

# THE MESSENGER

## Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

## APRIL 2024

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

### WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY

Due to the release schedule of the Messenger, and the date of Easter, you may be reading this a few days past Easter, but to me, it is never too late to read a Good Friday/Easter message. I have been asked this question a few times, “Since Good Friday is about the death of Jesus, why do we call it “Good”? – Good question!

Looking back on the day many things come to mind: jeering crowds, lying witnesses, spineless politicians, Jesus’ black and swollen eyes, crown of thorns, whipped within inches of His life, spear in the side, and finally death. Add to all of this the broken heart of his mother, Mary; the confused and scared disciples; the earthquake; and people coming out of the grave. Nothing sounds good about any of this. Good Friday? What good? We might think “Black Friday” is more fitting than “Good Friday”. Dark Friday? Yes. Suffering Friday? Yes. Long Friday? Yes. But what triumphs all of this should still be the description: Good Friday.

Behind all the ugliness of Good Friday, stood the Lord in heaven who knew (as well as Jesus) that the cross had to be on the road to the resurrection. Behind Good Friday was the purpose that all sin, present and future, had to be atoned for only through the shed blood of Jesus. The perfect lamb sacrificed for all imperfect sheep. “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each has turned to his own way; and the Lord had laid on Him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

For Christians, Good Friday is an important day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most important weekend in the history of the world. The cross and the resurrection are eternally tied together. No cross, no resurrection. No resurrection, no Christianity. No price paid on the cross, no salvation possible. Paul wrote, “Of first importance that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life on that day, following what God had promised in the scripture (I Corinthians 15:3). On Good Friday, we must realize that Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion and because he paid the price for our sins, we do not have to, AND forgiveness of our sins and eternal life are waiting for us to crucify (die to) ourselves and give our life over to Him. Admit we are a sinner, Believe in the death and resurrection, and Confess that we want Him as our savior and surrender to Him.

Good Friday is good because as terrible as the day was, it had to happen for us to receive the joy of Easter. On Good Friday, both rath and mercy met at the cross. God’s wrath on sin and God’s mercy because when we give our life to God, he extends his mercy, and we never have to pay the price for our sin. Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, but he washed it white as snow!

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Mike*

### SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.*

Lamentations 3:22-23

## PRAYER NEEDS

Dick Fisher, Rev. Les Smith, David Maynard, Pastor Mike, Eshter Jewett, Donna Clickenger, Jon Martindale, Helen Smith (shut-in of the month)

**Missionary of the Month – New Albany Food Bank:** When we think of a mission, we may not think of a food bank, but we should. The Bible describes missions as a holistic approach: helping meet the needs of others, both physically and spiritually. There are thousands of non-Christian organizations that meet the physical needs of food, clothing, and shelter. Central Ohio Food bank, The Red Cross, and homeless shelters are just a few. The church, however, is called to provide both physical and spiritual needs and as much as possible do both at the same time. When the New Albany Food Bank first opened, I heard several people ask, “Why a food bank in New Albany, the wealthiest suburb in Columbus and in the top 5 in the state?” Why a food bank? Because this area needs one! There are school students who are on the free and reduced school lunch program. The New Albany Food Bank covers the zip code of 43054, this zip code is not just the city of New Albany; it includes some of Columbus. Make this food bank part of your missions giving. Every Sunday, we have a clear, plastic container that says “Food Bank” on it. Look for it near the coffee table and donate!

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

**Shut-in of the Month – Helen Smith:** Helen has been a member of Franklin Church for close to 20 years. If you know Helen, you know she, like her sister Virginia, has a good sense of humor. Also, like her sister, she always seems to be happiest when she is doing something. She does not like to sit around. She is 96 years young, but always likes to tell the story that she and Virginia were just a couple days shy of living one year apart in age. Speaking of shy, Helen will tell you she is shy (and maybe she is), but once you get to know her you will have no problem keeping a conversation going! She was very proud to be married to her husband, Bo, a long-time officer and Deputy Chief with the City of Columbus Police Department. Bo and Helen had two children: Vicky (deceased) and Marla. Give Helen a call sometime at 614-888-2626 or send her a card: 1502 Alpine Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43229.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Women's Ministry:** April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

**Men's Group Breakfast:** April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:45AM at Tim Horton's – 7400 Fodor RD, New Albany. Join Tom Dague and others for breakfast food and spiritual food.

**Want to Understand the Book of Revelation?** Then study the book of Zachariah, no kidding! Zachariah is so important to understanding Revelation that Dr. John McCarther, well known for his exegetical preaching, says that to truly understand Revelation, you must understand Zachariah. So... EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>, Kirk McVay launches a study of Zachariah. Adult Bible class each Sunday at 9AM. Easter bonus: free breakfast at 8:30AM.

**Speaking of a Bible Study:** Thank you to all who went through the class: Wars, Rumors of Wars, and the Return of Christ. Many blessings and great discussions – averaging 15 people weekly and a grand total of 25 different people attended at least one class or more.

**And the Final Report Is.....** Great answers to prayers, miracle answers to prayers, really. FINAL Building Fund Commitment: \$32,280 (our goal was \$29,204). Shelter house complete restoration goal was \$1,000 (we received just a little beyond).

P.S. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts contributing approximately \$4,000. Mighty Dog Roofing Company is donating most of the labor with some help from the Boy Scouts. This is an Eagle Scout project.