

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 9:00 am

JULY 2020

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

HOW TO HELP PEOPLE THROUGH PERILOUS TIMES

We are now in our fourth full month of facing a previously unknown virus named COVID-19. Thankfully, in Ohio the picture is improving. In no way do I claim to be a medical expert, but it appears that the number of cases now being reported can be attributed to the extremely expanded testing now available. Both deaths and hospitalizations are on a downhill trend. All the numbers are better but it does not mean people are doing better emotionally. For the most part life is moving closer to what it used to be but note this: emotional recovery takes longer than physical recovery. People are driven by what they are feeling not necessarily the facts around them.

There are multiple things we need to know to help others. What I am about to share can apply not only to those still facing COVID-19 fears and adjustments, but also to feelings related to our national unrest, and sadly our national dis-unity. When you try to help someone, before you do, be sure of your self-awareness. In the field of psychology self-awareness means to know your own feelings, your own perspective, and your own emotions. When you “go” to help others you take yourself into the situation. Your biases, your history, your opinions. To truly help a person do not let these things interfere with helping the other person. Ignore self-awareness and you truly cannot minister to others. On the flip side there is: others awareness. Others awareness requires lots of listening to the persons you are trying to help. If you know them well that is an advantage – you know some history about how they have reacted under stressful times before (but be careful NOT to pre-judge). Others awareness: what are they feeling, what are they fearing, what influence does family and friends have on them?

Empathy in regards to their COVID-19 concerns is critical. Let me share five good questions to help others during this pandemic: 1) How is COVID-19, or the current climate in our country changing your life? 2) What have been your greatest challenges or disappointments? 3) How has this pandemic strained or enhanced your relationships? 4) What differences has your faith made during this time? 5) Has the pandemic changed you and who do you want to be in the months ahead?

For my final words I want to say a few things about personal choices people make regarding personal comfort level. If someone you personally know still wears a mask, is still not comfortable around people, etc. demanding they change does not work, are you married, do you have kids? You should know DEMANDING someone change does not work. Do not make light of someone who is not at your level of comfort (no mask, not ok in crowds, etc.). When you make light of someone what you are saying is: "Why aren't you where I am?" I am hearing pastors say: "We suspended church for so long I think *some* of our people got comfortable and are not returning to church out of comfort." Be careful, do not let your valid excuse for staying home become your habit of staying home. And yet...others should understand if you are among the vulnerable population.

In closing this is an absolute opportunity for Christians to show the world that we can differ on a position and still be united in purpose: spread the good news of Jesus!

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

All those impacted by COVID19 – sick, in need of supplies, cooped up moms & dads, those without work

Cao (Tao) Quing and Tang Lee – trying to get back from China to home in The Links! Norma Willis, & Bill Fisher

Missionary of the Month: Mike & Heather Slagle. Campus Crusade for Christ

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Norma Willis, Melvin & Mildred Burdette, Barb Pittenger, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

"This is my commandment. That ye love one another, as I have loved you"

(John 13:34)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Update: Our regular offerings (General Fund) have missed budget several times since we resumed in person worship – suspending worship to increase offerings is not a good idea!

Building Fund: This income has dropped even more than General Fund. Please be sure to make-up your offering of you have missed.

Presbyterian Partnership: They continue to worship weekly at the shelter house. Starting this week they are switching to 10:00 am. They could return to the school any time after July 5th.

Women's Missionary Fellowship: We're back! Join us at 10:30 am Monday, July 6th we would love to see some new faces!

Stay Connected: Don't forget to check out our website each day! www.franklinub.org