal to help lower the General Fund (operating) deficit for the year. At the end of our third quarter, we were approximately \$13,000 in deficit and there has been some increase in deficit. December is a focus on the gift of Christ, please pray about making a special year-end gift to Christ through your church – Franklin Church (every dollar counts).

**Our Cub Scout/Boy Scout Relationship:** Franklin Church had one of the earliest Boy Scout Troops in the area. Jim Mayhorn and a couple other men from the church started a scout troop right here at the church (early 1960s). Our ties to Boy Scout and Cub Scouts go way back! Now, due to combining two troops, we have one troop with more kids than in over 30 years. This year, all Cub Scout Dens (usually about 5 kids) have moved the Pack (combination of Dens) to our church. Bottomline in this: if you need any help, they want to help you! They have offered to help the church and are happy for us to get involved with them.