

The Spark



“The seasons change, but our God does not change”

It's now March, and what has been a very mild winter is soon coming to an end. The days grow longer, the temperatures gradually rise, and we begin the transition to spring. Like the seasons that affect our weather, we face seasons in our lives. Consider how we all go through the different seasons of life, (from birth, to adolescence, to career, to marriage/family, to retirement, and ultimately to our own mortality). It is a path that all of us are on, and one that has many twists and turns. Of course, it also has “potholes” in that path (which we covered in the recent sermon series “Potholes in our road of sanctification”).

Many of us are familiar with the famous passage from the book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3 (NLT):

- 1 For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.
- 2 A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.
- 3 A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.
- 4 A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance.
- 5 A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a 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 quiet 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 why God permits these things to happen. As so many

of our bible studies seek to remind us, we live in a fallen world. It has been this way ever since Genesis chapter 3, and it comes from the reality of the “fall into sin”. But God (in his love and mercy) does not abandon us. He does not give us what we deserve, but instead he gives his Grace. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, and this same Son (Jesus Christ) is coming again – perhaps very soon. Until that day, we walk in faith and we trust in Him for all things.

As we look to the coming spring, the return of warmer temperatures, the budding of the trees, and the greening of the grass, be looking for Christ in your life. Keep your eyes on Him, and look for ways in which you can help to shine his light into the lives of one another.

There is a time for every season, but only God knows the specifics. Live as if you have many years left, but also walk as if he might return today.

Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow!

Pastor Jim Huber

**March
Spark
2024**

**First
Union
Church**

- **Seasons Change**
- **Matter of Prayer**
- **How about you?
Just off the Hwy**
- **Recipe Box**
- **Board Highlights**
- **Me & my Dog**



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 nowhere 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 his 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 open-heart 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."



Another thing to remember is that half truths are more dangerous than lies! Bending the truth is just another deceptive lie, and Satan is clever with this strategy. You have (with God's help) the power to fight all of this. Use it well my friends
See you Sunday.

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

brief hospital stay for one of the kayakers, the two were fined with a



Moon-bow

MARCH

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
In a small container, whisk until completely mixed together/ Serve immediately or refrigerate
It's a mildly, spicy sauce for shrimp fish and anything else you want to use it for.**The Islander** has Bang-Bang Shrimp on their menu...It's delicious!!!

“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.

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,
Marcia Perkins, Pastor Jim Huber Absent: Wayne Brood, Terry Moore, Mike Davis

Minutes of the January 2024 meeting were reviewed.

Rick Wilson moved, Dave St.Onge second to accept

Treasurer's Report – Rick Wilson moved to accept treasurer's report Dave St. Onge, seconded by Stan Jack

Pastor's Report –

See written report On file

Updates on Greg Wagner (Heart surgery 2/27) and Fred Renaud (hospitalized in Texas)

Elder's Report – Continue to meet Sunday AM. Some included in deacon's report
Verbal updates

Deacon's Report – See full report on file.

Status of projects

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

Carillon amplifier replacement - amplifier is damaged, looking to replace the amp

Cloverland meters (2 to 1) - discussion continues

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

Installation of sanctuary flat screens - begin the process on Fri Feb 29.

Mission committee – Giving down for Feb, fund is doing well overall.

Women's association – Deb St. Onge reported updates

Christian Education – report of Sunday School, Jr Church, decorating nursery area.

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>

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

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday March 25 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Perkins

Here's a good quote to think about...

**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 1 person in the picture with pets**
 - **Be sure to include names of all persons and the pets**
- **Since the titles are “me & my dog”, “me & my cat”, “me & my bird” etc 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

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

Creating intentional followers of Jesus Christ
