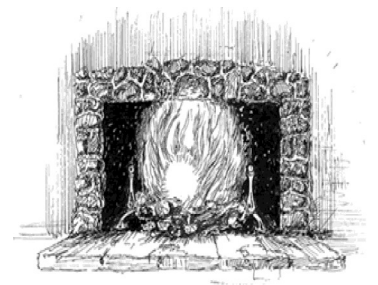


The Spark



Don't Give Up!

Has your life ever felt like a roller coaster ride? I have known days that have highs and lows, strange twists, and even a few "death-defying drops". For me, the worst part of the whole roller coaster experience is the reality that I have no control. Life has many points in which we just hang on and we may even find ourselves on the verge of giving up. Ever been there?

Today, I want to bring you some encouragement from God's word. There is great Hope when we are in those moments, and we can help each other if we know what the bible tells us.

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians is just one of many examples. Chapter 4, verses 4-9 states: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice, Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

These are words of great power and encouragement. The God who created all things cares for us and knows our struggles. Jesus (who is truly God and truly man) experienced those struggles himself during his 33 years here on Earth. His Holy Spirit is with us every day, serving as the "comforter" and "counselor". These verses from scripture tell us three things about who God is and what He is like.

First, these passages tell us that God can

save anyone. All over the world, people like you and I are transformed by God's saving grace through his only begotten son.

Second, anyone can become a follower of Jesus. Each of us have a unique calling, though many of us just don't know it yet. The Apostle Paul didn't know it either until he encountered the risen Christ, and that moment changed not only his life, but the future of countless lives ever since.

Finally, these verses tell us that no one is beyond hope. Paul was known as a persecutor of those who followed Jesus, but his life was dramatically changed after encountering the risen Christ. Sometimes, we can be fooled into thinking that our situation has no hope. When times seem at their very worst, we might even ask how can we trust God when we sometimes cannot see him? In moments like these, we must remember that Jesus said, blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed (John 20:29). Even in times when God seems silent, we can know that He is still with us. Yes, sometimes we do feel like we have lost our hope. This is why scripture reminds us to cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee (Psalm 55:22).

We have a God who loves us and wants to draw us closer to Him. Do not give up on Him, because He never gives up on us.

Pastor Jim

August 2022

- Don't Give Up
- Matter of Prayer
- How About You? Just Off the Highway..
- The Recipe Box
- To Your Health
- Christian Music
- Wisps from Willow
- VBS
- Board Highlights



A Matter of Prayer...

**Please continue to pray
for the following:**

Candy Perkins, for successful surgery for a brain bleed. She will return to rehab for more care

Jack Hays, will have 5 courses of radiation for lung cancer that has returned to his good lung, the first lung cancer resulted in removal of half of that lung. Pray the radiation works. **Jean Hays** son, **Victoria Gulder's** brother

Terry Baxter, went to be with the Lord, pray for wife, **Deb**, and his family at this time

Chase Ford, went to be with his Lord this week, after a long, courageous battle with brain cancer

Joyce VanderWerp, is in a sling for shoulder replacement, pray for smooth

Pat Feldhake's continued healing from her fall

Shirley Jewell, surgery recovery

Pray for our Nation and its leaders

Pray for our church and all its activities and groups and **Pastor Jim** and other leaders

Pray for all the residents of Cedar Cove

Pray for the Boat Show, on Aug 13, which supports
Our 2 museums

Thank You< **Dick Carr**, for
crafting this beautiful sign
for First Union Church



How About You?

I am a 'list guy'. Most of the time it is a simple 'to do list'. Some folks have shopping lists, honey-do lists, other lists for traveling, gardening meal preparation and the 'lists' go on and on.

I am from the old school, and most of my lists are made with pencil and paper. Except for my Wal-Mart list, that is on my phone. I don't use "devices" to make my lists. I used to use a palm pilot but that was really an ink pen I used to write in the palm of my hand when paper was not available. For me, it is good to have a short list of things to do. I like to check off jobs and then look at the list of the tasks I have accomplished. I feel good at the end of the day when I see several items checked off the list. In my other life, when I was a working professional, I had so many things on my list, I had to have help managing things with the help of an office manager/secretary. Even then, I kept a small personal list in my brief case on a little calendar. When things were really busy, I would see a little note that was not in my handwriting. It usually said, 'see wife!' We would laugh about that but we needed the gentle reminder of our priorities.

How About You?

Do you make lists either on paper or electronically? If you do, remember to add, 'talk to God' today and dedicate a little time in HIS service. I sure expect to regularly be on HIS list. It probably says, 'help Mike, AGAIN', 'open his eyes, AGAIN'. Maybe for you, and I hope for me sometimes, God says "Good job, Thanks for your help, Sincerely, your Heavenly Father". Did you ever notice that the word 'listen' has the word 'list' in it? Lists help us keep focused and prioritize what is most important. Hey, how about that, I can check off Spark Article for August!!

Mike Davis



Just Off the Highway...

Just off I-94 in Detroit, Michigan is the Jefferson North Assembly plant, one of the homes of the automaker Jeep. Toledo, Ohio and Belvedere, Illinois also manufacture Jeep vehicles. However the Jefferson Plant is the only manufacturer entirely in the city of Detroit.

Pastor Jim and I along with many other First Union folks have fun owning a Jeep. This past month Jeep was once again named the most patriotic auto maker brand. It has held the title for 20 years. The roots of the Jeep brand goes back to WWII. The distinction sets Jeep ahead of Disney in second, Amazon and Wal-Mart tied for third and Coca-Cola fourth. American Express and Ford are tied for fifth. **Pastor Jim and I** prefer the red models for now. Also Jeep donates \$250 to military charities for each one sold.



The Recipe Box

Hi Everyone, It's a beautiful day in the LCI. We are so fortunate to live here. Everything is busy around us but soon school will start down below and our summer people will fade out as softly as they faded in....

I have 4 favorite recipes of **Pastor Jim and Terri Huber**. I decided to put them all in this month. It'll make my job easier because I think they'll fit the space and I won't have to dream up any others, so thanks **Terri and Jim**, here we go...

This is one of Jim's favorite cold pasta salads. I usually add more of the ingredients to taste. (T.H.)

Tuna Macaroni Salad

16 oz elbow macaroni (or small pasta of your choice), cooked to al dente & cooled
2 teaspoons celery seeds
Sliced green onions to taste
3 cans tuna in water, well-drained
1 cup mayonnaise (I use Miracle Whip instead)
Kosher salt & ground black pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients well.
Serve immediately or refrigerate until you're ready to serve for up to a week.

Huber Family's Favorite Meatloaf (slow cooker recipe)

2 eggs, beaten
1/2 t ground sage
1/4 cup milk
2/3 cup dry breadcrumbs
1-1/2 pounds lean ground beef
2 cups grated onions
1/4 cup catsup
2 T brown sugar (I use dark)
1/2 T salt
1/4 cup favorite BBQ sauce (I blend two)
1/4 cup catsup
2 T brown sugar (I use dark)
1 t dry mustard
1/4 t grated nutmeg

In large bowl, combine eggs, milk, breadcrumbs, grated onion, salt, sage & meat. Mix well & shape

into 9"x 5" rectangle. Place in crock. Cover & cook on LOW for 5-6 hours. Combine catsup, BBQ sauce, brown sugar, dry mustard & nutmeg in small bowl (I use a measuring cup); pour over meat. Cover & cook 15 more minutes on HIGH.

Not Yo' Mama's Banana Pudding (Paula Deen recipe)

This one has been a big hit at our church potlucks. I use it at Christmastime, substituting the Christmas version of the Chessmen cookies.

1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
1 (12 oz) container of Cool Whip, thawed OR equal amount sweetened whipped cream
2 bags Pepperidge Farm Chessmen cookies
6-8 bananas, sliced
2 cups milk
1 (5 oz) box instant French vanilla pudding
1 (8 oz) package cream cheese, softened

Line the bottom of a 13"x 9"x 2" dish with one bag of cookies and layer bananas on the top.
In a bowl, combine the milk & pudding mix. Blend well, using a handheld electric mixer.
Using another bowl, combine the cream cheese and condensed milk together and mix until smooth. Fold the whipped topping into the cream cheese mixture. Add the cream cheese mixture to the pudding mixture and stir until well blended. Pour the mixture over the cookies and bananas. Cover with the remaining cookies. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Sorry Folks, the 4th one didn't fit, I'll put it in next month!

Sue Rye



To Your Health...

Life Saving Gifts

Have you considered how many lives may be impacted through someone's decision to donate their organs, eyes or tissue? Benefits of organ donation are numerous. They can not only add years of life while also improving their quality of life. Donated tissue such as tendons, skin and bones can restore mobility and hope for combat veterans, burn victims and those with damaged joints.

Everyone is a potential donor, no matter your age or medical condition. All organs, eyes or tissues may not be suitable for transplantation, but even one organ, eye or tissue gift can greatly affect an individual. The national United Network for Organ Sharing will make the decision on who receives your organs, eye or tissue depending on their medical information and tissue type matching.

There are nearly 107,000 people nationally who are on the national waiting list. Many die each day waiting for an available organ. Once you decide you want to be an organ donor you will need to register with the Michigan Organ Donor registry at giftoflifemichigan.org. Be sure to talk to your family to let them know of your decision and that you are registered as a donor. Making the decision prior to the time you may become critically ill will ease the burden on your family about making the right decision for you. Once you register, you will receive a drivers license with a red heart on it to indicate to first responders your decision to be a donor. There is no cost to you in being a donor or to your family or estate. It does not impact the medical care you will receive at the end of life. The medical team will do everything possible to save your life.

In order to have your organs qualify for donation, is to protect your own health by maintaining a healthy blood pressure, exercise regularly, eat a healthy diet and have an annual physical.

Through your thoughtful decision to donate, up to 75 people may receive significant benefit making their lives better.

The website shown below will be able to answer your questions and give you more information as you consider donating your organs, eyes or tissue.

Source: giftoflifemichigan.org

"I tell you this, brethren: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable."

1 Corinthians 15:50



Betty Mitchell BSN

Christian Music, thinking outside the box

A Mighty Fortress is our God for our hymn of the month. The words and music were written by Martin Luther between 1527-1529, during the dark days of the Reformation when enemies of the gospel were strongest. Among the Protestants, it has been called "The Battle Hymn of the Reformation". (Reformers were first called Protestants). This hymnody contains the most important message in the world...God is always near; HE is our strength and our refuge...always.

A Mighty Fortress is our God by Martin Luther

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper, HE, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work his woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing'
Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of

God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is HE.

Lord Sabaoth HIS name, from age to age the same, and HE must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,

We will not fear, for God hath willed HIS truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;

his rage we can endure, for lo! His doom is sure, one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth.

The SPIRIT and the gifts are ours through HIM who with us sideth;

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also, the body they may kill;

God's truth abideth still, HIS kingdom is forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

June Davis



Wisps from Willow...Greg Wagner

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense," said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery, there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will

take care of us."

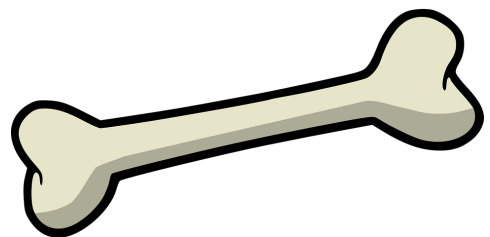
The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her, this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

Maybe this was one of the best explanations of the concept of GOD.





V B S



Board Highlights

Meeting was called to order And opening prayer by **Dave St. Onge**
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 27, 2022, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: June financial reports were reviewed by **Greg Wagner**, approved. Budget for next fiscal year reviewed, still working on a few details.

Committee Reports:

Pastor's Report: Report by **Pastor Jim. Jon Stonecipher** will be drafting some behavior guidelines and educational targets for youth activities, before school restarts. Participation in/hosting a community Thanksgiving service is being discussed among the local churches.

Elder's Report:

Elder meetings continue with **Pastor Jim**. We will need one Elder and one Deacon beginning the next four-year term in September 2022. And need one Deacon for two years, to complete **Josiah Gulder's** term. Elders are contacting prospects for Elder and Deacons.

Deacon's Report: **Del** contacted Culligan out of Rogers City about water problems. The water softener in the manse was retested and it is working, but it is old. Motion was made to obtain a reverse osmosis system from Culligan and was Approved. **Del** is still finishing various small tasks at the manse. Willet Hauser is planning to fix window, probably mid-September.

Women's Association: Church picnic on August 7 at Heritage Park. Bill Scoble will be chief cook. Baptism at Hessel Beach to follow

picnic. Do we want to start planning for a Father-Son dinner, on November 5, potluck? Pastor Appreciation October 9, with cake and soup & sandwich. Before annual meeting planning an appetizer, finger foods buffet.

Christian Education: VBS done July 11-15. Planning a CE committee meeting sometime soon.

Youth Group: Youth carried Beautification Committee banner in 4th of July parade. The VBS float was the first prize winner in the parade.

Old Business: Changes to Funeral policy reviewed, to include meal to begin serving before 5 pm, Draft of policy on policies was presented, discussion, will present at next meeting with suggested modifications.

New Business: Discussed status of fire policy, smoke alarms and fire extinguishers, all need to be updated. Summit Fire Protection being contacted about new fire extinguishers, they will also monitor and maintain the fire extinguishers should we use their services. Will also be setting up smoke alarm alert and "Pull for police" systems from Church Mutual Insurance (these are provided at no cost). Church security was discussed in depth, needs much study and review.

Closing Prayer by Wayne Brood. Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by **Dave St. Onge**, Board Chairman

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