

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

JUNE 2022

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

WIN-TRAIN-SEND: IT'S TIME FOR A CHECK-UP

Once-a-year I go to our family doctor for a check-up. Something I probably wouldn't do except for the fact that an annual check-up reduces our health insurance (Chris has the policy in our family!). An annual check-up is a very good idea. Each year I preach a three-week sermon series (usually January) on our mission statement: To WIN people to Jesus, TRAIN believers in Jesus, and to SEND believers out to impact the world. I have 14 Christian books related to church “discovering and setting-up” a mission plan and 3 or 4 secular books on corporate mission setting. Over the years, I think Franklin has developed 4 or 5 mission statements and plans. Every pastor that I know says their church has a mission statement. Let me say it very clearly: I believe in, and I feel strongly that every church should have a mission statement. After reading the books over all the years and hearing multiple church mission statements, they are all within 12 inches of one thing: they are the Great Commission just worded differently. That's a good thing, that is the number one priority of the church: Make Disciples. In Greek, the only part of the Great Commission grammatically stated as an imperative command is: “make disciples” – not “go into all the world”, not “teaching and baptizing”, not even “therefore” (KJV). You see, when someone is discipled, going, teaching, and baptizing will follow.

Like I said earlier, I usually preach through and teach about our mission statement in January, but why not do a mid-year check-up? First, we would all agree just reciting our mission statement once every two months does not mean we are doing it. It does have some value – our current mission statement is the most well known we have ever had. So...at least most people know what our mission SHOULD be. Second, how do we grade-out on DOING our mission statement? There is no way I can know how many people are individually living-out the mission statement (I hope it's more than I think). As a church, collectively we do not grade-out so well. (God is the ultimate grader – not me.) We have done better in the past, even just a few years ago – particularly when it came to going; 18 people who packed meals for Haiti, 6-10 people who worked Fruit of the Vine food pantry, donating a whole SUV load of groceries for Thanksgiving meals. We were impacting the world. Great job! COVID shut-down those opportunities but now they are re-opened, we have not re-engaged.

What about the Winning and Training part of our mission statement? Franklin Church is not unique in this at all, most church's greatest weakness is active witnessing/outreach (Winning). Again, for two years holding outreach events wasn't going to happen due to COVID (2020-21). Two related comments: COVID should no longer stop us from these types of events. More importantly, we have to get past the mentality that “come to us events” grows a church. 86% of people begin attending a church because a friend or relative invited them. Instead of saying, “Come to our event”, we should develop a relationship with people and say, “Come to Jesus”. Winning people to Jesus is an individual responsibility.

Last review: Training Believers in Jesus. In other words...make disciples. How do you do that? Not enough room to explain. Brief information, this part of our mission statement should involve teaching and showing people how to live a Christian life (including how to Win people to Jesus). For the local church to benefit, training MUST also teach people their spiritual gifts and teach people to do ministry jobs in the church. We try to never “give someone a job” without explaining how to do it. We could get better at it. We could get better at doing our mission statement, for sure. A long journey is usually completed by incremental and often small steps.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Clarabell Harlan, Ukrainian Families, Fern & George Kidd, Diana Foreman, Jimmy Barnes, Cathy Cooley, Pastor Al Carter, Victims and Families from mass shootings in Uvalde and Buffalo

Missionary of the Month: Frank Yang and Steve Fish – Director and Assistant Director United Brethren Missions

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

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”
(Deuteronomy 6:5-7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Saturday, May 28th at 8:30AM: Spend an hour helping clean the picnic area and shelter house. Mulch spreading mainly needed. Light snow shovels provided (best for tossing mulch).

Thursday, June 16th at 6PM: Women's Ministry is back we're looking to add more ladies, projects ahead. Interested? See Tamie McVay.

ALL Church Work Day - Saturday, June 25th – 8:30AM-12:00PM: We do this annually. This covers the church inside and out. Some room cleaning/clearing may need done. Pizza can be provided by the church.

Hymn Sing – Sunday June 26th: Time TBA

Final 15x15 Report: Thank you to all who prayed and helped pay for the furnace replacement and blacktop repair; thus, helping the church surpass the goal of \$15,000 (and it was reached 2 weeks early). The blacktop is expected to be fixed in the next couple of weeks. Total Amount Received: \$15,230.

Office Volunteer Needed, Daytime Hours: If you have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word your help is much needed. Flexible hours, you pick!