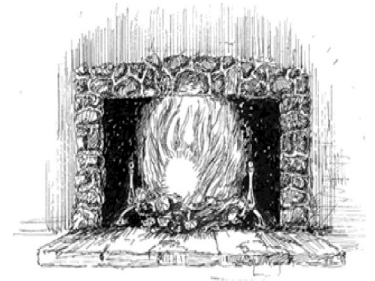


The Spark



Signs Along the Road

"The Romans Road" is a powerful method of explaining why we need salvation, how God provides it, how we can receive it. It is a way of explaining the good news of salvation through various passages from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, having been written around the year 57 AD.

In this letter, Paul states the "bad news"; the reality of our fallenness and the necessity of redemption. Then he presents the Good News: Salvation is available to all, regardless of a person's identity, sin, or heritage. Paul's writing reminds us that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ's finished work on the cross. Through him, we can stand "justified" before God (meaning that we are "declared innocent").

With that in mind, let's walk down this famous "Romans Road" together.

The first verse on the road is Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. We have all done things that are sinful." Romans 3:10-18 gives a detailed description of what sin looks like in our lives, and it is not a pretty picture.

The second verse, Romans 6:23, teaches us about the consequences of sin.

"For the wages of sin is death"

"God is a holy God, he made a perfect creation, and it was man who distorted it all."

The third verse on the Romans Road to salvation picks up where Romans 6:23 left off, and this is the GOOD NEWS "For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:8 further states, 8

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"

The fourth verse on the Romans Road is Romans 10:9, 9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

A couple of verses later, Romans 10:13 says it again, 13 For whosoever shall call upon

the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The final passage on the Romans Road is the result of believing. Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

Romans 8:1 tells us, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"

Finally, we have this amazing promise of God found in Romans 8:38-39,

38 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord "

What does the Romans Road tell us?

- a. We are sinners; every one of us
- b. The impact of that is that all we stand condemned before our Holy God
- c. However, the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus
- d. This is available to all who will repent and believe
- e. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus.

May God bless you as you seek ways to share this good news with people throughout our community. Our local mission field is right here in Les Cheneaux.

Pastor Jim Huber

**July
2022**

**First
Union
Church**

- Signs along the Road
- How about You?
- Just off Highway
- Matter of Prayer
- The Recipe Box
- To Your Health
- Christian Music
- Wisps from Willow
- Board Minutes



How About You?

Don't lose your passion...

The long awaited months of summer are finally here. The big Cedarville, 4th of July Parade and fire works bring all of us together, both visitors and residents. At least for a little while, our focus is on celebrating our country and being thankful to God, that we are privileged to live here in the USA, particularly in the Les Cheneaux Islands. It is important to cultivate that passion for our country. If we let our passion wane at other times of the year, our thoughts will lean toward all the negative news. This is true with our faith as well.

How About You?

Consider the possibility that God may want us to stop, *doing* for Him, so that we can concentrate on *being* with Him, recovering our first passion. We just need to put our relationship with Him first and then let our service take the natural response. In the words of, Oswald Chambers...

"The Greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service for Him" Ouch!

We need your service at First Union but don't lose your original passion for Jesus Christ. O'...please God...bless the USA!

Mike Davis



Just Off the Highway...

Just off Rockview Hill road toward the west when it becomes Simmons Road, was the home of my friend, Bill Schroeder. Bill was the former Creel Clerk for the DNR, reporting fishing catches after interviewing people as they loaded their boats for the trip home.

Bill and I shared a lot of time together including fishing. He was a Christian and his faith gave him a place in Heaven. Bill passed away this past February and in his trust he left me a 1960 International Cub Tractor.

I know the Bible says not to 'covet' things, but we had a tractor like that when I was a kid and I learned to drive with that old tractor. I told Bill how much I wished I had a tractor like that. I wish the circumstances were different but now I have that 'coveted' little yellow tractor. I am going to try to drive it in the parade this year, so if you see me out there, yell out **"God Bless Bill"** I am sure he

will be smiling. I bought my first pair of bib-overalls for the occasion. .



A Matter of Prayer...

Please continue to pray for the following people..

Joyce VanderWerp, Total shoulder replacement, 12 weeks in a sling and rehab I'm sure, please pray for healing for Joyce

Victoria's friend, **Deanna**, has a friend **Lee**, who had a leg amputated that was infected. Continued prayer is appreciated

Pat Feldhake needs our prayers for a bad fall she had. She fell face-first, missing a step-up curb and hurt her face and broke her heel. She does not need surgery but her heel has to heal! Please pray for that healing!

Please keep all the school-shooting victims and their schools in your prayers, for them, the pain goes on forever

Pray for our nation and its leaders

Keep our church activities in your prayers, Sunday School, Church board, Prayer groups, Youth group, Pastor Jim and others...

Pray always for Cedar Cove residents and for our shut-ins

Chase Ford, fighting cancer

Pray for a fun and safe 4th of July.



Dear God,
Please hold my hand
and guide my feet
Guard my mouth
and protect my mind
Thank you for always
watching over me

Amen



The Recipe Box



Hi Everyone, it kind of amazes me how the summer goes zip-zip and it's Fall. For me and others who are heavily into Boat Show, we work all summer getting ready for it and when it's over...so is summer! Plus all our cool weather hasn't seemed too summery yet. But it is warming up every day now. On to some comfort food...

Creamy Vegetable Pasta

16 oz wide egg noodles
2 T olive oil
5 green onions, white and green parts, thinly sliced
2 T chopped fresh sage
1 pound asparagus, washed, trimmed, and cut on the bias in 1 inch pieces
2-6 oz bagsof baby spinach
1 cup frozen green peas and carrots, thawed
3 T unsalted butter, cubed
1-15 oz container ricotta cheese
1/3 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/2 t red pepper flakes
3 squeezes of lemon juice
Additional parmesan for topping

Boil pasta in salted water, drain but reserve 1 cup of pasta water

While pasta is boiling, add olive oil, green onions and sage to a deep skillet, cook over hi heat for 2" until slightly browned. Add asparagus and cook an additional 3-4", stirring constantly

Turn heat to med-high and add spinach by handfuls. Cook until wilted down

Add drained pasta, green peas, butter and ricotta cheese. Stir gently and add 3/4 cup pasta

water. Season generously with salt and pepper and add parmesan cheese. Cook over med-lo heat until the sauce is thick and creamy.

Add remaining water if needed.

Serve immediately and top with red pepper flakes, lemon juice and more cheese if you wish.

Tweaks: Don't forget to salt the pasta water liberally, you can switch out your vegetables, if you like mushrooms go ahead and add them etc...the spinach will cook down! It looks like a lot but it isn't...and if you have a garden, use veggies from it! And remember, the sage is fresh, not from a can...and as I always say..I use salted butter.

Cherry Pie Sheet Cake

(from Cass Moore's coffee hour treats)

1-3/4 cups sugar
1 cup butter, softened
4 eggs
3 cups flour
1/2 t baking powder
2- (21 oz) cans cherry pie filling or flavor of your choice
2 cups powdered sugar
4 T milk
1 t almond extract

Oven 375*-cream together sugar and butter until light and fluffy. Add 4 eggs, 1 at a time, mix well. In a separate bowl combine flour and baking powder, then add to creamed mixture. Mix until smooth and glossy. Spread 2/3 of cake batter into pan and smooth out evenly. Spray Pam on spreader as you go to make spreading easier. Spoon the 2 cans of pie filling on cake batter and spread out. Drop patches of the rest of cake mix here and there on top of filling. Bake 35-40" til top is golden brown. Cool cake. Mix powdered sugar, milk, almond & whisk until smooth, then drizzle on cake.

Sue Rye



To Your Health...

Saving Hands

We use our hands throughout the day to accomplish many activities - eating, dressing, holding a new baby, yard work - the list is endless. Caring for our hands is of vital importance now that firework season is here.

Safety with using fireworks is so important. Too many accidents happen with the use of fireworks that can cause permanent damage and lifelong changes to our daily living.

It is recommended by the National Safety Council that people enjoy firework displays put on by professionals. Even though you may legally purchase fireworks, they are not safe. Besides causing physical damage, fireworks may even start fires near you, including buildings or vehicles.

Some things to consider when you attend a professional display of fireworks or in someone's backyard is to protect your ears from damage by wearing ear protection. The noise from the explosion of fireworks can cause hearing problems. Wearing ear protection is recommended to reduce any damage to the ears.

In addition, protective eyewear should be worn by anyone using fireworks to prevent an eye injury from hot debris or other eye injury.

Young children should not handle fireworks and older children need adult supervision to use fireworks.

To protect your hands from injury, do not hold lighted fireworks in your hands in case the fireworks malfunction for some reason. Do not try to relight or handle a malfunctioning firework. Your hands are important to keep safe.

Always light fireworks outside, not indoors. A bucket of water should be close at hand to soak spent fireworks or those fireworks that do

not go off as expected. Water needs to be available in case a fire starts from the fireworks.

Remember sparklers can reach very high temperatures causing skin damage or clothing to catch on fire. Glow sticks are safe alternatives to use to keep everyone safe and still glow in the dark. Silly string in red white and blue is another alternative for everyone to use and have a fun time.

Have a safe and enjoyable time celebrating the birth of our nation!

Source: <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/summer/fireworks> ; <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Seasonal-fire-causes/Fireworks>

Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

Psalm 16:1



Betty Mitchell BSN



Christian Music...thinking outside the box...

Count Your Blessings

Mr. E. O. (Edwin Othello) Excell was a highly productive soloist, music director, composer, publisher of hymns and gospel songs. He worked widely with the best-known evangelists of the day, including Sam Jones, Wilbur Chapman, and Gipsy Smith. He compiled about ninety songbooks and wrote the words or composed the music to about two thousand hymns. He was described as a big and robust man with a remarkable range of voice and seemed happiest when leading mass choirs and audiences at large evangelistic rallies. He is best remembered today for the perky tune to the song "Count Your Blessings". Excell was assisting Gipsy Smith with a campaign in Louisville, Kentucky, when he became ill and died on June 10, 1921, at the age of sixty-nine.*

Count Your Blessings

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the LORD hath done.

Are you every burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will keep singing as the days go by.

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be disheartened, GOD is over all.
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

*Count you blessing, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what GOD hath done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the LORD hath done.*

From the fullness of HIS grace, we have all received one blessing after another. -John 1:16 NIV

*This Devotion was taken from the book "A Song in My heart" by Robert J. Morgan

June Davis

Vacation Bible School will be July 11-14 in the mornings. **Christy Cloud-O'Hare** is in charge.

Church will start at **10:00** for the summer beginning on June 26th. Adult Sunday School at 9:00.

New youth group meeting night will be Sundays (instead of Thursdays).



Board Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes May 2022

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. and Opening prayer by **Dave St. Onge**
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved and April financial reports were reviewed by **Greg Wagner** and Board approved.

Pastor Jim felt Sunday was a good day of welcome and well attended. **Pastor Jim** will be administrating the Church facebook page and website. He has some home visits and calls in mind to make and would like to begin podcasts and will begin the process of reaching out with other Pastors in the community and Pickford churches. He is interested in learning more about the Lions Club organization. He will be making contact with **Dave Hopkins** regarding Cedar Bay. **He** and **Jon** are interested in sharing the ministry duties at Cedar Cove.

Dave St. Onge reported that a wedding was held on Sat May 22 for the marriage of **Del Newville and Eunice Tristen** performed by **Pastor Jamey**. **Del** was also baptized that day. Celebration thank you dinner was held on Sat. night for **Pastor Jamey** and a welcome cake was served during coffee hour on Sunday. Elder meetings will continue with **Pastor Jim**. Three new members were received this past Sunday. **Grace and Patrick Minarek and Julie Watkins**. Three others took the Membership class but were not ready to commit as members yet.

We will need one Elder and one Deacon beginning the next four year term in September 2022. Also we will need committee members for Christian Education, Women's Association, and Caregivers.

Jon reported for the Deacons that the manse has had a lot of needed repairs and maintenance completed. Elders, Deacons and volunteers have done a terrific job making sure the manse projects and updates were completed prior to **Jim and Terri's** arrival. **Del**

Newville plans to power wash the outside and decks. There are a few projects that still need to be completed at the manse.

Jon proposed a clean up and maintenance of the kitchen and a yard sale of extra items. The Deacons will work on organizing this as well as organization of other rooms within the church.

Deb St. Onge reported for the Women's Association that Funeral Dinners have been organized well and very appreciated. Cedar Bay has some events planned for the next year that our church family will be invited to attend.

The following change to the Funeral Dinner Policy was submitted by the Funeral Committee.

"Funeral Dinners Policy: All funeral meals are to begin serving no later than 5:00 p.m. This is to allow the funeral committee adequate time for clean up within a reasonable time frame" The Board approved this amendment to the policy.

Youth Group report was given by **Jon**. Graduation Sunday will be June 5th. Bibles will be presented to the Graduates and **Sue Rye** will serve a decorated cake. The 5th grade bibles will also be presented.

Jon has started a new study of Man and Woman (Creation). **Pastor Jim** attended the youth group meeting this past week. **Jon** is looking for more adult or young adult leaders as the youth group continues to grow so they can be split by age level during their meetings.

Jon and Adrienne are interested in taking the Youth to Camp Barakel in the summer. Youth group has 5 to 6 girls and 11 to 12 boys currently attending.

Dave read a Letter of Resignation from **Tammy Cruickshank** after 25 years as the Custodian to be effective May 18th. The Board expressed sincere appreciation for her work and approved the resignation. The Board has offered **Jon Stonecipher** the position of Custodian which will also include lawn maintenance.

The Board has scheduled a special board meeting to be held on Tuesday May 31st at 11 a.m.

Closing Prayer by **Mike Bolcer**

Next Meeting Date is June 27th, 2022 at 7 p.m

Submitted by **Dave St. Onge**

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