

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

www.franklinub.org

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Service 10:15 am

OCTOBER 2021

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

THE POSE QUARANTINE CHURCH AND A COMEBACK

The college football season is only a month old and already there have been some pretty amazing comebacks. Comebacks in the sports world are nothing new and in the grand scheme of things (especially from a heavenly view) are not really important. They can hold importance when a comeback helps keep a coach employed and food on his family's table!

The church across the world is in the greatest comeback challenge in more than 100 years: coming back from the total disruption of COVID-19. We are now in what Christian writer Thom Rainer says is, “The Post Quarantine Church Era.” I know I have written about this before and you may be as tired of hearing about it as I am, but due to the fact that recovery is far from over, I think comeback and recovery are worth mentioning again (and maybe this one final time).

COVID-19 had its positive side for the church. Before COVID, only 25% of churches were live streaming. After, 75% (and rising) are live streaming. Before COVID, Americans who attended church could only mentally grasp church as “a building we go to.” After COVID, many churches grasped the idea that church is a community of people with common biblical beliefs that support each other like family whose mission is to win, train, and send believers into the world. When not quarantined, this community of people happens to meet in a building on Sunday. Thanks to real teamwork Franklin Church did a fantastic job of “being the church” without a church building. I have often contemplated the thought: what if we continued the level of contact and care we had during the quarantine after quarantine. I think it would be revolutionary to where we are now.

For the remainder of this article, I want to list several challenges for Franklin Church and offer solutions. Something important to remember and to pray about: we are not alone in these challenges. Just two weeks ago, I learned that many churches in Michigan were never able to reopen until September of 2020 (no doubt their attendance was very down). Many churches that had three weekend services or more now have only one or two services. Multiple churches have had to reduce staff hours or completely eliminate positions. All of this being said, let's still believe, “With God all things are possible,” and let's no longer blame COVID for low attendance and low finances – let's face the challenges, re-engage, and move forward. Let us not make excuses; let us make disciples.

THE CHALLENGES AND THE ANSWERS

1. What to do with our building: see the building as a tool for outreach rather than a cocoon for members. Building use is almost at an all-time high at Franklin, but nothing is being done in regards to being a tool for outreach. Be less busy? By this I mean cut-down the amount of meetings that keep people busy (we're doing this well).
2. Reconnect with the community near us and around us. Near us means New Albany; around us means to tell our neighbors about Jesus and the church.

3. Any comeback attempt will fall flat without a resurgence of prayer. New prayer methods can be introduced. How about a prayer walk where we put a door hanger that just says, "We prayed for you today – Franklin Church." Every challenge brings with it opportunities to try new things. May God give us minds to think, hearts to pray, and feet to go!

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Tim Brown and Greg Jewett (FCA), Belinda Lee, Clarabell Harlan, Pastor Alan Hicks, Jeanne Teele Family, Penny Cloud

Missionary of the Month: Tim and Karmen Brown (FCA)

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Lorei Lees, Midge Gathers, and Trish Dolejs

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."
(Philippians 4:4-5)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, October 4th at 10:30AM: A new chapter begins for WMF, come and be a part of writing the future. Meeting at the home of Donna Clickenger: 6210 New Albany Road West.

New Women's Ministry Is Launched! Tamie McVay would like to thank all the women who attended the first meeting of Women's Ministry; it went great! Next meeting is Thursday, October 21st 11:00AM and 6:00 PM. Ask Tamie if you have any questions.

Missionary of the Month: Tim Brown, Central Ohio Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Tim along with his wife Karmen have been with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for 20 years. Tim's duties include summer sports camps that are highly evangelistic, mentoring programs, and overseeing lunchtime Bible studies at a couple of Central Ohio high schools.

Our General Fund Financial Report as of September 26th:

Amount Budgeted: \$90,285
Amount Received: \$70,376
Budget to Giving: (\$19,909)