

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

MARCH 2024

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

BURNING HEARTS

It was only a seven-mile journey, but it may as well have been an eternity. The road to Emmaus, seven miles northwest of Jerusalem. A cow-town really, Emmaus was to Jerusalem like Croton is to Columbus (please Croton fans don't flog me, I used to golf at the Croton Country Club all the time - a golf course made from a farmer's field, I often looked for cow patties). Croton may have a population of 100.

Anyway ... back to Emmaus. Luke 24:3-35 tells us two followers of Jesus were walking the journey to Emmaus from Jerusalem on the day of the resurrection. From the text it is clear they had heard about the resurrection but did not understand what they heard. As they were walking, they were reminiscing about their time with Christ. Their hopes, their dreams, and their plans. Luke 24:15-16 says that Jesus joined them, but they were kept from recognizing him at first. Luke 24:18 says that they were, "downcast." They felt worse than I did when I missed a 3-foot putt at the Croton Country Club.

Knowing that his two followers' hearts were going the same path that the road took (downhill, Emmaus to Jerusalem) he began to cheer them up. He reviewed the scriptures with them; he reminded them about the hope and promise of the resurrection. Fast forward with me to Luke 24:27, it says he explained to them what all the scriptures said concerning himself. Moving on ... Luke 24:30-31, while eating a late supper with Jesus "their eyes were opened." Unfortunately for them verse 31 says Jesus immediately disappeared from their sight. But believe me; he didn't disappear from their minds.

Catch verse 32, it is the turning point of their lives, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us ... " They recognized his words before they recognized his face. Their hearts were touched but their minds couldn't grasp a resurrection. Maybe you can't grasp the fullness of the resurrection, but I hope His words grab your heart this Easter. A walk with Jesus should produce a burning heart just as it did for the followers on the road to Emmaus. I hope and pray your heart yearns and burns for Him!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

Luke 24:1-6a

PRAYER NEEDS

Jon Martindale, Cathy Cooley, Steve Derwent (our new Music Director), Pastor Michael Muwonge (death of his father), Donna Clickenger (shut-in of the month), Ukrainian/Russian War and Israel/Hamas War

Missionary of the Month – Pastor Michael Muwonge: This month instead of sharing the story of an American missionary (be it locally or internationally), we are going to learn about a missionary/pastor in Uganda. Most of you know him: Pastor Michael Muwonge. Pastor Muwonge pastors a church in Kampala, Uganda. He and his wife have eight children, and as you can imagine, they range quite a bit in age. Their oldest child is in their 20s and the youngest is around 8 years old. By the way, their 8th child's name is Finally! Pastor Michael has been a pastor for many years and though his church is small, as most churches in Uganda are, members are very Spirit-filled. They also serve a lot of people in their community. They share their love for Christ and their love for people. People who are homeless use the church for temporary housing, and the church often sets up a feeding station to feed the hungry. During the 2020 COVID outbreak, Franklin Church raised the money to buy a motorbike for Pastor Michael. He bought the motorbike, then he and his members began daily food distribution from village to village. Though Christians are always under threat to radical Muslims in Uganda, Pastor Michael and his family boldly stand-up and proclaim the gospel. Pray deeply for the Muwonge family; they know pastor's family members who have been killed by Muslims. Pray for protection and peace for Pastor Michael's family.

Shut-Ins: Helen Smith, Barb Pittenger, Trish Dolejs, Faye Cooper, Betty McCombs, Clarabell Harlan, Margaret Jewett, Bonnie Boone, and Donna Clickenger

Shut-in of the Month – Donna Clickenger: Donna has become a shut-in since the February newsletter. Due to a broken vertebrae and weakness in her legs, Donna had to move into Country View Nursing Home just east of Sunbury. It is expected and hopeful that Donna will recover enough to do some limited walking with a walker and will be able to visit us at church, occasionally. Donna has two daughters: Brenda Barnes/Clickenger and Nancy Kopp. Donna has three living grandchildren (granddaughter, Melissa, died in an auto accident). She also has six great-grandchildren. Donna was married to Lee Clickenger and lived in New Albany, on State Route 605 almost all their married life. Donna served in many capacities at Franklin Church: Assistant Deacon, Deacon, Church Board Member, Women's Missionary Fellowship, Women's Fellowship, Women's Ministry, etc. Famous for having very large hands she could mix the Easter eggs 2 bowls-full at once! Donna can be reached at: Country View of Sunbury, 14961 N. Old 3C – Room 133, Sunbury, Ohio 43074.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wars and Rumors of Wars Ends March 3rd: The final class is March 3rd at 6:30PM. Come out this night even if you have never attended a previous one! Topic: The Return of Christ and Israel's Connection! Join us for this final evening and prayer party.

Scout Sunday, A Great Success! On February 11th, we had the largest scout turnout in at least 15 years (no exaggeration). What made a big difference this year is the fact that in 2023 we became the Charter Organization of the New Albany Cub Scouts pack 150. Since the early 1960s, we have been the Charter Organization of Boy Scout Troup 450. We are now the only church in New Albany to Charter both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. I've had people ask, "What does being the Charter Organization mean?" – Everything, really. While we have no intention or value in micromanaging the scouts, all their leaders must be approved by the Church's Charter Organization representatives. If the troops would ever desire to adopt policies that are contradictory to the Bible, either their policy would have to change, or they would have to find another organization to represent them. We have a great relationship with the scouts; they want to help our church grow; they want to be used by us. They are raising several thousand dollars to repair/revamp the shelter house. Praise God for Pack 150 and Troop 450!

March 3rd AM Service – It is CELEBRATION SUNDAY! Lots of praise and thanks as we celebrate the victory of exceeding our Building Fund goal of \$29,204 and the Shelter House goal of \$1,000.