

The Spark



Memorial Day Reflections

In honor of the upcoming Memorial Day weekend (or, recently bygone—depending on when you're reading this), I thought I would share a few thoughts about the holiday.

Memorial Day rolls around every year on the last Monday of May and, very sadly for many Americans, it is nothing more than a 3-day weekend. According to President Lyndon Johnson, it all began back in 1866 in Waterloo, NY when Americans began decorating the graves of civil war veterans. There's a fair amount of dispute surrounding these details, though. More than one city claims to be the birthplace of the holiday. Regardless, it is likely that the notion of decorating the graves of deceased loved ones has been around a long while. Only in our lifetime has a special day been formally designated as a national holiday for commemorating fallen soldiers from any war. In 1971 the date was officially moved to the last Monday in May thus creating the three-day weekend.

Beyond the military emphasis, it seems the holiday has evolved into more than just remembering fallen soldiers. The circles in which I live and move tend to consider Memorial Day a time for remembering anyone who has died. In fact, I will occasionally hear the day referred to as "Decoration Day," (an original name dating back to the 1800's). For more on Memorial Day visit www.usmemorialday.org. I must confess, Memorial Day weekend is definitely a great day to fish, work on projects, grill out, chill out, or do whatever. And, for us here in Michigan, it has become the summer kick-off. But, like all special holidays, unless we remain vigilant, the substance behind the holiday will give way to shallow indulgences. In the same way Easter has been collapsing beneath the weight of an overgrown rabbit, other insignificant holidays have lost some of their original luster—Christmas, St. Patrick's Day,

Independence Day, and so on. It seems the object of many of our holidays (holy-days) have evolved into celebration for celebration's sake. Whatever happened to honoring their original purposes? In the hearts and minds of many, the cause of the holiday has been so far removed it is barely noticeable.

As for me, I choose to remember. I hope you will take a few minutes to do so, as well. 2021 was a quiet year in terms of U.S. military deaths from defending our nation. Nevertheless, 2021 will go down in history for setting a record for the deaths of U.S. law enforcement officers killed. According to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, last year marked 458 officers killed in the line of duty. It seems that protecting the home front was deadlier than protecting our borders and national interests. This weekend, before you light the grill or jump in the boat, take a minute to think of and pray for the families who have lost loved ones caring for home and country.

And don't let this article throw cold water on your weekend plans. Just be sure to enjoy your time with heartfelt sobriety that comes from knowing much of what we enjoy today can be traced to those who've gone before us. This fact is no less true for our spiritual pleasures—think about it!

**Pastor Jamey
Nichols**

**May
2022**

**First
Union
Church**

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- To your Health
- Library leaves
- Board Minutes
- Christian Music



A Matter of Prayer...

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Chase Ford, has been battling a brain tumor for several months. His aunt **Holly Perkins** has asked us to flood him with birthday cards and love for his birthday on May 10th.(even if you're late you can send anyway) His address is:

Chase Ford
17724 Deer Run
Kinross, MI 49752

Bob Christians, arrived at Cleveland Clinic last week to have delicate, serious heart surgery. They found these newest heart problems when he wanted to have knee replacement and they said he needed to fix his heart first. But after new medications, things were looking enough better that they said there was improvement already and sent him home for the knee surgery and 'wait and see' on the heart PTL!

Mike Miller and his Family on the death of his wife **Rosemary (Rose)** pray for the family as they go through the grieving process

Mike Bolcer, has some serious health problems that required a couple of weeks in the hospital, He is home now and "gingerly" out and about.

Lois Tassier, continued prayer for her family on her passing.

Keith Kester, health issues

Gale Wisner, heart problems & blood clot

Jeanne Hays, Loren Dingman and others who are homebound or in a care facility

Wayne Buehler's diabetes is better, but let's keep praying for his health overall

Eunice Tritten, hospitalized and very ill with Norovirus, pray for healing & recovery

Continued prayer for:

Deanna (friend of Victoria) further surgeries

Jenn Leavell asked for prayer for **John's mom's** ruptured appendix, surgery was successful and she's on the mend

Sunday School, all age
Prayer & Bible study groups

Pastor Jamey and others who fill the pulpit
Pastor Jim, soon to arrive as our new pastor, pray for an smooth transition



Pray for Ukraine

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



**WE
ARE
BLESSED**

How About You?

While we were traveling a few weeks back, I heard a preacher say that he hoped that their church was not like a cruise ship. Cruise ships have all the things to keep you comfortable and entertained, with little regard for all the people in the ports they visit. Cruise ship folks think that the people in the 'ports of call' are always trying to make money from them and they have little regard for their life in that country.

Sometimes a church can be this big building in a community that takes care of their own with little regard for the others outside their walls especially on Sunday. At the end of the service they huddle up their families and go home hoping there will not be any interruptions to their family time with their plans for the rest of the day.

Truth be told, there are probably people who attend the services that also think that their 'cruise ship church' leaves them at the dock on Sunday afternoon.

How About You?... Let's not be that 'cruise ship church' but rather be considerate of others. Whenever there is a chance for us to leave our pew (stateroom) and be available to others helping fill their needs, let's do it! We may be a boat load of believers, but we all should have an oar in the water and plenty of life rafts for those who need it.

Mike Davis



Just Off the Highway...

Just off Highway 92 or Baker Street in Plant City Florida, is the Parkesdale Farm Market. This is in the heart of the strawberry fields and the annual strawberry festival. **Roy Parke**, founder of Parkesdale farms, left a wonderful legacy and philosophy of life.

It goes like this:

It is my right to be uncommon... If I can, I seek opportunity, not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk, to dream and to build, to fail and succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dole... I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence, the thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any master nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid, to think and act for myself, enjoy the benefits of my creations and to face the world boldly and say, this I have done and this is what being an American

means to me.

Roy was born in Ireland had an eighth grade education, was a Infantry Sergeant in WWII and was the first inductee in to the Strawberry Growers Hall of Fame. He once stated that his greatest assets were his God and his family. I think I have another hero!



The Recipe Box



Hi Everyone! I receive 3 magazines that I really love. One is; *The Pioneer Woman's magazine*. I like her magazine but I'm not a big fan of southwestern cooking which is about all she does. But I do like her line of goods she sells and her business endeavors etc. The 2nd is *HGTV magazine*. It's not so much food as decorating and projects etc. You can get some good ideas looking through this magazine. The 3rd and my favorite though, is *Food Network magazine*. They give a broad spectrum of food cooking choices. Every month they have a quiz and you can see how much you know, (or don't, as is often the case). For instance in the quiz this month they asked what would your choice be to put on a hot dog? I thought everyone would vote for ketchup (the choices were mustard, ketchup, relish and chili). I think everybody I know puts ketchup on everything...but no, it was mustard. That would be my choice too. You probably will get the next answer right...How many hot dogs in a package? The answer is 10 but only 8 buns to a package. Go figure!! 1 more, What is America's most popular grilling holiday? Father's day, Memorial day, Labor day, or Independence day? Answer; Independence Day, you guessed that...right?

I made the most amazing little recipe last night for my dinner. It was easy to do and would be so much fun to do with your kids,

they could make their own and then maybe they'd eat it because they made it.

Omelet in a Bag

You will need a quart size freezer-weight Ziploc bag

1-3 eggs, depending on size of your omelet
Small handful of *Simply Potato Hash-browns*

Small handful grated cheese
like cheddar, american or swiss

Onions, mushrooms

Green pepper, tomatoes

Bacon crumbles or sausage

Parsley, salt and pepper

When done loading your omelet, close the bag and squeeze out as much of the air as you can

Directions: smush up the eggs a bit, add whatever you wish to the eggs from the list, if you don't like something, leave it out, or add something else...it's your choice
Seal the bag and drop in pre-boiling water and boil

Exactly 13 minutes.

NOT 12 and not 14.

You would think the eggs would be hard-boiled, but they were not, they were perfectly cooked. You would also think that it would be messy to remove from the bag, it was not at all. It rolled out just like a little omelet should, you really have to try this, I know I will again, beats flipping it in a pan. Toss the bag, no clean-up.

Tweaks: *Simply Potatoes* are up over the eggs in Cedarville foods.

Sue Rye



To Your Health...

Food Safety after a Power Outage

A power outage can occur at any time during the year for a variety of reasons, including high winds, ice and snow or the poles supporting electrical lines knocked down.

In an effort to be prepared for such an event, pre-planning is important. Place appliance thermometers in both the freezer and refrigerated section of your refrigerator to be able to quickly check the temperatures quickly when the power is disrupted. You will be able to monitor the temperatures in each compartment during the power outage if thermometers are already in place.

Have a cooler/ice chest readily available and make family members aware of the location in case you need to place food items on ice or dry ice. Keep some water containers or gel packs in the freezer to help keep the frozen food cooler longer.

During the power outage the doors to the refrigerator and freezer should be kept closed as much as possible. If the power is off for more than 4 hours, ice or dry ice may be needed to maintain a cool temperature in the refrigerated section. A full freezer will keep your food safe for 48 hours, less if the freezer is half full.

You may want to disconnect the refrigerator and freezer until the power is restored to prevent any possible power surge from occurring and damaging your appliances.

Once the power is restored be sure to discard any food that was not refrigerated or frozen adequately during the power outage. **When in doubt throw it out!** Once then power is restored be sure to discard meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers from your refrigerator if the power was off more than 4 hours. It is always best to err on the side of caution and discard any food item that you are not sure if it is safe.

Do not taste anything you are questioning- discard the item. You may avoid a hospital or

doctor visit by simply discarding questionable foods. Anything that has an unusual order, color or texture, discard!

Perishable foods from the freezer that have thawed need to be discarded as well. If foods from the freezer still has ice crystals and feels cold to the touch your may be able to refreeze or cook. FoodSafety.gov will give you a list of foods that are safe to keep.

If you have refrigerated medications you may need to have a plan in place on how to safely store them if there is a power outage. Determine which medications may be safely stored at a higher temperature.

Remember to discard any medication that has not been kept at the proper temperature. You can check with your pharmacist for the proper action to take for your specific medication.

While the power is out, try to use up the food items you have that do not require refrigeration, cereals, energy bars, etc.

Being prepared in advance for a power outage will make the situation easier to cope with at the time.

Source: oakgov.com/emergency-management (click on the need to know tab, then what to to in a power outage)

"I have said these things to you, that you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

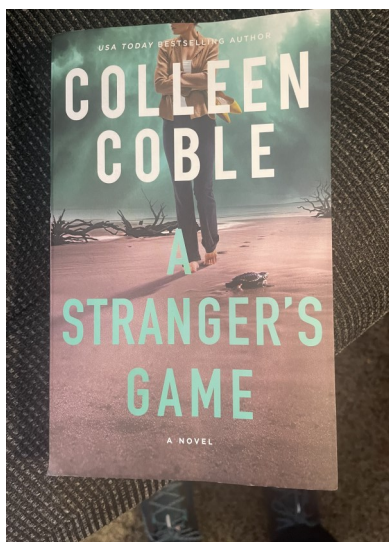


Betty Mitchell BSN

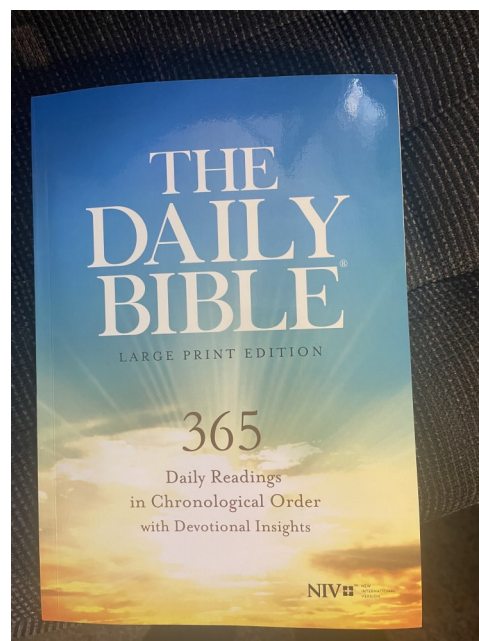
Library Leaves

Well, if you've been paying attention, you know that *Colleen Coble* is one of my all-time favorite authors. For one thing, she often writes about things I don't know anything about, so I learn something along the way. She is a mystery writer. A little romance, but mysteries that are hard to figure out and keep you riveted. It's the kind of a book you don't want to put down because you don't want it to end. Anyway, **Judy Cason** and I are both avid readers. I know a lot of you are. We buy these books together, she buys some and I buy some and we share between us. So I was in FL last month in a big bookstore called *Bell's* wanting to buy the Guidepost bible that **Kitty Sims** had shown me (on right). Out of the hundreds and hundreds of bibles in the store, not one was a Guidepost bible. I had to order it on their website. But in the process, I spied a shelf of *Colleen Coble* novels. So I called **Judy** to see if any were ones that we needed and 2 were, so I bought them. I just read ***A Stranger's Game***. Oh my goodness, it was so good! I couldn't put it down but at the same time I didn't want it to end.

When I do a book review, I tend to rave about the author almost more than the book. I've done several of *Colleen Coble's* books already. And while saying that, let me ask **YOU** to write a book review! Write about your favorite book! We can't be the only ones who read books.



This book takes place in a large resort by water, her books often are set near the water. The main character is Victoria Bergstrom and really I won't say much more. It's written in 2022, so it's new. She goes to a resort, undercover, to find out how or why her best friend drowned. Ok that's it...read the book!



One Sunday in a sermon, **Pastor Jamey** recommended reading the bible in chronological order. He said "Why would you jump all around in the bible if you want to read the whole bible start to finish? Which I wanted to do. I had just seen this bible in **Kitty's** room at Cedar Cove; chronological order, large print and easily readable. So I bought it and I recommend it, especially if it's your first time to read the whole bible. (And **Jamey**, I do listen to your sermons, lol...I just hope I'm repeating what you said correctly).

Sue Rye

Odds 'n Ends

Due to technical difficulties, **Greg's** article "*Wisps from Willow*" will return next month.

Also: We will resume the "*High School and College Spotlight*" article in the fall when school resumes

To Raise or not to Raise??

I read an article in the *Free Press* about size changes in the products we buy in the grocery store.

Many store products that we buy are being made in smaller sizes by manufacturers and slipped on the shelves to be sold at the same or higher price. I guess the manufacturers don't think we notice.

Of course we do all notice how grocery items are going up in price. But this is my take on the issue. Recipes for the last 75 years are made to a certain size can or box or mix etc. If they suddenly make the cake mix smaller, it's not going to fit in the 9 x 13 size pan we've always cooked it in. Or, the can of soup we put in a casserole is not enough all of a sudden. You see my point. I am one who would rather they kept the size the same and raised the price. Are you one who says make it smaller and keep the price the same? If you are, what do you do, buy 2 cans of soup for that casserole, thereby spending more in the long run?

I do not want to re-write all my recipes to fit new sizing. Think about it...what a chore that would be. So that's my pet peeve, what's yours? Tell me and I'll put it in the *Spark*.

Spring Physical Activities

- Mowing the lawn (per hr) 300-500 calories burned
- Gardening (per hr) 225-350 calories burned
- Walking the Dog (per hr) 150-250 calories burned
- Bike riding (light intensity) 10-11 MPH 450-550 calories burned
- Bike riding (moderate intensity 12-13 mph 600-750 calories burned

Summer Physical Activities

- Swimming (freestyle) (slow-moderate effort) (per hr) 450-600 calories burned
- Running (5mph) 450-750 calories burned
- Kayaking (per hr) 300-450 calorie burned
- Aerobic Dance (per hour) 400-600 calories burned
- Fishing along a riverbank (includes some walking) (per hour) 200-350 calories burned

Important Future Dates

May 8...Mother's Day
May 21...Armed Forces Day
May 22...Pastor James Huber's first Sunday
May 30...Memorial Day
Jun 14...Flag Day
Jun 19...Father's Day
June 21...First Day of Summer

News From Down Under

Sammie Davis received her 5th grade bible at her baptism ceremony this summer. She will be moving up next fall.

The Primary Sunday school will be singing in church on May 15th. That will also be the last day of Sunday school until next fall.

Board Minutes

March 28 the Meeting was called to order at 7:07 and opened in prayer by **Dave St. Onge**. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Guests in attendance were **Justin Gulder and Daniel Peterson**

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed, a motion to accept the minutes as presented was made and seconded, Approved. Treasurer's report was presented on conference call by **Greg Wagner** and **Deb St. Onge**. Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented made by **Wayne Brood**, second by **Mike Bolcer**. Approved.

Elder's continue to meet weekly with **Pastor Jamey**. A congregational vote was held on Sunday March 20. The question of call **Jim Huber** as pastor was a unanimous "yes" (85 votes). **Lois Tassier's** funeral and dinner was well attended.

Deacons are meeting twice a month. **Jon** has met with **Tammy** (custodian) about her job and other concerns. Del is meeting with M&C water about a water softener for the manse. The existing softener may be working, currently by testing and evaluated. Old choir robes were taken to Good Will. **Del Newville** has volunteered to paint the downstairs Sunday School area, after approval by **Marcia & Sue**. He also mentioned he had a power washer and the ability to bug spray the exterior of the church.

Plans for the Manse currently are removing old carpeting, new carpeting is purchased and will be installed soon. 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 as soon as new carpet is laid. **Madge**

Berryhill will supervise cleaning and coordinate teams.

Deb reported that **Adrienne Stonecipher** is willing to coordinate the Lion's dinners. Lion's will vote at their April meeting. **Adrienne** will also coordinate an Easter breakfast, for donations to the mission fund and Youth Group will be serving.

Christian Education: Memorial committee has approved the expenditure for a new TV for downstairs. Planning for VBS. Looking forward to restarting the committee.

New Business: Proposal for new sound board. **Justin** has researched and put in attached proposal. Motion to obtain gently used sound board, if it's still available if not the new one. Motion made by **Del Jacobs**, second by **Marcia Perkins**. Approved. Proposal for TVs for the nursery discussed. Nursing mothers and those with small children cannot follow the worship service from downstairs, no audio or visuals. **Deb** will ask Memorial committee for funds for two TVs.

Prayer by **Wayne Brood**

Adjourned at 8:59

Submitted by **Dave St. Onge**

News From Down Under

On behalf of all of us in Primary Sunday school, We would like to thank the board for our new TV system and **Del Newville** for the beautiful paint job downstairs. The grey walls blend with the blue carpet perfectly.

Sue & Marcia

Christian Music ...Thinking outside the box...

This song was written by Paul Joseph Baloche. It was based on Ephesians 8:18, 2 Kings 6:17 and 6:20. It was classified as a Christian Gospel Song. It could also be classified as Christian Entertainment, Art Song and many more. Its theme encourages cleansing, humility, longing for Christ, prayer, and surrender.

Open the Eyes of my Heart

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You. (Repeat once)
To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You. (Repeat once)



To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy. (Repeat two times more)
Holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you. (Repeat this six times)

I love this song. It touches my heart every time I sing it. I am blessed most when I sing it at home. It feels like I am one-to-one with God. I find it is a pathway to prayer and Bible study. I have to wonder if God ever tires of the repetition? Do non-Christians wonder what 'Open the eyes of my heart' means? Until next time... try thinking outside the box...

June Davis



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