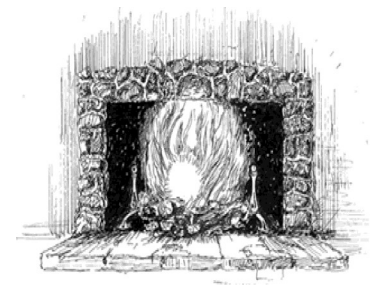


The Spark



Farewell, My Friends

I well remember the moment I first learned of Cedarville First Union. I was puttering in my garage on a beautiful day in August of 2020. At the time, I had been working to memorize Psalm 27 which ends with the encouraging words, *"Wait for the Lord. Be strong, take heart, and wait for the Lord."* That repeated call to "wait" was particularly inspiring that summer because I had known for many months that a career move into interim ministry was looming. I had declined an opportunity five months prior because the COVID pandemic had just begun. Leaving my church was out of the question at that point. By summer, national COVID panic had quieted down enough and normalcy in our community stabilized enough that my resignation from traditional pastoral ministry was back on the table. The only question was, "When?" I was expectant, maybe even a little bit impatient. Because of these emotions, Psalm 27, and the idea of waiting on God were particularly comforting. And, as is always true with our Heavenly Father's providential timing, it was worth the wait. As I think about it, had it not been for the pandemic, I may have been on a different assignment when CFU was fully ready for an interim.

Nevertheless, God's impeccable timing prevailed and I could not be more thankful. This experience with you here among the *Les Cheneaux Islands* will leave a joyful and indelible mark on me and my future ministry for the kingdom. I am deeply thankful for the privilege of serving among you. I have been blessed in so many ways I've lost count. The wonderful relationships, the unforgettable experiences, the interim ministry lessons for my future work, the growth and changes among so many of you, the fresh direction, the re-

stored hope, and renewal in seeking God's direction collectively--the cumulative richness of it all is beyond measure and my heart is full.

I am comforted in leaving you only because of our spiritual unity of one faith, one hope, one God and Father of all. Our earthly goodbyes are merely temporary because our permanent connection is eternal. My continuous prayer for this congregation is that your love would abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight. That includes both your love for Christ and for each other. I hope to hear of your flourishing under the leadership of **Pastor Huber** and our fine elders. Please know, you will remain in my prayers no matter where God leads me. If it's His will, perhaps our paths will cross again sometime. If that is the case, I will beam with delight. God bless you, my brothers and sisters. Stay strong in the Lord and in His might and never give up the passionate pursuit to know Him. Keep our Lord as your highest affection and cultivate an ever-loosening grip on the transient things of this world. Keep each other's interest as a priority and remember Christ's model for life as you live out yours together in this place.

Pastor Jamey Nichols



**June
2022**

**First
Union
Church**

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A Matter of Prayer...

Please continue to pray for
the following people:

Chase Ford, on-going battle with brain tumor

Mike Bolcer, on-going recovery from abdominal surgery

Keith Kester, health problems

Eunice Tritten on her marriage to **Del Newberg** and also praise for **Del's** baptism by **Pastor Jamey** in some very cold Lake Huron waters recently. Also continued prayer for **Eunice's** health issues

Gene Nutter, has shingles and is miserable at times. Pray for her general health as well

Pray for **Gaylord, MI** and the damage from the tornado that touched down there. 2 people were killed and 50-some injured and hospitalized, and much damage to the area. See the elders if you wish to donate \$\$

Jim Berryhill, trouble with an implanted device but is hopefully home now and doing better

Prayers are needed for **Ednita Buehler**, After very high blood pressure, she delivered her son, Roland via c-section, but then had a stroke and several complications. Please pray for her healing and recovery from all these problems

Please pray for **Pastor Jamey** as he moves on, and for **Pastor Jim** as he moves in...

Pray for **Youth** group, **Prayer** groups and our **Sunday schools**

Pray for Uvalde, TX school shooting. 19 children killed and 2 teachers killed



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



How About You?

Grace

On our travels last winter, **June and I** stayed at a KOA RV park, for a few days. A damaging thunder storm was headed for the area on our second night. Our phone was sending out warnings of the impending storm. Even the RV park, using new technology, sent out messages on our phone to take in our awnings and secure lawn furniture and tables. Later when the park lost half of its electricity (we were spared) the park used the phone to keep us updated on the repair progress. The last of the messages from the park said "thank you for your *GRACE* during the storm and outages". Even though the storm was out of their control they asked for *Grace*. *Grace* means courteous goodwill, or a blessing, or even

describes the short prayer before a meal. The park didn't make excuses. They got on the phone to get repair people on the spot and rather than say sorry or ask for patience they asked for *Grace*.

More of us should ask for *Grace*. Lord knows we need it, both from Him and our friends and family. Jesus once said "*Grace* I give to you", seems like we could do the same to others.

Mike Davis



Just off the Highway...

Just off highway 20 in Crawfordville, Georgia is the beautiful, A. H. Stephens State Park. In our travels we were looking for an RV park before we ventured towards the Atlanta area, a major challenge for highway travelers. It was there that we realized that A. H. Stephens was Alexander Hamilton Stephens, the Vice President of the Confederacy. This serene state park around Stephens home and Confederate museum is in the middle of a huge area of Georgia pines.

The park is in three sections part for RV travelers and two parts for Horse trailer/RV's. The area caters to horse riders with numerous trails among the majestic pines. Stephens, a small single man was ill most of his life and wheel chair bound later in life due to an accident. After the Civil War he was arrested by Union Soldiers- and charged with treason and was expected to be hung. The town loved their hero (and still

does) and they surrounded Stephens home before the arrest, asking for mercy for this "weak" little man. After a few months in prison, he was exonerated by the president and this "weak" man was elected Governor of the state Georgia and died in office. Stephens is buried in



The Recipe Box

Hello
JUNE

Hi Everyone! Still here, still waiting for the weather to warm up above 50* so I can walk in Hessel on the water. But it's cold by the water, and I'm too old to enjoy cold!

Our church was full last Sunday to say "goodbye" to **Pastor Jamey Nichols** and to "welcome" **Pastor Jim Huber**. They both took part in the service. **Jamey** says he'll be preaching in Six Lakes, MI next Sunday.

On to recipes...If you like things made with Puff Pastry, you'll probably like this recipe...

Puff Pastry Breakfast Pizza

All-purpose flour for dusting

1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed

2 slices bacon

1-1/2 cups shredded Havarti cheese

3 T shredded parmesan cheese

4 large eggs

kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

Chopped fresh chives, for topping

Preheat oven to 425* and line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the puff pastry into a 12 inch square, then cut into 4 equal squares. Pinch edges of each square to form 4 rounds. Transfer to the prepared baking sheets and prick all over with a fork. Bake until golden, 8-10 minutes.

Meanwhile cook bacon until crisp, transfer to a paper towel and crumble. Let crusts cool slightly

on the baking sheets. If the centers are very puffy, prick with a fork to deflate. Sprinkle evenly with the havarti and parmesan. Make a shallow well in the cheese in the center of each pizza and crack an egg into the well. Season with the salt and pepper. Top with bacon and return to oven and bake until the egg whites are set, about 10-15 minutes. Top with chives to serve. Serves 4.

I like different flavored butters, and I have made several different flavors. You can serve them on meats like steaks or bagels or vegetables, etc...

Lemon Dill Butter

1 stick unsalted butter (room temperature)

1 t minced garlic

1 t minced, fresh dill

1 t grated lemon zest

1 T freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 t kosher salt & 1/4 t freshly ground pepper

Mix together thoroughly with an electric mixer and keep in a sealed container in your frig.

I thought this was kind of cute...on the TV show The Walton's, John Boy's future wife who was quite an entitled gal was setting the table for the family and she said "Oh, the plates don't match" and Mary Ellen replied in her usual sarcastic way, "Oh gee, maybe we'll have to cancel dinner!" Although nowadays our plates probably do match, back in the depression, that was the least of their worries!!

Sue Rye



To Your Health...

How Much is That?

Now that summer has arrived, many people begin to think about ways to shed a few pounds. Over the years the serving size of food portions has grown, we exercise less and sit in front of our computers more. As a result, it is not surprising people become overweight over time.

This does not mean we can not enjoy the food we like, but we need to eat smaller portions. The calories in the food you eat and drink should be balanced out with the calories burned during exercise, resulting in keeping your weight down.

Your body can help guide you to estimating the proper portion for you.

-
Your fist, or a baseball, is equal one cup of fruit, pasta, rice or ice cream.

Your thumb from tip to base, or a domino is about equal to one ounce of cheese.

Your cupped hand is about equal to two ounces of nuts or pretzels.

Your palm, or deck of cards, is about equal to three ounces of meat, fish or poultry.

Some other suggestions for you as you decide to lose some weight is to have fruits and vegetables cut up in advance so they are ready for you when you need a quick snack.

Try switching to 1% or skim milk in addition to low-fat cheeses and yogurt. If the taste does not appeal to you, try eating smaller or fewer servings of full-fat.

Fat is necessary in a healthy diet, just in smaller amounts than you previously consumed. Fried foods

can be substituted with grilled or baked versions of the food. Try foods without added butter or margarine or use less of it. Olive oil or canola oil are good substitutes. Eat more low fat meats such as chicken, turkey or ground meat with less fat.

Another idea would be to not add sugar to certain foods like cereal, coffee or tea. You may want to start by decreasing the amount of sugar you add to see if you can still enjoy eating or drinking them.

Be mindful about the amount of salt that is in processed food or that you add to your food. Salt may cause you to retain fluid and add weight. Be sure to read labels and taste food before adding salt.

These are just a few suggestions for you to consider as you start a weight loss program. There are many articles available for you to read and decide what would work best for you and your family. You may want to talk to a dietician if you are still not confident about how to get started.

Getting started on any weight reduction is the biggest challenge. Remember anything new that you try is a step in the right direction.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31



Betty Mitchell BSN

Christian Music... Thinking outside the box...June Davis

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds was written by John Newton and published in 1779 and first titled **The Name of Jesus**. The music tune is 'St. Peter' and written by Alexander R. Rienagle, published in 1836. **How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds** was based on The Song of Solomon 1:3 and focuses on the power of the name of 'Jesus'. The words are meant to bring comfort. The copyright status on both the poem and the music are now considered Public Domain and can be copied and used by anyone.

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!

It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the troubled breast.

'Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary, rest.

Dear Name! the Rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place,
My never-failing treasure, filled with boundless stores of grace!

Jesus! My Shepherd, Husband, Friend, O Prophet, Priest and King.
My Lord, my life, my Way my End, accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart, and cold my warmest thought.
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then, I would Thy love proclaim with every fleeting breath,
And may the music of Thy name refresh my soul in death.

Do old hymns ever get too old? Do they lose their meaning? This wonderful old hymn brings comfort every time I hear/sing it. I hope it brings comfort to you also.

'Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.' 1 John 4:15



Dedication



Wisps from Willow, Greg Wagner

Sweet Dreams

A young boy and girl were enjoying a pleasant afternoon playing outside in their neighborhood together.

The boy showed the girl his collection of beautiful, unique marbles. In turn, the girl showed the boy the handful of candy that she had just gotten for her birthday. The boy proposed that the two of them switch-he would give her all of his marbles if she would hand over all of her candy. The girl agreed, as she found the marbles to be beautiful as well. The boy handed over all of his marbles, but kept one-the most exquisite one of them all-in his pocket. The girl kept her promise and gave the boy all of her candy.

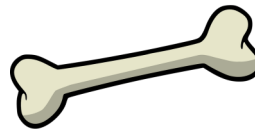
That night, the girl was happy with the exchange and peacefully went to sleep. The boy, however, couldn't sleep, as he was wondering if the girl had secretly kept some of her candy, just like he did with the marble.



The Moral is....

If you do not contribute 100% to your relationship, you will always think that your partner is not giving you 100%. If you want your relationship to be built on trust, you have to be a part of it.

Honesty enhances your character. By being honest in a relationship, you commit your partner to doing the same. It allows you and your partner to keep thinking about your options and how you can help (or hurt) your partner and your relationship.



Greg
Wagner



**New Members:
The Miniriks & Julie Watkins**



Board Highlights

First Union Church Board Meeting Minutes Highlights

April 25, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 by **Dave St. Onge**.

Opening prayer by **Mike Bolcer**.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited. All but one board member was in attendance as well as guest, **Daniel Peterson**.

Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

March Treasurers report was reviewed by **Greg Wagner and Deb St. Onge** and report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Pastor's Report: submitted via email by **Pastor Jamey**.

It has been an unforgettable joy to be a part of this ministry for the past several months. Beginning October 2020 and terminating May 22, I am thankful for the privilege, the experiences, the friendships, the challenges, and the many wonderful ways God has woven my life into the life of this congregation. I am forever changed for the better.

On April 14 our Pastoral Search Committee held its final meeting at which time we debriefed our work, thanked God for his provision of a new pastor, and compiled a collection of materials and insights to be preserved for future pastoral search needs.

During my final weeks, I will continue to lead the elders in the care of this congregation and in the last stages of this transition. I will also be working with **Pastor Jim** to ensure a seamless transition as he prepares to settle in.

On Good Friday following the public service here in our facility, I conducted what is likely my final worship service at Cedar Cove. **Pastor Jim** has expressed great interest in the work there, and the residents were glad to hear how eager he was to become part of their lives. That aspect of my time here has been one of great delight.

This past Saturday, April 23 I officiated the memorial service for **Rose Miller**. On May 7, I will officiate the memorial service for **Steve Gulder**. To date and for the record, these two services combine for a total of four church member deaths since my arrival. The other two services I conducted include **Lois**

Tassier's (March 21, 2022) and **Neill Nutter's** (October 24, 2021). To God alone be glory! Respectfully submitted, **Pastor Jamey Nichols**

Elders Report: continue to meet weekly with **Pastor Jamey**. **Pastor Jim** was present at last meeting, that was very helpful. Membership class to be held May 6, will be led by **Pastors Jamey and Pastor Jim**. **Steve Gulder's** memorial service will be May 7.

Deacon's Report:

Plans for the Manse: Need to have manse cleaned and ready for occupation not later than May 15, **Jim's** first Sunday to preach will be May 22. Cleaning teams will begin work on April 26, **Madge Berryhill** will supervise cleaning and coordinate teams. Carpet is installed. Water softener is working, and a Reverse Osmosis set up for kitchen has been ordered. Other repairs around the church: red chairs repaired, light bulbs in sanctuary replaced with LED. TV in nursery in now functional.

Women's Association: Adrienne Stonecipher coordinated an Easter breakfast, for donations to the mission fund. Funeral luncheons for **Lois Tassier and Rose Miller** were well attended. Our nursing mothers have some other ideas for the nursery, it has been painted and chairs donated, will keep working on it.

Christian Education: Looking forward to restarting the committee. Will take kids to breakfast on May 15, and that will finish Sunday School for the summer. Adult Sunday school will continue thru Father's Day.

Youth Group: consistently have 11-15 kids here, continue to be impacted by the school schedules. Will be studying "Biblical manhood and Biblical womanhood". Hope to change youth activities to Wednesday with the next school year. Will continue meet on Thursdays through the summer. Tentative plan to celebrate graduates June 5, will check with the kids.

Celebration for **Jamey** on Saturday, May 21, evening (4-6). Welcome for **Jim & Terri** on Sunday, May 22 during coffee hour.

Prayer by **Jon Stonecipher**

Adjourned at 9:24

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

Welcome Pastor Jim & Terri Huber



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