PRESSING FORWARD TOGETHER

November 15, 2026
Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

Philippians 3:10–11 (NLT) (10) I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, (11) so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Philippians 3:12–16 (NLT) (12) I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. (13) No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, (14) I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. (15) Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. (16) But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

GOD IS A GOD WHO DESIRES CHANGE. HE DOES NOT WANT US TO BECOME SATISFIED OR STUCK WITH WHO WE ARE TODAY AND STOP GROWING AND MATURING.

Four Truths:

1) We know _____ of the Church.

Matthew 16:18 (NLT) (18) Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

Colossians 1:18 (NLT) (18) Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

THE CHURCH IS JESUS' CHURCH. IT WAS HIS IDEA. HE IS BUILDING IT. AND HE IS THE HEAD OF IT.

2) We know that Jesus wants His Church to _____ .

Ephesians 4:15–16 (NLT) (15) Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (16) He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Acts 2:47 (NLT) (47) all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

Acts 4:4 (NLT) (4) But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000.

3) We know Jesus wants us to be faithful to _____ for the Church.

Matthew 28:19–20 (NLT) (19) Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (20) Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We exist to GLORIFY GOD
by creating environments where people can
BEGIN a relationship with Jesus,
BECOME more like Jesus,
CONNECT with others who follow Jesus, and
SERVE OTHERS in Jesus' name.

4) We know Jesus wants us to address and remove _____ .

>> We see examples of this in Acts 6 and Acts 15

Acts 6:7 (NLT) (7) So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.

> **REMOVING BARRIERS NEVER MEANS CHANGING THE GOSPEL OR WHAT SCRIPTURE TEACHES. IT MEANS REMOVING THE OBSTACLES WE HAVE PUT IN THE WAY AND/OR THAT WE HAVE CONTROL OVER.**

Otterbein's History of Removing Facility-Related Barriers:

> 1957 - Purchased land on Park Street and construct Phase 1 of a new church building
> 1967-1968 - Completed Phase 2 with addition of 400-seat sanctuary and fellowship room
> 1990 - Added second worship service
> 1994-1995 - Purchased Keystone Ford building and renovate into Otterbein Ministry Center/Parking
> 1998 - Added third worship service
> 2000 - Purchased Star Electric building and renovate into youth ministry building
> 2004 - Purchased 50 acres of land on Welty Road with the goal of future church relocation
> 2008 - Constructed Sprung building (white tent-like building) for growing youth ministry
> 2018 - Renovated Otterbein Ministry Center into new Worship Center, and children's classrooms
> 2019 - Constructed Otterbein Community Center on the Welty Road property
> 2023 - Constructed OC Groups addition for growing children's ministry

For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on our website at **www.otterbeinchurch.org**.