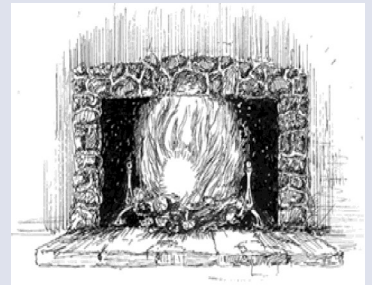


The Spark



What does the future hold?

You have heard me speak fairly frequently regarding our need to have faith for each new day and each new season. In this month's column, I want to again ask you to pay more attention to what God says and less attention to the messages we receive from the news, from social media, and even from friends and family members.

Throughout history, mankind has consistently made the choice to not follow what God has said. This started back in Genesis chapter 3 and it set in motion a series of events that led up to the great flood. In that event, God sovereignly chose eight people (as well as two of each creature) and he protected them and gave them a fresh start. They were still fallen sinners, but they saw the power of the promises of God. Since the days of the great flood, both history and the holy scriptures record the events of human civilizations throughout the world. They tell us of the times in which we can clearly see God's mighty hand in action, as well as those moments in which people asked "God, where are you"? As you read the news headlines of today, do not be tempted to question whether God is still with us. The creator of the universe does not leave - us even when he would have every right to do so. He did not

abandon Adam and Eve when they openly disobeyed God's clear instructions. He did not abandon David in all of his times of weakness. He did not abandon Abraham or Isaac or Jacob, and the reason he did not abandon them is not because of their own merit but because of his grace.

We are talking about the God who created everything by the very act of speaking it into existence, and this is the same one true God who came to the earth to take on human form to pay

the price that we could never pay. Having just completed the season of Lent and the observance of Holy Week, let us remember that God is greater than all the obstacles that man can put up against him.

He is with us during times of great debates within our society and our nation. He is with us during times of great division in our families and our communities.

And, He is with us always even unto the end of the age. God bless you and keep the faith because God is faithful .
Soli Deo Gloria.

Pastor Jim Huber

**April
Spark
2024**

**First
Union
Church**

- What does the Future Hold?
- Matter of Prayer
- How about You? Just off Highway
- The Recipe Board Highlights
- Wisps from Willow
- "Me & my dog"



A Matter of Prayer

“Prayer does change things, all kinds of things.
But the most important thing it changes is us. As we engage in this communion with God more deeply and come to know the One with whom we are speaking more intimately, that growing knowledge of God reveals to us all the more brilliantly who we are and our need to change in conformity to Him. Prayer changes us profoundly.” — R.C. Sproul

“The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.”
- Soren Kierkegaard (Danish theologian from the 19 th century)

“Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?”
— Corrie Ten Boom

We are praying for **Madge Berryhill's** very bad back, & for daughter **Lynn Forrester's** very bad back for relief from pain & healing...

Greg Wagner has hit a rough patch with many surgeries & recoveries. Continued prayer needed. Pam thanks everyone for their prayers.

Tom Bontrager is recovering well from his open-heart surgery...

Pray for **Tom Moore** who will have valve-replacement surgery soon

Fred Renaud still faces uncertainties with his brain tumors and surgery. We are glad to see him in church for Palm & Easter Sundays. He still waits for test results.

Mike Bolcer had foot surgery soon. Pray for good results and no pain.

Continued prayer for those grieving... **Marty Vandergeest & daughter Brenda & son Gene... Marilyn Sweeney, daughter Kara & son, David.**

Just got word that **Archie Reno** was transferred to Petoskey hospital with heart problems, hopefully by the time this spark comes out he'll be better *Update*: with stents put in he is doing well & actually did not have a heart attack. PTL.

Prayers for the **Reno family** grieving Kathy's dad's passing.

Please continue prayers for **Jack Hays**

Heather Wilson (Holly's sister),
broke her arm

Pray for **Berryhill's grandson** who is doing a 100 mile run in Birmingham, AL next weekend. Imagine !! **100** miles.
(Janaan-you're next!)

Prayers for **Cedar Cove** including **Gene Nutter, Audrey Fisher, Martha Tassier, Gerry Izzard, RW Smith, Sheila Murray, Judy Mclean, Yvonne McDonald**

Prayers for **Daniel & Solana Peterson** as they take on the leadership of the First Union Church Youth Group

On-going prayers for **Les Cheneaux Community Schools** & schools all over the country

Pray for **Dave & Rebecca Hopkins** and **Cedar Bay** Christian Camp for more money, more volunteer help, more wonderful weather & etc

Please pray for **Loren Dingman**, a former resident, who lives in Hastings, MI He has multiple health issues to deal with, prayers also for **Margaret**, his wife

PTL from **Del Newville** for a relative recovered from a horrible accident

Please pray that **Pastor Jim & Terri's** allergies subside soon,

How About You? ... Mike Davis

Commercial Jet Airliners need to go between 150 and 170 miles per hour to get enough lift to start flying, depending on the wind.

A small 2-4 seater airplane only needs about 60 miles per hour to begin it's lift off. How about the space shuttles that reached a velocity of over 17,000 miles per hour!

Every wonder how fast our spirit goes when we are on our way to Heaven?

We have to go by ourselves without much payload so it should not take too much thrust.

The important thing to remember is,..
Are all of your systems
(heart and mind) ready for launch

when the time comes? What a ride it should be, better than landing in Florida or the Caribbean in the winter from the cold north. I still have some "stuff" to do before my trip but just the same if my flight leaves early I will be ready... How About You?



Just Off the Highway...

I have always said that if Jesus used a bunch of ordinary people to be HIS Disciples and Apostles, then HE will or already has, called you for HIS work as well.

Well I got a bit of a shock a few months back. One of my professional colleagues, that I had not heard from in 35 years, is a Catholic Father, in St Petersburg, Florida. One of my ordinary buddies is a Catholic Priest! No way, not the Wayne C. Genereux, I knew. "Father Wayne" (I can't

believe it) is the pastor of the Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, just off 54th Avenue in St. Pete. Florida.

When I called his office to plan a reunion and asked for my old buddy "Wayne'cy" (Wayne C)

I was immediately corrected and informed of his official title. It was a great reunion and I continue to be amazed at how our God works. I just can't believe it, but I am trying.

The Recipe Box...Sue Rye



Hi Everyone! Happy Spring to all of you. I was surprised to see how many people were in church Palm Sunday, considering how many people had gone south.

I read about these shampoos that are forest-inspired in a woman's magazine recently. If your hair is brittle, (mine is) try a birch bark extract shampoo like Herbal Essence Birch bark extract shampoo. If your hair is shedding, (mine is) try Cedar wood Oil shampoo. If your hair is thin (mine is) try a Ginseng extract shampoo to regenerate growth. And good luck, LOL.

Taco Chili

- 2 # ground beef
- 1 can (15 oz) black beans
- 1 can (16 oz) kidney beans
- 1 can (15 oz) pinto beans
- 1 can (14 oz) hominy
- 1 can (10 oz) diced tomatoes & green chiles, Un-drained
- 1 can (8oz) tomato sauce
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix
- 1 envelope taco seasoning
- 1/2 t pepper
- 1 can chopped green chiles
- 2 cans(14oz each) diced tomatoes, un-drained
- Optional toppings: corn chips, sour cream, shredded cheddar cheese...
- Brown ground beef til no longer pink, 8-10 min. using slotted spoon, transfer beef to a 5 qt. slow cooker
- Rinse & drain beans & hominy, add to

cooker along with canned tomatoes & green chiles, tomato sauce, onion, dressing mix, seasoning mix & pepper. Puree the green chilies & remaining diced tomatoes in a covered blender until smooth, stir into the crockpot mixture.

- Cook, covered, on low for 6-8 hours. Serve with toppings if desired.
- Taco chili is freeze-able. To use; thaw partially in fridge overnight and then re-heat on stove, adding a little water if necessary.

Veggie Corn Muffins

- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 t baking powder
- 1/4 t salt
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 cup unsweetened almond milk
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 cup finely shredded carrot
- 1/2 cup finely chopped green pepper
- Preheat oven to 400* Coat 12 muffin cups with cooking spray
- Whisk together the cornmeal, flours, baking powder, & salt. In another bowl, whisk together the egg, milk, oil & honey. Add to cornmeal mixture stir just until moistened. Fold in in the vegetables. Fill prepared cups 2/3 full.
- Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean cook 12-15 min. cool in pan 5 min , then remove to a wire rack to cool. Serve warm.
- Muffins are freeze-able. To use; microwave on high up to 45 sec.

Board Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm and was opened with prayer by Pastor Jim
Attendance – Present: Daniel Peterson, Jeremy Bigelow, Stan Watkins, Dave St. Onge, Deb St. Onge, Marcia Perkins, Rick Wilson, Wayne Brood, Mike Bolcer.

Minutes of the 2/26/24 meeting were reviewed. Dave St. Onge moved, Deb St.

Onge second to accept

Treasurer's Report – Rick Wilson reported with documents presented.

Moved to accept treasurer's report, Marcia Perkins seconded, Jeremy Bigelow accepted.

Pastor's Report

written report reviewed and included.

Attendance 10% down in Feb, but much better in March (ranging from 100 to 137)

Next sermon series after Easter will be called the E-Team. Elijah, Elisha, Esther, et al). Excited about Daniel and Solana Peterson taking over youth program.

June sermon series will be on Galatians. Rob Torp will provide pulpit fill the week after Easter.

Archie Reno is in hospital. Heart tests are being completed.

Fred Renaud is still waiting on results of biopsy.

Elder's Report –

Approval of recommendation - new leaders for the Youth Group (personnel committee) Motion by Mike Bolcer to approve Peterson's as new youth coordinator at 10,000 per year.

This will be approved through this fiscal year, to be revisited for next fiscal year. Seconded by Stan Jack.

Accepted.

Deacon's Report –

Written and on file.

New church photo directory (July 17-20 with Universal Church Directories)

Carillon update

Cloverland electrical meters (2 to 1)

Replacement of Manse fireplace vs other options - gathering data for future decision

Installation of sanctuary flat screens - update on the process

Other items ...

Motion by Dave St. Onge seconded by Mike Bolcer to approve the installation of one electrical meter instead of two at a cost of \$2560.00. Accepted.

Mission committee –

No formal report submitted. Jim Roberts will speak to congregation in July.

Women's association –

Ladies banquet is April 27th (Sherry Huff is organizing, need set up crew) We need to set a date for spring clean up (interior and exterior)

Christian Education –

Nothing to report from Sue Rye, Christie O'hare and Terri Huber.

Youth Programs – written report

Old Business – none

New Business - none

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

The next scheduled board meeting:

Monday, April 22nd at 6:30

“Wisps from Willow” Greg Wagner



Greg is recuperating from several surgeries..

Please direct cards to :
19814 County Rd 20-south
Foley, AL 36535

me and my dog



**Pastor Jim Huber & his
sweet little dog,
"Pepper"**

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
BETTY MITCHELL**

The Spark