

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

SEPTEMBER 2023

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

I WANT IT NOW!

Just a few days ago I had my annual heart check-up, on her way in the door the Nurse Practitioner quickly said: “Well, I’m glad to see you here today, you didn’t stand me up today.” I was not sure what to make of it at first. She did not say it in a mean way, not even really in a sarcastic way. She’s a nice lady but I couldn’t figure out what she meant, at least not for the first couple of minutes. Then it hit me...I was originally scheduled to see her two days earlier but because of the operation of my mother-in-law I had to reschedule. Well...I tried to call the number to cancel but they put me on hold (forever), so I just left my name and number on a recording to call me back. They never did. Thus, that’s why the Nurse Practitioner thought I stood her up. I do not like being put on hold.

A few weeks back I was in the church office, getting ready to leave, it was Friday night (pizza night), so I called Donato’s (1.5 miles away), and I was put on hold...until finally someone answered to take my order. No kidding, the person who took my order was 12,000 miles away, a call center in the Philippines. Let me see...I was put on hold first, then connected to someone in the Philippines. So, I called our local Donato’s 1.5 miles away, was routed 12,000 miles to order the pizza, then drove 1.5 miles to go pick it up. All because I was put on hold in New Albany.

Patience on the phone or in traffic is not my strong point. Patience is not the American way. We want every traffic light green, every driver in front of us to go faster, and our cash to come by ATM, it’s faster than waiting on a teller. We expect many things in our life to happen fast, what we shouldn’t expect though, is a fast way to spiritual maturity. It takes years for us to grow to adulthood and it takes a full season for fruit to mature and ripen. The same is true for the fruit of the Spirit in us and for Christlikeness to develop. It takes years for us to grow into spiritual maturity and the whole season of life to grow to full maturity. We might want it now, but it doesn’t happen that way.

We worry about how FAST we spiritually grow; God is concerned about how STRONG we spiritually grow. Becoming like Christ (maturing/discipling) is a process of conforming to Christ. We want a sermon, a podcast, a X (Twitter) tweet, a seminar to conform us to Christ. Fast conformity is not lasting conformity. Trials and temptations bring depth and depth is more important than breadth.

In closing let me share Colossians 2:6-7 with you: “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness”. Did you see the words “rooted and built up in him?” That implies stamina not speed, it implies patience too. I gotta go now, in a hurry to make a phone call so I can be put on hold (and grow my patience).

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Midge Gathers, Glenna Stanley, Cathy Cooley, Faye Cooper, Sue Sloan, Wildfire Victims

Missionaries of the Month: This month we are going to do something different, just as we did something different in August. This month we want to highlight not a specific missionary but a specific group of missionaries: Missionaries who serve among nations hostile and unaccepting of Christianity. People who live in countries that persecute and murder Christians. Remember missionaries in countries such as N. Korea (the world's most dangerous place to be a missionary and/or a Christian). If you live there and communicate with a Christian in S. Korea or China you may instantly be shot by authorities of the government. Other nations among the top 10 most dangerous include; China, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iran, Nigeria and more. I (Pastor Mike) have read personal accounts of missionaries in Somalia. If your child or spouse converts to Christianity and you are Muslim, if you turn them in you are financially rewarded very well. Betrayal accounts happen many times a year in Somalia.

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Melvin Burdette, Barb Pittenger, Midge Gathers, Trish Dolejs, Faye Cooper, Clarabell Harlan, and Margaret Jewett

Shut-In of the Month – Melvin Burdette: It doesn't seem like that long ago since we highlighted Melvin, but it has been a while. Melvin lives in New Albany at The Avalon Assisted Living and Memory Care. Melvin and his wife Mildred moved in several years ago. Mildred passed away and Melvin continues to live at The Avalon (located at 245 East Main St. New Albany). If you choose to drop in and see Melvin (he would enjoy that) you will find Melvin active and very much alert! He really enjoys joining in the activities of the day, especially cards. Melvin comes from a large family, and he grew up in Gahana. He is especially proud of the fact that he worked for nearly 40 years at Columbus Auto Parts.

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need a Ride? Do you enjoy reading our monthly newsletter but miss coming to church? Is transportation keeping you from worshiping with us on Sunday mornings? If so, we would like to help. Please contact the church at 614-855-3276 and leave a message.

Women's Ministry Meeting: Thurs., Sept. 21st – 6PM – Join us to grow in God, grow to know each other!

Women's Ministry Blanket Project: Women's Ministry is starting our 3rd year of blankets for foster children through My Very Own Blanket. We will happily accept donations of \$10 for each blanket and donate it in the donor's name.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast: Calling all men! A few months ago, a new ministry began; we kept it simple and self-descriptive: Men's Breakfast. The fourth Friday from 6:45 AM to 8 AM, men gather at Tim Horton's for coffee/breakfast and spiritual accountability. "What's God doing in your life?" Join us! Tim Horton's – 7400 Fodor Road, New Albany, OH. Questions? Contact Tom Dague

Sunday, September 24th Immediately After Church: State of the church congregational meeting. Come and be ready to learn more about your church; we are looking for suggestions for the present and the future.