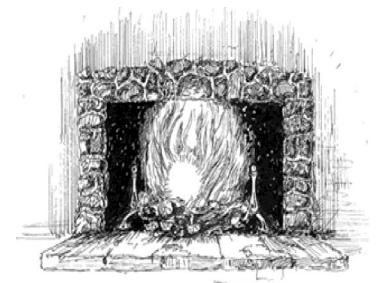


The Spark



Forward by Faith

It is hard to believe, but Terri and I have now been with you for one full year! It has been a year of real blessing here at First Union, and we should each take a moment to give thanks to God for his blessing on the ministries of this local church.

As we look ahead to the coming summer season, may we all be praying for the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit as we seek to build on all the good things from the past twelve months.

We should be remembering this church's leadership over the past 129 years (all the way back to its founding in 1894). We should be thankful for all the times in which they faced difficult decisions, and for the strength and wisdom they received from the Holy Spirit. And, we should be thankful for God's provision during those times when things were not going as well as everyone wished. Through the great times and the challenging times, God has been with the families and the ministries of First Union Church.

I'd like to suggest that the reason for this is because God has a plan for this local church to be a beacon to the Les Cheneaux Area

(and beyond). It is true that, through the power of modern technology, our services can be viewed from anywhere that an internet signal is available. But I still believe the greatest power we have is the power of prayer. I speak of prayers for one another, for our community, and for the future of this local church.

As we give thanks for a great first year together, may we remember to keep our eyes on Christ as we move forward until he calls us into his presence (or he returns in power and glory). "Keep on keeping on", and solo deo gloria (to God alone be the glory).



Pastor Jim Huber

**May
2023**

**First
Union
Church**

- Forward by Faith
- How About You?
- Just off the Hwy
- Matter of Prayer
- The Recipe Box
- To your Health
- Christian Music
- Wisps from Willow
- Board Highlight
- Pictures



How About You?

As you drive by a cattle ranch or dairy farm, have you ever wondered how much one of those cows is worth? I looked up the information only to find that there is a wide range of value in livestock. A dairy cow can be worth \$1,500 to \$2000 and an Angus beef cow can be worth up to \$3,500. These are very broad and general values but wow there is a lot of money out in that field eating grass as I drive along.

Horse values vary a lot as well. And the next question is, how much is a human worth. How does \$650,000 sound. Unfortunately that is the black market price for your heart. A kidney brings about \$160,000. Better hope the body does not reject the transplant as there are no refunds! How about you... did you know that the hu-

man body produces enough electricity to power a 100 watt light bulb for 24 hours? As the song says Jesus loves all the people in this world and they are precious in his sight. I had no idea how much, but I am glad he values me because at my age, my body would probably require a discount.

Mike Davis



Just Off the Highway...

Just off Highway 17 in Bowling Green, Florida is the Real Life Community Church. This is a small interdenominational church of about 100 folks, that tries to get by with volunteers and a \$50,000 a year budget. **June and I** visit occasionally.

The music is loud and dominates the hour and half service.

During the COVID days the church met in the vast open area of the RV park that we frequent while in Florida. We kind of connected with them at that time.

What got my attention about this church is their mission statement, which is as follows:

"A church where everyone is welcome, nobody's perfect, and anything is possible!"
Is this not what we all want in our church?



A Matter of Prayer...

We have a lot to pray for this month so I am going to get right to it, with the sincere hope of not forgetting anyone.

**Please continue to pray
for the following people...**

Claudia Brood, was feeling fine and so happy about the success of her Cochlear implant on Sunday and 2 days later is traveling to Midland for a possible problem

Eunice Newville, for her kidneys

Mike Sweeney, for his COPD

Kathy Tassier, dizziness & vertigo

Gillian Bickham, stomach problems

Candy Perkins, Multiple Issues, is in rehab in Petoskey

Jack Hays, lung cancer

Erin Winberg, has had some problems during her pregnancy. She still has a few weeks to go, praying for safe delivery

Everett McConkey, Janette Renaud's brother, recently diagnosed with brain cancer, prayers needed for peace & comfort

Karen Schaedig, Is thought to have pneumonia plus other issues as well. Diagnosing is a long, arduous process and so is recovery. Prayers for a complete recovery

Sonny Postula had surgery on his leg

June Davis, our choir director, is feeling better after her spell in church last Sunday. She has had a bad cough for several weeks and has had the usual scans and bloodwork done. And as we always say, help is in Union Church in more ways than one, there are several, nurses, doctors & first responders in our congregation who are ready to help, and there were 120 people in church Sunday praying for June! As **Mike** himself would say "*couldn't be in a better place*"!

Terri Huber, successful hernia surgery

Prayers for **Victoria Gulder**,

Paul Kuiper, at Henry Ford Hospital, suffering with acute pancreatitis

Pray for our friends at Cedar Cove

Kitty Sims, died on April 27 from complications of pneumonia and congestive heart issues

Joan Leach:

Visitation May 11, 5:00-7:00

Funeral May 12,

Visitation 10:00 & service at 11:00 (both visitation & funeral at Galer Funeral Home) with a lunch reception to follow at Union Church in Cedarville about 1:15pm

Keith Kester's memorial service is still to be determined

Carl Hanna's memorial service will be Sat. May 6 at 11:00

The Recipe Box



Hi Everyone! I wish I could get someone to write a short book review occasionally, but I can't seem to, so I'm going to assume I'm the only one who reads books anymore, lol, and write one myself. ..and you will see how short it can be.

I am reading a book I bought at the library book sale called **The Chilbury Ladies Choir**, by Jennifer Ryan. It is set in London during WWII and written in a British style, similar to author Maeve Binchey's books. It is a novel about several different people from the town of Chilbury, England, who are keeping journals or diaries during the war. They all know each other and these journal/letters fly back and forth between them. I find British novels to be a more "dry" humor (not too funny) and I love them. My own heritage is 1/2 English and my mom always said I was slow to get the joke! Maeve Binchy passed away a few years ago. I read all her books and have them, and if you read and liked them, you'll probably like ***The Chilbury Ladies Choir***. On to recipes...

Cheesy Meatloaf

2 eggs

1/2 cup + 1/3 cup marinara sauce

1 t dry Italian seasoning

1/2 t garlic powder

1/4 t salt

1/4 t pepper

1 cup fresh breadcrumbs

1/2 lbs. ground beef

1 onion, grated

1/2 cup shredded, mozzarella cheese

Fresh oregano leaves (optional)

- Heat oven to 350* Coat 9x13 baking dish with

Pam, in a bowl beat eggs, 1/2 cup sauce, seasoning, garlic powder, salt & pepper. Stir in crumbs and let stand 1 minute.

- Add ground beef and onion; stir gently until just combined. Shape into a loaf; transfer to baking dish and spread remaining 1/3 cup sauce on top
- Cook until meat thermometer registers 165*, about 50 Minutes, topping with the cheese the last 5 minutes of cooking Let stand 5 minutes before slicing

Tweaks: I thought this sounded good because the spaghetti sauce has more flavor than plain ketchup, but..I have not made this yet

Hint: spray your box grater or hand grater with Pam to make grating soft cheese easier, clean-up is easier too.

On the advice of my nutritionist, I am drinking smoothies. I eat minimal protein so I'm getting it in a smoothie Here's a breakfast smoothie I saved from FB...1 cup blueberries, 1/4 cup rolled oats, 1/2 banana, 1T flax seeds (I use ground flax) 1 cup almond milk, 1 t cinnamon.

The recipe I have used from her is: 1/2 cup Greek yogurt, 1/2 cup milk, 1T flax, 2 cups frozen fruit, 1/2 banana, 1T honey, a scoop of protein powder, and blend

I buy a frozen strawberry/peach combo, a flavored greek yogurt & vanilla protein powder

Smoothie ingredients are negotiable, use flavors and amounts to suit you!!

all

Sue Rye



To Your Health...

Sunscreen Plus

As the weather is warming up, it is time to think about enjoying more outdoor activities both for work and pleasure.

With more outdoor activities comes increased exposure to the ultraviolet (UV) rays, both A (UVA) and B (UVB), coming from the sun. The impact from direct exposure to the sun from one or both of

these invisible ultraviolet rays without adequate protection damages skin cells that may result in skin cancer later in life.

In an effort to prevent damage to your skin from the sun's invisible UV rays it becomes important for sunscreen to be applied each time you go outdoors for any length of time and at any age. The recommendation by the American Academy of Dermatology is to use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or more. The sunscreen should also be broad spectrum to protect the skin from both ultraviolet A and B rays. The sunscreen should also be water resistant or very water resistant. Sunscreen is not water proof or sweat-proof and needs to be reapplied every two hours if you are swimming or doing a physical activity causing you to sweat.

In addition to applying sunscreen when outdoors, there are other precautions needed to protect your skin.

Try to stay in shaded areas as much as possible when outdoors. Wear clothing that covers your arms and legs.

A wide brimmed hat is also recommended to cover the tops of your ears and the back of your neck areas that are often missed when applying sunscreen.

Wrap-around sunglasses helps to protect the eyes from the UVA and UVB rays, not only for adults but for

children as well. The sunglasses reduce the risk of cataracts and offers protection to the skin around the eyes.

Sunscreen is not recommended for infants under 6 months of age. Infants need to be kept out of midday sun as much as possible and use protective clothing when out in the sun.

As always, check for the manufacturers expiration date on the sunscreen tube to have the maximum benefit.

Skin damage can also occur from using any indoor tanning bed, booth, sun-bed or sunlamp since they use high levels of UV rays to tan the skin

What you do today to protect your skin will benefit you over the years.

https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/sun-safety.htm; <https://www.aad.org/public/everyday-care/sun-protection/shade-clothing-sunscreen/how-to-select-sunscreen>

Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come near him.

Exodus 34:30



Betty Mitchell BSN

Christion Music...thinking outside the box...une Davis

'Because HE Lives'

GOD sent HIS son, they called HIM,

JESUS;

HE came to love, heal, and forgive;

HE lived and died to buy my pardon,

An empty grave is there to prove my SAVIOR
lives!'Because HE Lives'

GOD sent HIS son, they called HIM, JESUS;

HE came to love, heal, and forgive;

HE lived and died to buy my pardon,

An empty grave is there to prove my SAVIOR
lives!

Chorus

Because HE lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because HE lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know HE holds the future,

And life is worth the living,

Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,

And feel the pride and joy he gives.

But greater still the calm assurance,

This child can face uncertain days because HE
Lives!

Chorus

Because HE lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because HE lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know HE holds the future,

And life is worth the living,

Just because HE lives!

And then one day, I 'll cross the river,

I ll fight life's final war with pain;

And then, as death gives way o victory,

I'll see the lights of GLORY and I'll know HE
lives!

Chorus

Because HE lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because HE lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know HE holds the future,

And life is worth the living,

Just because HE lives!

In 1969, the world was in turmoil. How could anyone be happy? Bill and Gloria Gaither, songwriters and vocalists of Contemporary Christian and Southern Gospel Music found inspiration to write this song. Because HE Lives is about peace and joy. This song reminds us that GOD is in control, that the Resurrection is a fact, and to put your trust in JESUS CHRIST. Read Titus 3:4-7. The lyrics praise the sacrifice and salvation found in Jesus Christ through faith. *You might be curious about my capitalizations of HE. Over the last couple of years, I began capitalizing GOD, HE, JESUS, because I feel that it brings what's most important, to the obvious.

*Information gathered from beliversportal.com

"Wisps from Willow" Greg Wagner



PAUL HARVEY'S LETTER TO HIS GRAND-CHILDREN

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For

my grandchildren, I'd like better.

I'd really like for them to know about hand me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches.. I really would.

I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car.

And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.

It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep.

I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in.

I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother/sister. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.

When you want to see a movie and your little brother/sister wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him/her.

I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely.

On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom.

If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one.

I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books.

When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head.

I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a boy / girl, and when

you talk back to your mother that you learn what ivory soap tastes like.

May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole.

I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it... And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he/she is not your friend. I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma/Grandpa and go fishing with your Uncle.

May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays.

I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at

Christmas time when you give her a plaster mold of your hand.

These things I wish for you - tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life.



Board Highlights

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm and was opened with prayer by **Mike Bolcer**.

Treasurer's Report – Greg Wagner

Looks good for this point in the fiscal year.

Figures are within normal ranges

Our balance sheet is at \$367,480 as of today
3.27.23

Pastors Report

Things continue to go very well. Very grateful for the prayers & ;
support of all

Elder's Report –

Elders met three times in March (Tuesday mornings). As we consider candidates for future elders and deacons, remember the biblical qualifications from 1st Timothy chapter 3.

Deacon's Report –

All the hallway light bulbs have been replaced with LED (thank you **Rick Wilson**).

Discussion for the replacement of the florescent tube lights in the meeting rooms, fellowship hall, and

downstairs. This would need to be part of the budget process for next year.

Nursery project - Painting has been completed (thank you to **Del Newville**). Baby gates are here and

need to be mounted in place. Hanging mural is also in and ready to install.

Policy updates: Church contract for using the facilities - updates were recommended and approved

Computer and office equipment policy - is essentially being re-written and will be brought at a future meeting.

Mission committee – No report

Women's Group –Discussion of the Easter

morning breakfast was held to ensure details were covered.

Ladies spring banquet on Sat May 6th here.

Sherry Huff is chairing this event. The food would be purchased through Gordon Foods. **Greg** offered to organize the cooking team.

Christian Education – No report.

Youth Programs – Attendance is facing so many headwinds due to spring sports and driver's education.

We will be trying out the Northwoods event on Sunday night April 16th (6pm).

Meeting was held last week to discuss another monthly option for area youth to be hosted at Cedar Bay.

Daniel and Solana are involved in this discussion, as is **Jim Huber, Mike Bolcer & Dave Hopkins**,

Jonathan Oliphant (Northwoods), and some area pastors from Pickford, will meet Thurs April 20th for next discussion (Pickford Methodist Church) at 6pm. Seeking to get additional pastors and youth leaders.

Old Business

Randy and Marley Brown will be here with us on Sunday June 4th .

The tree removals are underway soon. This will be contracted out.

The next meeting is Monday April 24th at 7pm.
The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Pictures

Easter Morning Breakfast



****While reading the *Chilbury Ladies Choir* book, I came upon a quote that caught my eye and I thought was kind of profound to think about. Then I realized that it had been underlined by the person who owned the book before me, so it must have caught their eye also; ***But if we don't think of our death until we die, how can we decide how we want to live?*** Ponder over that one for awhile!****



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