

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

JUNE 2021

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

EZRA – NEHEMIAH: WELL WORTH READING

If you asked most Christians what their top 12 books of the Bible were, Ezra and Nehemiah would probably not make the list. Most would name books like Genesis, Exodus, Psalm, Daniel, the Gospels, or Romans; but Ezra – Nehemiah would not make the cut. I am not sure why, but one reason may be that they presume that because they are Old Testament books or because they only talk about rebuilding the Temple and the wall around Jerusalem the books are, well, just boring. They are anything but boring.

Ezra and Nehemiah were originally just one book. Ezra probably wrote both books. The time period runs from 605 B.C. – 444 B.C. and chronicles the challenge of the Jews returning to their homeland and rebuilding everything, especially the Temple (their church). Persia (Iran) ruled the then known world and unlike their predecessors they permitted and even encouraged their conquered people to return to their homeland.

Lessons abound in Ezra-Nehemiah for anyone who is trying to rebuild anything, or just wants a few lessons on human nature. As soon as the Jews' neighbors heard they were returning home they went the King of Persia. The neighbors said, “You’ve got to put a stop to this – they’re a bunch of rebels.” Lesson 1: when you try to improve your life, you will always have someone try to stop you. What did the king do? What too many politicians do... he caved under political pressure. NOT doing the right thing was more politically convenient than doing the right thing! Rebuilding the Temple stopped for 14 years, but when a new king came into power rebuilding was restarted. Lesson 2: Hang in there... often rebuilding takes more time than you expected! During the time of Ezra/Nehemiah the prophets Haggai and Zachariah were active among the Jews. During the rebuilding shut-down, the two prophets really began speaking-up and said: “It’s time to listen to God-get going.” In spite of neighbors who opposed them and a king who issued a cease-and-desist order on them, the Jews finally listened to God and got back to work. Sure, they had to wait on a new king who lifted the stop orders, but as soon as the order was lifted they went right to work. Lesson learned: if circumstances stop you but God is saying “Go forward” then put everything in place to rebuild and begin once the circumstances change.

I want to end this article on two really positive notes, and they are a confirmation of both Ezra and Nehemiah. First note: the rebuilding project would have never worked without a lot of prayer and some fasting. The challenge really drove the people to prayer. Question: Has Franklin Church been driven to pray like it should? Probably not. What about you and any rebuilding you need to do? Final thought: rebuilding united the Jewish people more than they had ever been since 1,000 B.C.! Think of how rebuilding can unite Franklin Church or how it can reunite you with family and friends.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Mike and Heather Slagle (CRU Missionaries), Dick Hickernell, Margaret Jewett, Belinda Lee, Lifewise Academy
Missionary of the Month: Milton & Erica Pacheco
Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees, Midge Gathers, and Trish Dolejs
Stay-Ins: All those regular attenders at home on Sunday!

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters..”(Psalm 24:1-2)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, June 4th at 7:00PM: We continue co-ministry together with New Albany Presbyterian Church. Be a part of this music filled service with a short sermon from one of the staff pastors too.

Saturday, June 5th – Time TBA: Spend an hour getting to know a few Presbyterian church members! Help spread playground mulch.

Saturday, June 26th 8:00AM to 3:00PM – Yard Sale Is Here: Come to the biggest yard sale you will attend this year: lots and lots and lots of good stuff. Surround sound cinema speakers (originally VERY expensive), furniture, decoration items, vacuum cleaner, expensive paintings offered way below value and more. Helpers needed for preparations on Thursday (24th) and Friday (25th) and to assist with the sale on Saturday (26th); please contact Tamie McVay.

Renovation Financial Goal: Help us reach the \$5,000 goal; we are almost there! So far the church has received \$4,717 of the \$5,000 amount needed to fully fund the present costs for our part of renovation.