

The Spark



Choosing our next Pastor

The task of selecting pastoral candidates, let alone the next pastor, is something worthy of enormous gravitas. As I've said to the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) and as Chris Brauns says in his book, *When The Word Leads Your Pastoral Search*, the work of the PSC will have an impact (whether good or bad) for the next 10 years of this church's life. For this reason, I cannot overstate the importance of praying for the PSC.

It is chaired by **Ken Drenth**. **Members include Sue Bowlby, Carole Pelttari, Marcia Perkins, Dustin Tassier, Mike Freely, and Victoria Gulder.** As the interim, I consult and advise. Please pray regularly for each of these people. Ask God to fill them with devotion and sensitivity to Himself so that each might be led according to His Divine desires for First Union.

It is my delight to know that the Women's Bible Study will be taking up the pastoral epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, & Philemon) for their next study. That couldn't be timelier since these brief letters are spot-on for defining a spiritually healthy church and spiritually healthy church leaders. Being the people of God is more than just being a religious institution or spiritual social club. Church is Christ's body, and He is the head. Furthermore, those who would shepherd God's people must be of a certain character before God considers them worthy of the task. Our view should be no different.

What constitutes an ideal pastoral candidate? The pastoral epistles certainly have some clear minimums. Please read those yourself and hear God's Word on the matter (and ladies, consider joining in the upcoming study for a deeper conversation). With biblical guidelines as a basis, there are other standards that must be recognized. For example, some obvious requirements are must speak English fluently, must not be a hospice patient, must be born again, must be at least 18 years old, must be willing to live in Cedarville, and so on. We consider such requirements *prima facie*.

Add to these the minimum requirements our

elders have determined. As the primary lay leaders, they are advising their own minimums. Some of these include relatable, authentic, lover/follower/preacher of the Word, community and outreach minded, and a team player able to lead without controlling.

Some of you might add a few of your own arbitrary requirements based on preferences or personal agendas. Some might build a must-have list based on qualities that resemble pastors you have loved.

Some might build a must-not-have list to avoid the inferior characteristics of pastors who have disappointed you. Some emphasize pet theologies, pet social issues, or might even want a litmus test—that secret deal breaker for an otherwise suitable candidate (i.e. No matter what, unless he's a deer hunter, "NO!")

Personally, I am drawn to pastors who are valiant. There are far too many namby-pamby clergy in the American church. Their magnetic north is insecurity, and their unspoken life motto is, "keep the peace at any cost." Sure, most are Christians, but they lack vision, commitment, determination, and savvy for navigating our broken world. Great pastors are not only valiant: they love truth. They do not shrink from challenges, will not blow smoke just to curry favor, and are not drawn into worldly distractions. They do not shill for a political viewpoint because they work for a kingdom that is not of this world. They would rather die than violate a well-studied biblical conviction and they measure success in spiritual terms.

Great pastors do not please people, they please God—and in doing so generally end up pleasing most people. I am drawn to leaders who are not only valiant, but cheerily so. This is the sort of pastor I aspire to be. What is important to you in a pastor? I would love to hear your thoughts.

Pastor
Jamey

February
2021

FIRST
UNION
CHURCH

Choosing next Pastor

Matter of Prayer, Spotlight's on...

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A Matter of Prayer

We are very serious about praying for our friends and families at First Union Church. If you have a particular request there are several ways to let us know: Use the Spark or church emails on the back page of this issue, or let the pastor know, or use the church prayer chain or ask for prayer during the church service congregational prayer.

Please continue to pray for:

Jim Mertaugh: in hospice & moving to Pennington House

Badour Family: on Bill's passing away

Marilyn Bickham: health issues & moving to assisted living

Loren Dingman: head injury from fall from chair

Paula Kaye: health issues (cancer & covid)

Lois Tassier: health issues

Norman Brood: recovery from accident

Kathi Frontjes, surgery recovery

Bob Smith: health issues

Tom Moore; health issues

Gary Bigelow: heart issues

Jeanne Hays; Homebound

Sammie's first place award for the Snowsfest Pin



The Spotlight's on...

Beverly Crenshaw, born and raised in Pickford, moved back to the Upper Peninsula in 2018. She lived in Sterling Heights, MI, and after her husband died in 2003, she moved to



Grand Haven, MI. After living there for 14 years, she decided to come north. She has 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. Her daughter **Jennifer** and husband **Ross Smelker** and children **Joshua & Lauren** live in Grand Haven, MI. Her

daughter **Victoria** and husband **Mark Harrison** & children **Ally & Michael "Mick"** live in New Jersey.

After **Bev** graduated from Pickford High School, she went on to, and graduated from, Western Michigan University with a Business Degree. She then worked in retail for 20 years. After that she became the Administrative Assistant at Utica Methodist Church for 18 Years. After she moved back up north, she went on the Pickford Museum Board as the secretary. She has many ties to Pickford.

Beverly had vacationed in Cedarville for many years, staying at Waterlawn Resort every summer until she bought her condo in Cedarville on Grove St. She knows lots of people here and loves to come to Union First Church.

WELCOME
BEVERLY!

How About You?

Did you know that there are researchers that say that you can tell what the temperature is outside by the sound the snow makes when you walk on it? A deep crunch in the snow as you walk means the temperature is just below freezing. When the sound raises, in your walk in the snow, or creaks higher, it is said to be about 23 degrees. If the sound of the snow almost hurts your ears because it is so high, in your walk, then the temperature is said to be near 5 degrees.

Sort of reminds me of our walk with Jesus... Things seem to go pretty "cool" when we walk in the way of truth. If our walk tends to lean away from truth, things tend to get "hotter" and more difficult. Even though it is cold outside, this is not the kind of heat that will soothe the soul.

How About You?... Do you hear and feel

the different sounds that your walk is taking when you are not following the way of truth? Even with your ears covered, on a plowed sidewalk, you can hear the different sounds of the snow. The Holy Spirit has a way of letting us know when our walk has the right sound too. When the walk is too hot, or too cold, it is probably best to take a moment to adjust our walk and get the sound of

peace and hope back in our step. Cheer up! It won't be long and your feet will be wet from the April (probably May) showers.



Just Off the Highway...

Just off highway 131 near Cadillac is Lake Mitchell. At the far western end there is a rustic campground called Hemlock Park. Here, near the boat launch, there is a natural cove of water. The local folks say that when a thin layer of ice is formed, you can hear a phenomenal echo. These echoes are said to last three to five seconds longer than other natural echoes. They say that when you shout into the cove, your voice will sound as if it is going in a circular motion like a race track. It will sound like a surround sound system on steroids. I have not experienced it yet but it is on my list!



The Recipe Box



When **Pastor Jamey** mentioned that his Sunday School lesson and the sermon happened to be on the same message this morning in church, I wanted to shout out...Hallmark would call that a *Godwink* moment...(But I didn't have the nerve to do it, however, I'm surprised Sammie didn't say it. She knows what a *Godwink* moment is from Sunday School!

Well it's winter and a time for soups. Here's a soup from **Bev Crenshaw**.

5 can Soup

1 can (14oz.) whole kernel corn

1 can diced tomatoes

1 can of black, kidney, pinto or great northern beans (your choice)

1 can mixed vegetables (Bev used a bag, about 8-10 oz.) of frozen vegetables)

1 can of Progressive Minestrone soup

Mix together and heat. It will be quite thick and Bev adds beef broth to thin it down some.

Crescent Pepperoni Roll-ups

375 degrees—cook 12 minutes

Crescent rolls, as many as you wish to make...

Pepperoni

String cheese, cut in half

Put 3 slices of pepperoni and 1/2 piece of cheese on each crescent triangle and roll up. Use parchment paper underneath.

You can change up the meat if you wish.

Sprinkle a little garlic salt or powder on top before baking.

From my next door neighbor, **Brian Moss**, is a recipe for peanut brittle made in the microwave. He says you need an 1100 watt microwave to make this recipe. His peanut brittle was delicious!

Microwave Peanut Brittle

1 cup sugar

1/2 cup light corn syrup

Mix together...

Microwave 4 minutes

Add 1-1/2 cups **raw** peanuts

Stir in and cook for 2-1/2 minutes

Add 1 t of butter and 1 t vanilla

Cook 1-1/2 minutes

Stir in 1 t baking soda

Pour peanut brittle on a parchment covered cookie sheet

Let cool for 30 minutes and enjoy!!

Ok, don't eat this next recipe, even though it has lemon in it.

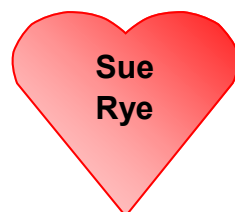
****This is for cleaning****

3 Ingredients to Clean Hard-water Scum

1. Fill 1/2 of a spray bottle with white vinegar
2. Add 1/4 cup lemon juice
3. Fill remaining majority of bottle with dish soap of your choice, preferably Dawn.
4. Shake bottle

Use solution on hard water stains, spray on liberally, let set 30 minutes and scrub away grime.

Dry and marvel at results.



To Your Health...Eyestrain

Our eyes are very important to us everyday in everything we do. It is important to keep our eyes healthy and have regular eye exams, even if you think your vision is good. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/eyestrain/symptoms-causes/syc-20372397?p=1>

Last year, more people were spending increasing hours looking at their computer screen either for work, school or computer games. As a result, eyestrain is becoming a frequent problem.

Eyestrain may be caused by activities other than using a computer. For instance, reading for long periods of time, driving a long distance, not having enough light for what you are doing, needing corrective lenses, being too close to a fan blowing on you for too long.

Some symptoms include dry eyes, blurry vision, headache, watery eyes and squinting. As annoying as eyestrain may be, it can often be relieved by any of the following:

- sit at least an arm's length away from whatever activity you are focusing on.
- reduce the glare that can occur on glass screens with a matte screen filter.
- adjust the brightness of your screen to match the lighting around your work area.
- take a break every 20 minutes to look at an object 20 feet away for 20 seconds, giving your eyes a break - referred to as the 20-20-20 rule.
- people tend to blink less when focusing on something for too long and causing eyes to feel dry. Have artificial tears available for lubricating your eyes when needed.
- replace contact lenses with eyeglasses on occasion to help reduce dry eye from occurring.
- sit an arm's length away from the screen.

Your eyes will, most likely, feel better once you are away from your computer screen for a while.

However, if you continue to have problems be sure to have an eye exam to check for potential problems with your eyes.

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/computer-usage> ;

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,"

Matthew 6:22



**Betty
Mitchell
RN**

Norm Perkins holds his
Deacon Emeritus award.



Board Highlights...Pastor Jamey

- **Greg Wagner & Del Jacob** met with Church Mutual Insurance rep to review policies.
- Discussion underway to review current marriage policy regarding same sex marriages.
- Bookkeeper status (**Deb St. Onge**) changed from 1099 to employee.
- Reviewed ministry agreement between pastor and **Gene Nutter** for her caregiving services.
- **Pastor Jamey** now officially employed at Cove as part-time on-call maintenance and able to visit members.
- Thursday worship services at the Cove are now underway.
- COVID-19 church response was reviewed again and will be put into writing.
- 8th – 12th grade dinner/study/hang-out every Thursday evening from 5 – 7:30 p.m. at the manse.
- “Cookie visits” have continued as Elders/Pastor check in on church families.
- Projector in sanctuary ceiling is repaired and reinstalled.
- Deacons looking to reinforce manse’s 2-story deck as retaining walls have shifted.
- Upper room flooring to be replaced and other minor manse repairs have been completed. Additional manse updates to be considered.

Ways to Show Kids you Care

1. Notice them
2. Smile a lot
3. Acknowledge them
4. Learn their names
5. Seek them out
6. Remember their birthdays
7. Ask them about themselves
8. Look in their eyes when you talk to them
9. Listen to them
10. Play with them
11. Read aloud together
12. Giggle together
13. Be nice
14. Say yes a lot
15. Tell them their feelings are okay

Pastor Jamey LOVES the little kids so don't hesitate to bring them along to church.

Charlotte
Izzard



A Quote FROM CHUCK COLSON'S BOOK

WHO SPEAKS FOR GOD?

In Chuck Colson's words....

A few years ago I was interviewed in Australia. The reporter asked, "You are an unusual person conquering the pinnacle of success, only to fall from the White House to prison. How do you account for your two lives? With only 20 seconds left, the answer came fast. My life stands for the teaching of Jesus. "Whoever wants to save his life must lose it for me. What good if you gain the world...and lose your own soul."

My questioner looked puzzled, but I knew that I'd spent the first 40 years of my life seeking the world. Now, by God's grace, I have lost my life to find it in Christ; and I have a burden to help others to do the same. Today, if we have much "religion" but fail to stand where the world is denying his Lordship, we err tragically.

All around us the culture is crumbling, and many announce the end of Christendom. Secularized people dominate most fields of endeavor, and the media, and Christian truth is excluded. I seek to examine the issues of life, and provide another point of view that God gives me. The following chapters point this up. May he urge others to do this, so our words and our lives make an open confession for Christ today, and to Jesus Christ be the glory.



Gene
Nutter

Teen Group Update

The teen Group is now meeting on Thursday nights.

Pastor Jamey is leading the kids into a bible study, they also eat dinner and play games. It's a fun night for the all. Anywhere from 4-8 kids have shown up and they would love to have more. Invite your friends!

Food is needed for these kids, so anyone will-

Happiness is....

- Being happy never goes out of style...**Lily Pulitzer**
- It isn't what you have or who you are or where you are or what you are doing that makes you happy. It is what you think about it. **Dale Carnegie**
- If you want to be happy, do not dwell in the past, do not worry about the future, focus on living fully in the present..**Roy T. Bennett**
- They say a person needs just 3 things to be truly happy in this world: Someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for. **Tom Bodett**
- Find the good. It's all around you. Find it, showcase it and you'll start believing in it...**Jesse Owens**
- Happiness depends upon ourselves...**Aristotle**
- Think of all the beauty still left all around you and be happy...**Anne Frank**
- Happiness is not a goal...it's a by-product of a life well-lived...**Eleanor Roosevelt**
- Happiness consists more in small conveniences or pleasures that occur every day, than in great pieces of good fortune that happen but seldom to a man in the course of his life...**Benjamin Franklin**
- Happiness is a warm puppy...**Charles Schultz**
- If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude...**Maya Angelou**

FIRST UNION CHURCH

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