

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

JULY 2021

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

CAN YOU DO THAT?

If you note the scripture of the month, Psalm 33:12a, it says: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” True verse, although it was a reference not to America but to Israel. Any nation that puts God first will experience absolute blessings from God. Our founding “citizens” did put God first. I am not talking about Washington or Jefferson or Franklin but about the small group that preceded them – the Pilgrims and the Puritans. Fleeing religious harassment bordering on persecution, they left England and Holland because they were being forced to follow the laws of the Church of England. King James, 1603-1625, told the Puritans to conform or get out of the land. They got out!

The Pilgrims made it clear that they were coming to America so they wrote the Mayflower Compact which said: “In the name of God...we go for the glory of God and for the advancement of the Christian faith.” All of this is good to know, but we find a very different America today, religiously speaking. Let’s talk about religious freedom and public schools...

Seven / Eight years ago a teacher in a kindergarten class gave the assignment: “Draw something that makes you happy.” It was around Easter so one little girl drew a picture of the resurrection. Her teacher hangs it up with all the other pictures. But when another teacher saw it she notified the principal, who notified the district office, which required that the picture come down. Long story short it took a lawyer for the school district (yes, California) to admit its error and apologize. A far different picture from our “original” founding fathers.

Unfortunately, many school districts afraid of legal action “just say no” to any religious signs, speech or activity related to religion. Usually, it is an overreaction. Past Presidents such as Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, as well as the Supreme Court have religiously defended the freedom of religion within the confines of a school setting. Let me share a few examples. Prayer is included in a high school graduation, is it legal? Absolutely, as long as that prayer is led by a student. In many rural school districts teachers or principals still who pray. Can a bible study be held during the day, during school? Yes, as long as students are not there on their classroom hour and it is not led by a school staff member. Tim Brown, me, and many others have done this in Columbus City Schools. Can a teacher respond to a student who asks the question: “What is your view regarding abortion?” Yes, the teacher can respond provided he/she answers it and “moves on” to other discussion. Last example: Can students leave the school grounds during the day to go somewhere for religious instruction? Yes, provided it is not during their academic class time and a teacher from the school is not doing the teaching.

Not only in schools but in many other situations we have a wide range of religious freedom. That’s one of the things that makes our country the best in the world. I am thankful for the 1600’s and our founding documents. I am just glad I did not live in the 1600’s. Otherwise, I couldn’t get in my car and drive to lunch, which I plan to do now that I am done writing!. See ya, happy 4th of July!

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: Tim and Karmen Brown – Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Jeanne Teele, Lorei Lees, Midge Gathers, and Trish Dolejs

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

*“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord”
(Psalm 33:12^a)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renovation Financial Goal: Praise God we exceeded the \$5,000 goal! Yard sale proceeds continued to move us beyond the goal. Many renovations are needed to the church, keep up you giving!

Yard Sale Thank You: Though it is a couple of days away a big thank you goes out to all those connected to the yard sale in any way. You may not read this until it is over but it was a big success.

Who Worships “Out Back”?: The first Sunday of July and August New Albany Presbyterian Church enjoys holding one united church service for their congregation. They begin at 10:00 AM and nearly fill the parking lot. They are making parking adjustments to keep people from parking the grass.
Suggestion: Get here early on the first Sunday.

Prophecies About Jesus – 9:00AM Sunday: Be here and learn about what Jesus said on the road to Emmaus. Led by Kirk McVay.