The Spark



"The seasons change, but our God does not change" March It's now March, and what has been a of our bible studies seek to remind us, very mild winter is soon coming to an we live in a fallen world. It has been Spark this way ever since end. The days grow longer, the temperatures gradually rise, Genesis chapter 3, and it comes from 2024 the reality of the "fall into sin". But and we begin the transition to spring. Like the seasons that affect our weather, God (in his love and we face seasons in our lives. Consider mercy) does not abandon us. He does not give us what we deserve, how we all go but instead he gives his G through the different seasons of life, First race. G od so loved the world that he (from birth, to adolescence, to career, to Union gave his only begotten Son, and this marriage/family, to same Son (Jesus retirement, and ultimately to our own Church Christ) is coming again – perhaps mortality). It is a path that all of us are very soon. Until that day, we walk in on, and one that has many twists and turns. Of course, it faith and we trust in Him also has "potholes" in that path (which for all things. we covered in As we look to the coming spring, the **Seasons Change** the recent sermon series "Potholes in return of warmer temperatures, the our road of sanctification". budding of the trees, Matter of Prayer Many of us are familiar with the famous and the greening of the grass, be How about you? looking for Christ in your life. Keep passage from the book of Ecclesiastes Just off the Hwy your eyes on Him, and chapter 3 (NLT): **Recipe Box** 1 For everything there is a season, a look for ways in which you can help to Board Highlights time for every activity under heaven. shine his light into the lives of one Me & my Dog 2 A time to be born and a time to die. A another. time to plant and a time to harvest. There is a time for every season, 3 A time to kill and a time to heal. A time but only God knows the specifics. to tear down and a time to build up. Live as if you have many 4 A time to cry and a time to laugh. A years left, but also walk as if he time to grieve and a time to dance. might return today. 5 A time to scatter stones and a time to Praise God from Whom All Blessgather stones. A time to embrace and a ing Flow! time to turn away. 6 A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. 7 A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be guiet and a time to speak. 8 A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace. We often have difficulty in understanding **Pastor Jim Huber** why God permits these things to happen. As so many

A Matter of Prayer

"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays."

Soren Kierkegaard

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day." — **Abraham Lincoln**

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

— Corrie Ten Boom

Please continue to pray for the following:

Madge Berryhill, still suffering from a very bad back, pray that physical therapy will help improve her back

Pray for **Emilie Bigelow's** ears, hearing & recent surgery on her ears

PTL For **Norm Perkins** good results on is knee surgery

Continue to pray for **Greg Wagner's** recent heart surgery & Greg, you take it easy for awhile now!!

Fred Renaud has had brain surgery & is waiting for biopsy results on another growth. Pray for complete healing for Fred and a quick & complete recovery!

Claudia Brood has gone through quite a lot with the infection in a skin graft on her nose, the healing is really coming along now

Pray for the Jim **Graves** family

Continue to pray for Cedar Cove, including **Gene Nutter, Gerry Izzard, Judy Izzard, Bob Smith,** Martha Tassier, Sheila Murray, Audrey Fisher, Paul Kuiper and others associated with First Union. Let's give a 'shout-out" & lots of thankful prayers for the workers there who do such a good job taking care of the residents.

Pray for **Tom Bontrager's**, scheduled openheart surgery for good recovery

Mike Bolcer has foot surgery scheduled for the end of March..

Dave St Onge had a stress test for his heart..

Terri Huber, upper respiratory problems...

Marty Vandergeest & daughter Brenda, adjusting to Bev's passing...

Prayers for Victoria Gulder's health & for son, Paul Gulder

So glad **Chuck Crawford** could get to Mike Sweeney's funeral and that **Seth & his wife** were able to come from Novi, MI up to the funeral & also visit with their parents

Dave Hopkins requests prayer for Ashten for severe pneumonia

Pray for the family of **Steve McDonald** who recently passed away

It was with sadness and joy to attend **Michael Sweeney's**

Funeral celebration. **Mike** was such a friendly, funny guy who was always smiling and willing to have a good chat with you. He & his wife **Marilyn**, were members of First Union. He had 2 children **David & Kara** and several grandchildren

His obituary is in the St. Ignace newspaper and also on Galer Funeral home website.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to **Archie & Kathy Reno** on the death of his father **Floyd Reno**. Another smiling, friendly, and very nice man.

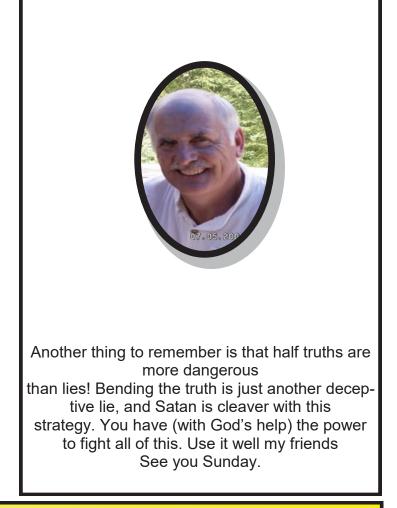
How About You? ... Mike Davis

Is Your "Discernment" Level in Top Shape?

An inspector who worked for Scotland Yard in the Counterfeit Department was once asked if he spent a lot of time handling counterfeit money. He said "No." He went on to explain that he spent so much time handling the "real thing" that he could immediately detect the counterfeit.

In the same way, as we become knowledgeable about God's Word. . We too will be able to detect teachings and concepts that are contrary to Scripture. Make no mistake — counterfeit "truth" is out there in force.

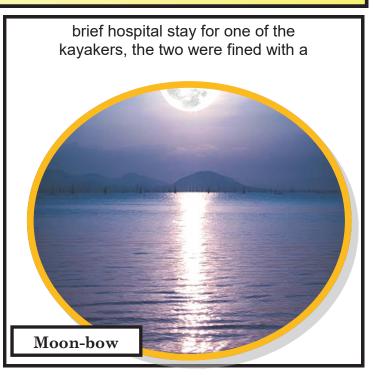
How About You?... Look at a few Scripture passages such as Matthew 13:24-30 or maybe 1 Timothy 4:1-2 and also 1 John 4:1-3. These can help you from falling prey to false teachings. The best way to detect (discern) a counterfeit is to become familiar with the "real thing.



Just Off the Highway...

A few miles west of I-75 on Highway 9 is the Cumberland River and Cumberland Falls. Most of us are familiar with the Tahquamenon Falls. Here are some comparisons to understand the size of the Cumberland Falls.

The Tahquamenon Falls are 200 feet wide and 50 feet tall. The Cumberland Falls are 125 feet wide and 68 feet tall. The park area was once owned by a Baptist Minister, Lewis Renfro, and his wife Mary in 1850. Their home was used as a hospital during the Civil War. The unique fact of the Cumberland Falls is that on a clear, full moon night, the Falls produce a Moon-Glo "rainbow". Another interesting fact is that in October 2019 two very experienced kayakers went over the falls successfully. After a



The Recipe Box...Sue Rye



Hi everyone, another bright, sunny day here. I am trying to finish this *Spark* and get it on it's way. If anyone has a good recipe to put in the "Recipe Box" by all means email it to Sparknewsletter@gmail.com I cook Stouffers often, or as Tom Flood used to say; he's having dinner with Marie (Callender)

Rhubarb Streusel Muffins

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 cup brown sugar, packed
1/3 cup sugar
1 large egg, room temp
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 t baking powder
1/2 t baking soda
1/8 t salt
1 cup sour cream
3 cups chopped, fresh or frozen Rhubarb, thawed

Streusel Topping

1/2 cup chopped pecans 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed 1 t cinnamon 1 T cold butter Preheat oven to 350* Beat butter & sugars 5-7 minutes til fluffy beat in egg, add rest of ingredients alternately with the sour cream, beat well, then carefully fold in the rhubarb. Fill greased or paper-lined muffin cups 3/4 full. Makes 18 For topping :cut the butter into the other topping ingredients & mix until crumbly Sprinkle over batter Bake for 20-25 minutes until inserted toothpick comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes before removing muffins to a wire rack to cool...Serve warm.

Macaroni Coleslaw

1 pkg (7oz.) of ring macaroni or ditalini
1 pkg (14 oz) of coleslaw mix
2 medium onions, finely chopped
2 celery ribs, finely chopped
1 medium cucumber, finely chopped
1 medium green pepper, finely chopped
1 can,(8oz) whole water chestnuts, finely chopped
Cook macaroni to package directions, add rest of ingredients and gently mix together

Dressing

1 &1/2 cups Miracle Whip 1/2 cup sugar 1/4 cup cider vinegar 1/2 t salt 1/4 t pepper

In a small bowl, whisk dressing ingredients together Pour over salad and refrigerate at least an hour

Bang-Bang Sauce

1 cup mayonnaise 3T sriracha sauce 1/4 cup sweet chili sauce 1&1/2 T rice vinegar Coarse salt (Kosher) & freshly ground cracked pepper to taste Ina small contain er, whisk until completely mixed together/ Serve immediately or refrigerate It's a mildly, spicy sauce for shrinp fish and anything else you want to use it for.**The Islander** has Bang-Bang Shrimp on their menu...It'sdelicious!!!

"Wisps from Willow" Greg Wagner



Greg will return in a month or two after he recovers from his heart surgery. It would be nice to send him a card.

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Board Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm and was opened with prayer (Pastor Huber) Attendance – Present: Deb St. Onge, Dave St Onge, Jeremy Bigelow, Daniel Peterson, Stan Jack, Rick Wilson,	Mission committee – Giving down for Feb, fund is doing well overall.
Marcia Perkins, Pastor Jim Huber Absent: Wayne Brood, Terry Moore, Mike Davis	Women's association – Deb St. Onge report- ed updates
Minutes of the January 2024 meeting were reviewed. Rick Wilson moved, Dave St.Onge second to	Christian Education – report of Sunday School, Jr Church, decorating nursery area.
accept Treasurer's Report – Rick Wilson moved to accept treasurer's report Dave St. Onge, seconded by Stan Jack	Old Business New church picture directory - photos will be held here from July 17-20. Universal Church Directories: https:// www.ucdir.com/directory-program.php
Pastor's Report – See written report On file Updates on Greg Wagner (Heart surgery 2/27) and Fred Renaud (hospitalized in Texas)	New Business – March 8 th Men's night for games and fun (shooting dry fire laser at Mike Bolcer's home) at 6pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm
Elder's Report – Continue to meet Sunday AM. Some included in deacon's report Verbal updates	The next scheduled board meeting is Mon- day March 25 at 6:30pm.
Deacon's Report – See full report on file. Status of projects	Respectfully submitted, Marcia Perkins
New church photo directory (July 17-20 with Universal Church Directories) Carillon amplifier replacement - amplifier is	Here's a good quote to think about
damaged, looking to replace the amp Cloverland meters (2 to 1) - discussion con- tinues Replacement of Manse fireplace vs other options - gathering data for future decision Installation of sanctuary flat screens - begin the process on Fri Feb 29.	The more you miss church, the less you miss church. Be careful, it's time To return!

Me and my Dog



Dave St.Onge & his dog "Henry" visiting Lake Michigan in Petoskey

Many people love their pets and their pets are really members of their family! So to that end, I would love for everyone to send me a picture of you with your pet to:

Sparknewsletter@gmail.com

Here's the Guidelines:

- Make sure there is at least I person in the picture with pets
 - Be sure to include names of all persons and the pets
- Since the titles are <u>"me & my dog"</u>, <u>"me & my cat"</u>, <u>"me & my bird" etc</u> lets keep the species separate, for instance, I have birds and a dog. So I will do 2 separate entries for myself, one for birds and one for dogs, to match the titles

FIRST UNION CHURCH

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