

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

FEBRUARY 2024

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM

Did you know the Bible tells us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem? Psalm 122:6-7 says, “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may those who you love be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.” I do not know why but from my first trip to Israel I will never forget our tour guide (who was Jewish) very sincerely and heartfelt asking we Christians to pray for peace. As the years have gone by, I have heard from pastors who have led trips say that their guide too asked the people to pray for peace.

Israel and the Middle East has seen more wars than any other part of the world throughout history. Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world. Sources vary to some degree, but Jerusalem has seen 119 conflicts, has been destroyed at least 40 times, and has been rebuilt so many times some parts of the city are 60ft deep in rubble. The first mention of Jerusalem is found in Genesis 14:18. Abraham met a king/priest named Melchizedek, king of Salem. Salem eventually renamed Jerusalem. In Genesis 12, Abraham is promised, an irrevocable promise, that he and his descendants (Jews) would be a great nation, they would inherit from God the land of Canaan, which eventually became the nation of Israel. This may surprise you, but God’s promise to Abraham is repeated in one form or another 71 times in the Bible. Abraham and his family settle in Israel around 2,100 B.C. His descendants remain there until around 1,800 B.C. when it becomes necessary to move to Egypt to survive a famine in Israel. You know biblical history to an extent. Moses leads the Jews out of Egypt, they settle back in the Holy Land, staying in control of it until 586 B.C., lose control to the Persians (Iran). The Jews regain control in the late 100s B.C. and lose control by 63 B.C. to the Romans and never have a home again until 1948 A.D. God’s promise of a homeland to Abraham was an irrevocable promise. In 1948 the United Nations passed Resolution 181, which divided Statehood for the Jewish people in the Promised Land (though not the entire Promised Land). Naturally, the area designated for the Jewish people would be called Israel. The non-Jews living in the area were called Palestinians and they were mostly sheep and animal herders. They were Arabs, there was no central government, family tribes roamed the land. The United Nations partitioned-off two areas for the Arabs who did not want to live in any area of Israel: Gaza and northwest Palestine. Jerusalem and some areas around it were to be shared by both the Arabs and the Jews, it was considered an international district. The night before Israel made their official declaration of independence May 14th, 1948, 5 Arab countries attacked Israel, Israel prevailed and expanded their land area by 25%. 3 more Arab-Israeli wars took place and each time Israel ended up with more land, though not near as much as the 1948 war. Since the 3 wars Israel has returned some land areas.

Today's war between Israel, HAMAS, and Hezbollah is not about three countries, but about Israel and two groups recognized by most countries in the world as terrorist groups, both whose sole stated purpose is to wipe Israel off the face of the earth, it is a little known fact outside of the Middle East the HAMAS has been firing rockets into Israel since 2000 day after day, month after month, and year after year. For instance, May 9-13 of 2023 HAMAS fired 1,469 rockets into Israel. The war began on October 7, from October 7-December 29, 2023, HAMAS fired 13,000 plus rockets.

War is tragic, war takes both innocent and "guilty" lives. I have heard some people say several different things when I talk about the Holy Land and war, but two responses bother me the most. Some have said: "We can pray for peace, but it won't do any good" and "There is going to be wars until Jesus returns, that's just the way it is." Really? I don't think Psalm 122:6-7 is in the Bible for nothing. Pray for the peace of Israel and the whole Middle East.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:30-31

PRAYER NEEDS

Cathy Cooley, Donna Clickenger, Dick Fisher, Mavis Baker, Glenna Stanley, Dick & Sandy Hickernell, and End the wars in Ukraine and Israel

Missionary of the Month – Tim and Karmen Brown, FCA: It may not seem that long ago since we highlighted Tim and Karmen, but it was a few months back. You know Tim is an Associate Director of Central Ohio Fellowship of Christian Athletes and you know about sports camps. Karmen serves right along with him. Did you know, however, about a few other ministries Tim has? Tim organizes Bible studies inside a few Central Ohio middle and high schools. The schools allow these to happen on the student lunch hour. Either Tim or area youth pastors lead the studies. Tim also organizes some special events through the school year where he will bring in a well-known Christian athlete, either an OSU Buckeye or someone from the Bengals or Browns. Somewhere around 2000, Tim launched a podcast called, “Be a Baller.” On this weekly podcast, Tim covers all kinds of life topics from being a successful business leader to being a mentor. Most podcast speakers are Christian and talk about how Jesus has impacted their life. Google Central Ohio FCA and read about all the great work FCA is doing for the kingdom.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wars and Rumors of Wars: January 14 - February 25th Sunday Evenings 6:30 - 7:30PM: It's not too late to join this study. Guest speakers include: Mark Ellwood, long-time history teacher at Worthington Schools; Peter and Betsy Martindale, missionaries in Israel; and Mike Ripley, former Israelian State Representative.

February 11th - Scout Sunday: Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be involved in our service. POTLUCK AFTERWARD! Bring an extra amount of food – we're their hosts.

February 12th 7:00PM: Management Team Meeting

February 18th Building Fund Commitment Sunday: Praise God that we met our 2023 Building Fund needs for the year, although some "pledges" fell short. Please continue to give to meet your "pledge". Remember, the pledge is not made to your church, but to God. On February 18th, we will ask God to provide the \$29,556 for 2024. If you cannot attend but want to contribute, please let us know by calling the church at 614-855-1391 or email office@franklinub.org.

February 23rd 6:45AM: Men's Breakfast at Tim Horton's. See you guys there!

February 25th 5:30 - 6:15PM: 4th Sunday Prayer gathering!

Women's Ministry: We will be on Winter Break during January and February. Mark your calendar to join us in March!

Serve, Serve, Serve! Praise God, we need children's ministry providers. Right now ages range from 1+ year-old to 5 years-old. Please see Ruth Eller.