

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 am

FEBRUARY 2023

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

GOD'S NOT DONE: LET'S BE A SCRAPPY CHURCH

GNFWMY. Do you recognize this acronym? In terms of history it is a relatively new phrase and stands for: God Is Not Finished With Me Yet. However, GNFWMY is as old as the Bible. Read the Psalms and you will see chapter after chapter of writers calling out to God asking for his help in their spiritual development. Move to the New Testament, Paul makes perhaps the clearest statement that God is not finished with him yet. Philippians 3:2 says, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me". Paul made a practice of spurring others on to spiritual growth. At the moment of conversion we are spiritual infants but after salvation God expects us to spiritually mature the rest of our lives. When we become a Christian it is just a spiritual beginning, he is not finished with us yet.

Now...let's apply this truth to Franklin Church. I want you to get excited about this fact: God is not finished with Franklin Church yet. If you don't mind I am going to shorten this to: God's not done yet! We can rebuild in all ways, we can be revived again, he can and wants to release his Spirit on us! This won't come easy, it won't come without a return to prayer but it will happen if we ask God for it. We are going to have to become a scrappy church. What is a scrappy church? A scrappy means there is no giving up easy, no quit in our vocabulary, and no room to sit back and take it easy; the status quo is not O.K.

A scrappy church has hope and I believe there is hope for Franklin Church. That's the good news. What's the tough news? (Notice I didn't say bad news). The tough news is that every current attender of Franklin Church must get involved beyond attending Sunday A.M. service. In 2023 we are going to do several things to rebuild the church. I hope the first priority will be prayer. When the church offers special prayer opportunities attenders need to show up! When there's a call to prayer, answer. We will likely do community service, outreach, maybe some special Sunday morning worship. Be here every week, make church the priority you used to make it.

A scrappy church does not spend it's time saying things like: "We can't compete with the big churches, we don't have money, we can't reach young people". A few weeks ago I was talking to a Christian friend who suggested some things our church should try. I said: "Those would be wonderful, but we don't have the funds." He told me: "Mike quit having a scarcity mindset, isn't God the ultimate provider?" Scrappy churches don't see what they are, they see what they can become. Scrappy churches go to people, they don't mostly say: "Come to us". Scrappy churches are welcoming churches, and scrappy churches close the back door. The #1 indicator that a church attender is on their way out is that the frequency of their attendance declines. Exiting the church can be curbed when the church has a plan to contact people as soon as their absences becomes more frequent. God would love to see our church be a scrappy church. How about you?

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Pastor Dan Kopp, Debbie Williams, Missy Dunaway, Anna Louise Beaver, Pat Twomey

Missionary of the Month: United Brethren Global - The Missions staff at our United Brethren headquarters.

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith (shut-in of the month), Melvin Burdette, Barb Pittenger, Midge Gathers, Trish Dolejs, Clarabell Harlan, and Margaret Jewett

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.
(Matthew 7:7-8)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 19th Building Fund Commitment Sunday: Each year we give the congregation the opportunity to participate in the ministry of the church by making a financial commitment. The commitment is only for 12 months. The Cub Scout, Boy Scouts, a women's Bible study, a Sunday School class, etc. all use rooms in the 2001 classroom/office addition. However, the annual mortgage cost is \$25,896. Therefore, each February we ask people to make a financial faith commitment to help pay down the mortgage debt. Please pray about your part in this very important need. We need a total amount committed of 25,896. You can give weekly, monthly, annually, whatever works best for you.

Chocolate Easter Eggs will be hatching again this year! Franklin Women's Ministry is excited to bring back this fun and delicious project. We will be taking orders in February. You can fill out the order form enclosed and mail into the church or you can send us an email at office@franklinub.org and include all your information, or you can call the church 614-855-1391 and leave us a message with your information.

If you are interested in helping with the project, we have a place for you!