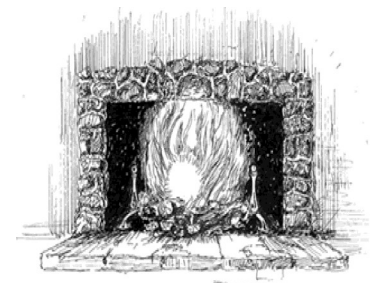


The Spark



The Days of our Lives

The time from August thru October has generally been my favorite time of the year. I suppose it is because it contains two of my favorite activities (football games and marching band shows).

It is also a time of transition from warmer to colder temperatures, and from one focus to another focus. Through all the changes that happen over the next three months, we can see the things that remain the same and the things that change with the seasons.

In many ways, this is what our lives may be like as we walk through the path we are called to walk. Sometimes, the path is easy and the burden is light, but we also walk through times when it is all we can do to just take each new step and try to stay on our feet.

God has given us his promise that He does not leave us or forsake us, and quite honestly, He keeps his promises even when He would have every right to not do so. In this sense, we do not

receive what we deserve but instead we receive grace, and a sense of Hope (with a capital "H") because of his great love for us. Our Hope is in Christ and in Christ alone.

God Bless you, and thank you for being a part of the family of First Union Church.

As a church family, pray for one another and let's keep our eyes on Jesus. He is our great shepherd, and until he comes again or calls us into his presence, he is with us all the days of our lives.



Pastor Jim Huber

**August
2023**

**First
Union
Church**

Contents

- The Days of our Lives
- A Matter of Prayer
- How About You?
- Just off the Highway
- The Recipe Box
- To your Health...
- Wisps from Willow
- Board Highlights



A Matter of Prayer...

First Union Church...we care about people so we pray for people...

Please pray for the following people on our prayer list...

Gillian Bickham's mom. She lives in Wales. She is ill, and **Gillian** has gone to Wales to see her. Pray for her mom's health & safe travel for **Gillian**.

Pat Anshutz's daughter has cancer, is taking treatment for it and needs our prayers for a full recovery & remission

Jack Hays for his lung condition & other health issues, & his sister **Victoria Gulder** who has cancer and needs prayers for treatment decisions for recovery

Eunice Newville, keep praying that she keeps her kidney failure under control

Pray for **Mike Sweeney's** COPD, it's hard to breathe in hot, muggy weather...let alone Canada's smoke drifting south

We are praying that **Paul Kuiper** is feeling better every day

Please pray that **Greg Wagner** continues on the mend from his knee surgery, infection and clots

Victoria Gulder's bro-in-law, **Emanuelle**, needs continued prayer for his on-going kidney issues

Keep praying for **Everett McConkey**, Janette Reaud's Brother who has brain cancer

Praise that **Candy Perkins** is home and doing quite well, on the flip side, continued prayer is needed...

Holly Perkins twin sister, **Heather**, is having serious heart issues. Please send up some prayers for healing for Heather

Please pray for the memory issues that **Terri Huber's** mom, **Ida Hetherington**, is experiencing

Pray for **Lonny Newton**, kidney stones

Please pray for **Martha Tassier**, who fell and broke her hip. She was recovering in a rehab facility, but she is in Freighter's in the Soo now

Beverly Vandergeest

We lost our dear friend, **Bev Vandergeest**, recently to cancer. **Bev & Marty** have been faithful church-goers for as long as I can remember, over 50+ years. A group of us were married around the same time, had kids similar ages, and we sang in the Union Church Choir for many years together. So that's what I remember the most about her.

She had a beautiful voice and was a beautiful gal, inside and out. So RIP **Bev** in glory, until we meet again!

Church Nursery

Our nursery for babies has been updated, refurbished, painted a cheerful bright yellow and is fitted out with a TV that moms can watch the service while rocking their babies & toddlers. It is available for anyone to use, and hopefully will be staffed on Sundays in the future.

How About You?

We just got back from the big Davis Family Reunion. I am the second oldest of the gang of 30+.

About half of us are connected closely with the church in the communities from which we live. The entire group prayed at the beginning of our meals and there were a few discussions about what we were doing back home with our church activities. It was clear to me that at the 3rd generation level there was a definite lack of appreciation of the positive influence that faith could have on their children. As one of the elders, I need to encourage this tradition in our family.

Our group came from as far east as Vermont and as far west as Washington so I am not sure how much influence I can have, but as I indicated, we can't let that youngest generation go without at least some effort on our part to trickle down a long tradition of Davis church going.

How about You? How far down your family line

does the 'faith' seem to lose its influence? Do you have some ideas that would help some of us bring encouragement to our families that show how the opportunities in church life can make a wholesome happy life? Send them to me because we have such a limited time to influence these kids. I am reminded of a comment made about the person who died and went to heaven. He asked Jesus, 'How come my friends were not there in Heaven?' Jesus' response was, 'Well, did you invite them?'

Mike Davis



Just Off the Highway...

After the reunion, our son-in-law, **Tom**, and I were dragged off by our wives to the famous Shipshewana Community.

Just over the border in Indiana, on Route 5, deep in the Amish country is this huge flea market. I had some homemade cookies, kettle corn, fresh bread and of course the Das Essenhaus Amish Peanut butter; made with dry roasted peanuts, marshmallow cream, vanilla and a bunch of other heavenly stuff.

There was, however, one draw back. **Tom and I** love lemon pie, but the Amish let the devil get into their recipe and it was terrible. Anyway, we did not have too much trouble filling my back pack at the various tool venders. The girls, well they had to make a couple trips to the car so they could go back and re-load their tote bags again.

We had a great time and if you're in the area,

especially if you have never been to this busy place, it is a great adventure.



The Recipe Box



Once a summer, every summer, Callie & I make a trip to Gaylord to my niece's summer home to spend the day. They have one of those summer homes on Otsego Lake where the sand comes right up to the front door. We picked the middle of July, thinking...should be a beautiful sunny day...NOT...so what do women do when they can't beach? They SHOP!! It was in the lo 60's, windy as all get out and cold! We couldn't swim in the cold wind but we sure could shop in it!!

Carrot Souffle'

Butter for greasing the 8 x 8" baking dish
1 lb carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
1 t kosher salt
4 oz (1 stick) unsalted butter
3 large eggs
1/2 cup sugar
3 T all-purpose flour
1 t baking powder
1 t vanilla extract

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Butter a 1 qt baking dish, (you can use an 8 x 8 baking dish which holds 2 quarts)

Cook carrots in a pan of water wit 1 t salt until very tender

While carrots are cooking, brown the butter in a large skillet over med-high heat...melt & continue cooking until butter is golden brown. Swirl pan constantly...about 1 & 1/2 minutes
Transfer butter to a bowl & cool slightly.

In a food processor or blender, puree carrots until smooth.

Add in the browned butter, eggs, sugar, flour, baking powder, vanilla & a pinch of salt.

Puree until smooth

Pour carrot mixture into the prepared dish, put in oven and bake for 40 minutes.

It will rise slightly over top of dish but notas dramatically as a true soufflé' Experct it to deflate shortly after removing from the oven

Serves 6

Pesto Tortellini Salad

Good served hot or cold

9 oz cheese tortellini, uncooked

1 medium zucchini cut in half lengthwise and sliced

1 cup grape tomatoes, cut in halves

1/3 cup mayonnaise

1/4 cup basil pesto (if you can't find basil pesto, I just add basil to a pesto)

1 garlic clove, minced

1/4 cup walnuts, chopped

1. Cook tortellini according to package directions, drain & rinse with cold water
2. Combine mayonnaise, pesto & garlic. Add the tortellini, zucchini, tomatoes & walnuts; mix gently
3. Can serve immediately or cover and refrigerate

Contributed by **Cass Moore**

Sue Rye



To Your Health...

Safe Sleep

Everyone loves the pure enjoyment of the smell and soft skin of a new baby and a future to anticipate for the newborn. So much to delight at the arrival of a newborn. A new baby is truly a blessing to all who are involved with the infant.

In caring for the baby, it is important that we keep them safe from harm. One area of responsibility is to reduce the risk of an infant becoming a victim of Sudden Infant Death (SIDS) or other sleep-related causes of infant death.

One way to prevent SIDS is to always place your baby on their back for all sleep times, including naps. When the a baby is on their back the air tube is on top of the food tube. If the baby were to spit up while sleeping on their back, the liquid will flow back into the stomach and not into the airway. If the baby is on their stomach and the food tube is on top and fluid from the stomach can pool at the opening to the airway, causing the airway to be blocked.

Dress your baby in light weight clothing such as a one piece sleeper or wearable blanket to keep the baby comfortable but not too hot.

All toys, soft objects, crib bumpers, and loose bedding do not belong in the crib with your baby to reduce the risk of the baby rolling close to something and block their airway. Only the baby should be in the crib.

Be sure you have an approved crib, bassinet or portable play area by going to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission website at www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education. The mattress should be tight fitting to prevent the baby's head from getting their nose covered by a loose fitting sheet.

Always place your baby in a safe crib when it is time to lay them down. A baby can share your room but not your bed. Do not place them on a

couch or on a chair alone. They need to be protected from getting their nose blocked by being too close to the cushions or loose pillows.

If you are feeding your baby while in bed, be sure to set the timer to wake you up in case you happen to fall asleep. Place the baby in their own safe sleep area.

In an effort to keep the air clean for the baby, keep you home a smoke free home. Second hand smoke is believed to be a factor in SIDS.

Be sure everyone who cares for your baby is aware of preventing SIDS and other sleep related causes of infant death. Your baby is a precious inheritance from God.

Everyone will have a good, safe night of sleep by maintaining a safe sleep environment for your baby.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth."

3 John 1



Betty Mitchell BSN

“Wisps from Willow”



I Never Knew This!!!

His mother was 40 years old when Jesse was born. Jesse grew up in a very rough home in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Jesse's father, who was mentally ill, was a violent man and was abusive to Jesse. At 13, his father died leaving his mother to take care of he and his brothers. At the time, things weren't easy for Jesse and he didn't think life held much hope for him.

While Jesse had his struggles, he had dreams too. He wanted to be a ventriloquist and he found books on ventriloquism. He practiced with sock puppets and saved his money until he could get a real ventriloquist dummy. When he was old enough, he joined the military. The military recognized his talents and placed him in the entertainment corp. He toured the western Pacific Islands as a comedian as part of a G.I. variety show called "Stars and Gripes." It was there he was able to share his talents with fellow soldiers.

In 1946, he was discharged with the rank of Technician Grade 5, which was the equivalent then of a Corporal. During his military service, Jesse was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (with 4 bronze service stars), Army Good Conduct Medal, Marksman Badge (with an M1 Carbine), and Honorable Service lapel pin.

Through his military service, Jesse gained confidence and found that he had a talent for making people laugh. In spite of his early struggles, Jesse became one of the best-loved characters of all time. For it was Jesse,...Jesse Don Knotts who brought us Barney Fife!

Greg Wagner



Archie Reno singing beautiful special music in a morning church service



David & Lily Knapp



Pastor Jim Huber

Board Highlights

First Union Church

Board Meeting Minute Highlights

July 24, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm and was opened with prayer (**Jim Huber**)

Attendance – Present: Dave St. Onge, Deb St. Onge, Mike Bolcer, Terry Moore, Stan Jack, Jim Huber, Rick Wilson, Marcia Perkins, Greg Wagner, Lynn Forrester

Minutes of the June 26 meeting were reviewed. Moved to approve (Terry **Moore** - second (**Marcia Perkins**)). Carried

Treasurer's Report – Greg Wagner

Our levels of giving have been truly amazing. We are so blessed. We are at 197k in giving year to date (11 months into the budget year). Our spending is (overall) well below budget. Missions have received almost 18k so far (3k over the budgeted figure). God is so good!

The proposed budget is balanced (projected revenue vs projected expenses). Details to come at the annual meeting. Rick Wilson discussed the proposal regarding various capital improvements projects being proposed for consideration in the new budget. Moved to approved treasurer's report by Mike **Bolcer**, second by Lynn Forrester. Carried.

Pastor's Report – Written report by **Jim Huber** was distributed.

Elder's Report – **Wayne Brood** has agreed to stay one more year, and **Mike Davis** is willing to fill the other opening for a partial term.

Deacon's Report – see written update on various “punch list” items (submitted by **Jim**). **Rick** will be the nominee for the deacon vacancy.

Interested in getting baptized? See **Pastor Jim**.

Christian Education – Sunday School resumes on Sept 10th.

Old Business – previously covered items

New Business: Committee reports for the printed Annual Report need to be turned in to Lynn ASAP.

Youth Programs - Sun Aug 13 is the next regional gathering for teens at Northwoods Camp (5:30pm meet here, sessions begins at 6pm, back here by 8pm)

Mission committee – **Chad Schlosser** will be here on Aug 20, and **Aimee** (from CareNet Pregnancy Services) will be here in October. There is discussion of adding to our level of support for those on our missions list. If approved, this is part of the new budget. this on Sept 10th at Cedar Bay (starting about 1:30pm).

Women's association – Sunday Aug 20 will be a breakfast at 9am (Chad Schlosser will be visiting that day). For the church picnic, it is proposed to have this on Sept 10th at Cedar Bay (starting about 1:30pm).

Youth Programs - Sun Aug 13 is the next regional gathering for teens at Northwoods Camp (5:30pm meet here, sessions begins at 6pm, back here by 8pm)

Old Business – previously covered items

New Business: Committee reports for the printed Annual Report need to be turned in to **Lynn** ASAP.

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday August 28 at 7pm (**Annual meeting is the 27th**)

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Huber

FIRST UNION CHURCH

179 East Hodeck Street

P.O. Box 426

Cedarville, MI 49719

EMAIL:

sparknewsletter@gmail.com



**EDITOR IN CHIEF:
THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**PUBLISHER/EDITOR
SUE RYE**

**PROOFREADER:
CASS MOORE**

**MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
LYNN FORRESTER**

**DISTRIBUTION:
BERRYHILL FAMILY**

**CONTRIBUTORS:
PASTOR JIM HUBER
MIKE DAVIS
SUE RYE
GREG WAGNER
JUNE DAVIS**

The Spark