

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road

New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

FEBRUARY 2025

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

42 YEARS OF LESSONS LEARNED

As the curtain closed on 2024, I was at the 42.5-year mark of pastoral ministry for Chris and me. She's been a trooper for sure. We were married when I began my senior year of college and she made it through the seminary years with me, she became a wiser student of Greek language. There is a lot of memorizing in Greek or Hebrew classes, so I used her to do flash cards. In those years she wondered if I married her just to pass my classes. (My grades did improve after we got married!) Anyway...that was 44.4 years ago in a 2-room apartment (3 counting the bathroom) at a whopping \$135 per month in Huntington, Indiana. Why do I tell you all of this? Because, as a young couple I (we) had no idea about what it really meant to be a pastor and the wife of a pastor. I hope I'm a little wiser now. I have learned a few things, and just for fun I want to pass on a few lessons I have learned over the years.

Lesson One: People are people, and the "church" isn't perfect. Scripture confirms that people are sinners and since people are the church there will be no perfect church so - don't "shop" for the perfect church, you will never find it. **Lesson Two:** Christ IS the head of the local church and people are the church, not the building. Buildings are not sacred, people are. **Lesson Three:** In a way, I pastor the same people at Franklin Church in 2025 as I did in Monroe, Indiana, in 1982! Now mind you...in 1982 Monroe and New Albany were both very much the same size, but today, no comparison. Monroe only has about 200 more people today than in 1989, and you know the story of New Albany. But personalities are personalities...names just change (this is not a bad observation, just reality). **Lesson Four:** The people's gifts and talents are under-used in the church and the pastor's gifts and talents are over-used. People tend to expect too much from the pastor and the pastor tends to not delegate what he should. In seminary they had a one-week lesson on delegation, it should have been a semester long class! This delegation dilemma stunts people's growth and hurts pastor's families (because he doesn't delegate well). **Lesson Five:** Pastors are educated in seminary, but the seminary rarely educates a student on how to really pastor. For instance, pastors don't learn church code words in seminary. Here's the real story. "Pastor, we want our church to grow." Code words: "We want our church to grow as long as you don't make us move where we sit, change our music, change any order of the service, or suggest my favorite program be dropped." Another example: "Pastor, we want you to do some visiting." Code words: "Pastor, we want you to do all the visiting." Example: "Don't mess with the kitchen or the kitchen ladies." Code words: "Don't even think about messing with the kitchen or kitchen ladies." **Lesson Six:** If a pastor sees a seminar or conference on "How To Grow Your Church". RUN AWAY! Well, not really. Just know this: take-home usable principles but whatever you do...don't copy someone else's church. Be the church God wants "your" church to be! **Lesson Seven:** I pastor the greatest church in the world. I really believe that. The people at Franklin are loving, caring, spiritually gifted, talented, and sacrificial. What more could a pastor ask for? Of course, when I pastored in Monroe, I thought I had the greatest church in the world then. Every pastor should think his church is the greatest church in the world. I believe the pastor will work harder if he does see his church like that.

There you have it, 7 lessons I've learned in 42 years of pastoring. And I'm still learning!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-13

PRAYER NEEDS

Dick Fisher (heart recovery), Chris Burns (thyroid & lymph node problems), Rev. Les Smith (kidney and liver illness), Gabe Smith (cancer), Pam Hall (diabetes), Bob Bieber (back surgery recovery), Brenda Carpenter (waiting for heart valve replacement)

Missionary of the Month – Tim and Karmen Brown – Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA): Tim and Karmen have served with FCA for 25 years. They are probably the best-known missionaries with which Franklin Church has had a connection with. Perhaps we know them best among the church's mission's connection because they serve Central Ohio exclusively. Tim is on the FCA staff, though Karmen is not officially on staff, she has served right beside Tim for all 25 years he has been on the staff. Together they conduct FCA summer sports camps. During the school year Tim coordinates student Bible studies at a couple Columbus City Schools. He also shares his faith with the OSU football team a couple of times each season just minutes before gametime. In addition to all of this he now has a weekly podcast called: "Be a Baller" some of his guests have included notable people such as former OSU football coach and Youngstown State President Jim Tressel (the two are good friends), CBS sportscaster Clark Kellogg, OSU basketball analyst Ronnie Stokes, and multiple religious leaders and business executives across the U.S. Tim and Karmen have 3 children: Tim Jr., (Assistant Director of Player Personnel NBA Indianapolis Pacers), Karmel (girls college basketball coach), and Nathan (CPA).

Shut-Ins: Barb Pittenger, Trish Dolejs, Faye Cooper, Betty McCombs, Clarabell Harlan, Bonnie Boone, and Mavis Baker

Shut-in of the Month – Bonnie Boone: Bonnie is a member of the church and attended 15+ years until her health has made that impossible. She was able to live in Assisted Living for 2 years, then just about 6 months ago she had to move into the dementia unit at Smith Mill Health Campus, 7320 Smith Mill Road in New Albany. When Bonnie was able to attend, she enjoyed helping out where she could. She especially enjoyed the Easter Egg project. Bonnie has an identical twin sister and the two look so much alike I (pastor Mike) couldn't even tell them apart sometimes!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, February 2, Worship Service: It's reported that we could have as many as 40 Cub & Boy Scouts! Prepare to welcome them and give them grace!

Sunday February 2, After Church: AN ALL IMPORTANT ALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. We will have discussion about what the future may hold for our church and good news!

February 7, 10:30 AM: Outreach Team meeting

February 9, Morning Service: With God's help we did it last year, and with His help we can do it again! This is our annual Building Fund Commitment Sunday. Please start praying about your participation now. Equal giving is not expected but equal sacrifice is. Our goal, meet the annual building fund need: \$29,204. We are not a large church, but we are a giving church.

February 11, 7:00 PM: Management Team meeting

February 28, 6:45 AM: Men's Breakfast, Tim Horton's Fodor Rd.

Game Night....MAYBE coming late February, early March. Stay tuned for more info!

Women's Ministry: Winter Break, stay tuned!