

THE MESSENGER

Franklin United Brethren Church

7171 Central College Road
New Albany, OH 43054

WWW.FRANKLINUB.ORG

Sunday Service 10:15 AM

JULY 2024

“WIN – TRAIN – SEND”

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUAL CITIZENSHIP

As we approach this July 4th think about this: “What does it mean to be an American citizen? What does it mean to live in the land of the world’s only real superpower? (I know, that’s debatable but I believe it). It is not debatable that we are the world’s richest country with perhaps the world’s most diverse resources. Do you forget that just a few years ago we were the world’s leading oil producer? I haven’t “traveled the world” and don’t consider myself a world traveler at all but one thing from my travels I have discovered is that when I ask people if they could live anywhere in the world where would they live? The unanimous answer: “America”.

The things we take for granted: clean water, heating and air conditioning, access to medical care, a job, a car, a house, all of these are only a dream to half (yes, half) the people in the world. This July 4th, like every July 4th, thousands of people will take the oath of American citizenship. Some of them will become a sole U.S. citizen; some will retain their previous citizenship and become a U.S. citizen. This is known as dual citizenship.

If you are a Christian, you have dual citizenship! The Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:20 said this: “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ”. Most of you reading this are citizens of the U.S. by birth and if you are a Christian, you are a citizen of heaven! Dual citizenship.

What does this mean to me? First, it means my citizenship in heaven trumps my citizenship in the U.S. It also means that I must put a priority on the things that matter in heaven over the things of earth. I must “set my affections” on things above, not on things “below”.

I love my country – no doubt about it. But I love my Lord more than my President (no matter who it is). In 2010 I worked for the U.S. Census bureau (very part time) and as a temporary Federal Government Employee I had to take an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. However, if the Constitution or the laws of the land would prevent me from practicing my faith, hands down, my citizenship on earth takes 2nd place. I never hesitate to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and I’m not a fan of those who don’t. However (again), my allegiance to God is more important than to my country. The moral divide between heaven and earth (especially America) is growing wider and wider. I hope I don’t have to one day decide to let go of one to keep the other. But if I do, my Passport will no longer say: “Citizen of the United States of America”.

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Mike

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 3:20-21

PRAYER NEEDS

Margaret Jewett family, Rosie Farber, Rev. Bob Gentzel, Rev. Al Carter, Gabe Smith, Betty McComb (shut-in of the month), Peace in Israel and Ukraine, Someone you know who needs Jesus

Missionary of the Month – New Albany Food Pantry: Franklin Church contributes food to The New Albany Food Pantry. Some may not think of the food pantry as “missions” but we at Franklin Church should for a couple reasons. First of all, the food pantry is one of our “local missions”. Over the years Franklin Church has become very good at understanding missions is both “home and abroad”. New Albany food pantry is one of our “home” missions. We as a church collect food to make sure that people in our local community do not miss a meal.

The Food Pantry serves people in the New Albany School District and the whole 43054 zip code. If we are being honest, we may think: “New Albany, people miss a meal or may go hungry?”, this is a community where the average homes are in the \$700,000-\$800,000 and the average household income of near \$200,000. Sounds like the least likely place in Ohio where people would be hungry!

The zip code 43054 goes beyond the city of New Albany. It goes into Plain Township, edge of Westerville and Columbus. So yes, there is a need for a food pantry. New Albany food pantry is not like any other area pantry. They offer not only food but also...connect people to English Language programs, connect people to social service needs, offer Nutritious Food Programs and cooking education. Franklin Church continues to collect food weekly and we also have food drop-off on Sundays 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

Shut-in of the Month – Betty McCombs: Betty has been a member of Franklin Church for 40+ years. Betty was married to Pastor George McCombs, who passed away in 2019. Together they served the Lord faithfully in many capacities, including 6 years as Pastor and wife of Columbus First United Brethren Church. Before moving into Assisted Living Betty was deeply involved in church missions, women’s ministries, Bible Studies, Koinonia (a national spiritual retreat organization), and prayer. Betty was a true prayer warrior and continues to pray very much every day. Betty and George had 3 children. Jim (oldest) and his wife live in Tennessee, Georgia and her husband live in Pickerington/Canal Winchester, and Tammy and her husband live in Florida. Betty lives at The Bickford of Lancaster 1834 Countryside Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be A Part of a Great Blessing: On July 7th we will end a 2 week call for special support of Pastor Michael Muwonge family! On Sunday, June 23 we announced a special offering goal of \$500.00 for Pastor Michael. By the end of Sunday that goal was met, but we don’t have to stop there. Make your check payable to Franklin Church with memo: Pastor Michael. The church will then put all monies raised in a special account for Pastor Michael.

Great Workdays This Year: On Saturday, June 22 we had a “mini” workday. “Mini” because so much work was done on the grounds in May that the 22nd was just a touch-up with hedge trimming and weeding. The playground looks great for the community to use. The walking path is in good shape and literally used almost every day. Thank you to the over 15 different people who participated in the workdays.

July 9th 7:00 PM: Management Team meeting

July 11th 6:00 PM: Women’s Ministry- Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

July 26th 6:45 AM: Men’s Breakfast Tim Horton’s Fodor Rd

Children’s Ministry, Please Make It A Priority: We are very much in need of additional volunteers for ministering to children. Our greatest need right now is young children infant – 5 years old. You will be given guidance on what to do. Please see Ruth Eller. We say: “We need young people”, we show it by providing childcare!