

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

OCTOBER 2023

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

THE WAY OF THE HEART

(Connecting With God Through Solitude, Silence, and Prayer)

The condition of the heart is a serious matter. It is the number one cause of death in America and has been for many, many years. My heart doctor's office is at OSU Ross Heart Hospital. You know a medical problem is a big issue when they build an entire hospital just for one specific illness. When I became a patient there, I was amazed at the number of heart specialists there are. When you have a physical heart problem it can affect your whole body.

When you have a “spiritual” heart problem, your whole spiritual life is affected. Just as you can have many causes for physical heart disease, you can have many causes for spiritual heart disease and spiritual life disease has eternal consequences. I take two medicines to stay physically heart healthy. Can I share three medicines that will keep you (and me) spiritually heart healthy? Before sharing the three medicines, I briefly need to remind you why we see so much spiritually unhealthy hearts. Thomas Merton said it well, “Society has become a shipwreck from which each single individual has to swim for their life...passively accepting the tenants and values of society is purely and simply a disaster!” I have read enough of Merton to know that he is not advocating we all become monks and nuns, but that we all stop clutching onto the values of our society and stop clutching onto our earthly goods as if we can't live without them.

Having established the foundational cause of spiritual heart disease, let me share the three medicines to help avoid heart disease. First, solitude. Solitude is the furnace of transformation. Without solitude, we remain the victims of society and stay entangled in the illusion of self. Solitude is not so much a place (though a place is important) as it is a condition of the mind. Empty-out the “junk” of the world, fill it with cleansing of the Holy Spirit. Susannah Wesley, mother of 19 children, had a rule, “Don't bother mom when she goes into the corner of the kitchen and throws her apron over her head – she's meeting with God!” Even now as I write this, I am away from home, away from the office, and am in one of the two places I go to in Franklin County when I need solitude. Second medicine: silence. Solitude makes silence easier. The battle to get silence is to empty the mind of distractions and “to do lists”, but it is certainly also to stop talking. Forgive me for once again talking about my dear friend, Pastor Dan Kopp, again, but often when I was driving him to an appointment he would ask if we could have some time of silence (not an easy thing for two pastors who within the denomination have a reputation of talking). The best lesson I learned in the practice of silence is that we did not have to talk to communicate. Try extended silence with God, you will be surprised about how much he speaks. Third medicine: prayer. The life of the spirit needs to be guarded in us, the life of solitude, silence and prayer is the chief protector! Solitude and silence lead to a life of prayer, for out of the solitude and silence flows the direction of prayer by the Spirit. All of us would agree that prayer should be a priority in our life, but you know that knowing and doing are two different things. “One more” always gets in the way of prayer. One more phone call, one more text, one more e-mail, one more Facebook glance, etc. Please do not let the distractions of this world disconnect you from God. Intentionally practice solitude, silence, and prayer and God guarantees your spiritual health will be better!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

PRAYER NEEDS

Salvation for family members

Missionary of the Month – Pastor Michael Muwonge: This month we are featuring a foreign “Pastor of the Month”, Pastor Michael Muwonge. Pastor Michael is not part of our Faith Promise Mission plan, but we have given financial support. He has been to America 3-4 times and has visited 2 times, 2015 and 2022. He has 8 children; he and his wife named the last child (a boy) “Finally”, as in “We’re finally done having children.” Pastor Michael is a solo pastor in Uganda, and the church is small but does a huge amount of community ministry. Not unusual in many foreign countries, the church also serves as a homeless shelter. Islam is very prevalent in Uganda. Pastor Michael’s friend’s wife was killed in an attack inside their own home. Attacked because the friend and wife are Christian AND a pastor. Pray for Pastor Muwonge and his family as they face potential persecution, food shortage, and lack funds to send their children to school. Education is not free in Uganda!

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

Shut-In of the Month – Clarabell Harlan: Who doesn’t know Clarabell? There are a few things you may not have known...she met her husband on a blind date. Clarabell’s sister, Margie, had a date with a guy she knew. Her date was bringing along a friend (Donnie) who needed a date. So, Margie talked Clarabell into going and the rest is history. At that time, Donnie was in the Air Force at Lockbourne Air Force Base (Rickenbacker). After he finished his service, he and Clarabell got married. Soon after, they moved back home to Donnie’s family farm. He ran the farm for a while but didn’t like it so they moved back to Columbus where he had a long employment with Ohio Bell. Clarabell was a secretary at a trucking company for a few years until she became a secretary at Franklin United Brethren for nearly 47 years. Volunteering for 40 of those years, never wanted paid until the Board required that she be paid!

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:37-38

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need a Ride? Do you enjoy reading our monthly newsletter but miss coming to church? Is transportation keeping you from worshipping 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., Oct. 19th – 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: 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

Immediate Volunteers Needed: Nursery/Toddler Ministry, see Ruth Eller

5th Sunday Potluck: Sunday, October 29th after church