

## WHY I AM ENCOURAGED ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Dear Friends:

The word encouraged has a few different meanings. The one I really like is, “A spirit of hope.” Those who have no spirit of hope are to be pitied and prayed for. Those who have no spirit of hope see little or no reason to keep going and they just give up. This is not the people of Franklin Church and because of that I am encouraged.

I have several reasons to be encouraged about our church. One reason is what happened last Sunday. The sermon was about serving God – using our spiritual gifts. At the close of the message people could volunteer to do several things around the church – using their spiritual gifts. The response was pretty good percentage-wise! A couple of people volunteered to work at Fruit of the Vine, a couple people volunteered to serve as a greeter (yes, we want to bring it back), and doing light yardwork was the #1 response. Good to know because right now lots of weeds need pulled.

I am encouraged about our church because we do not quit. Sure, COVID-19 impacted us greatly, but I do not know anyone in the church who has just given-up and said, “We can never grow again.” With God’s help, with spirit-filled people, and with sincere soul wrenching prayer, we will grow again. The first step is to pray until God’s visible blessing comes. More than church growth – we need church health. When we get church health, kingdom growth almost always happens and a by-product of that is initially church numerical growth.

The third reason I am encouraged is that The Holy Spirit is still working in the church and through people. Just last week the daily Bible reading, the Sunday School lesson, and the sermon all had the theme of spiritual gifts in the same week. Coincidence? I don’t think so (thanks Kirk McVay for the discovery). The Holy Spirit is at work: prayers of health are being answered, prayers of direction are being answered. I am encouraged about Franklin Church, and I hope you are too.

In Christ’s Love,

*Pastor Mike*

Prayers: Pearl Ward (COVID recovery), Faye Cooper (Rehab in Dublin)

Events:

- Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>: Management Team Meeting
- Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6PM: Women’s Ministry
- Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>: Come prepared for Boy Scout popcorn sale after church. Pay when you order. The Boy Scouts will have some flavors available on the 25<sup>th</sup>. If the flavor you want is available, you can take it on the 25<sup>th</sup>. If the flavor your want is not in-stock, place your order on the 25<sup>th</sup> and the popcorn will be delivered to the church at a later date.