

# The Spark



## ."Finding the Balance"

**May/June  
Spark  
2024**

**First  
Union  
Church**

- **Finding / Balance**
- **Matter of Prayer**
- **The Recipe Box**
- **Board Hi-Lights**
- **Church News**
- **Cedar Bay News**

Sometimes we wonder about what should not change with time and what must change with time.

Many people struggle with this distinction, because we know that God's word does not change and that God himself does not change. We know that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The theological term for this is that God is "immutable".

However, we also know that the tools he gives us for the work of the church not only may

change but do change. For example, we have God's word in many different languages (including several fine English translations), because without them, we would have to learn Hebrew and

Greek in order to have God's word. Finding the balance between knowing those things which do

not change and accepting those things which need to change is a real challenge for many churches.

For example, we are currently in the process of major upgrades to our audio-visual technology in

the sanctuary. These tools provide us with powerful methods to better communicate God's word.

They are not ends in and of themselves, but they are means to that end. Through the power of

live streaming over the internet, people who are with us during the summer months can watch

our services on a "live" or on a "pre-recorded" basis during the rest of the year. Year-round

residents who would like to attend but are unable to for personal or health related issues can tune

in and be a part of the church each week. Technology is a wonderful tool so long as we always

realize that it has the potential to be mis-used as well. This is why we're being so careful to find the proper balance between the things that should not change and the things that probably need to change.

Music is another example. The music used during our services is a combination of traditional and newer music. I look carefully at the notes, rhythms, harmonies, and words to ensure the music

we use is biblically sound. One of the challenges with music is that churches with very

contemporary music programs sometimes de-emphasize the preaching of the gospel because the

music becomes the centerpiece of the service. Like technology, music is a means to end - which should be the worship of our Lord and the teaching of his Word.

In the months and years ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus and our hearts and minds centered in

his Word, I believe we will maintain this biblically healthy balance and it will position First

Union Church for many years of brightly shining the light of Christ here in the Les Cheneaux

Islands. God bless you all and many God bless the ministries of First Union Church.



Terry Huber and Junior Church



# A Matter of Prayer

## Thoughts on prayer, by Phillip Yancy:

“Prayer is not a means of removing the unknown and predictable elements in life, but rather a way of including the unknown and unpredictable in the outworking of the grace of God in our lives”.

“People on sinking ships do not complain of distractions during their prayer.”

“Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes: why God doesn’t act the way we want God to, and why I don’t act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where those themes converge.”

“We truly live only one day at a time. It doesn’t really help to worry about the future, which we can’t control, or the past, which we can’t change.

Please continue to pray for the following people; some are on-going and some are new to the list

Pray for our grieving families; **Sweeneys’, Vandergeests’, Baileys’** and all others going through changes..

**Loren Dingman** is having some swallowing challenges recently & now has hospice

**Fred Renaud**, prayers for on-going brain cancer..

**Madge Berryhill’s** PT did not work & she was told they can’t help her further, so let’s “pray her better!” Pray for ease of the pain in her back.

Pray for **Lori Thompson’s son Kevin** who has leukemia/lymphoma..& is in treatment

**Paul Kuiper**, very painful sciatica..prayers for relief...

**June Davis**,  
Broken ankle with surgery after..

**Mike Bolcer**, achilles surgery..is recovering well

**Stan Jack**, eye surgery..it went smoothly and he is recovering now

**Janis Smith (Pastor’s sister)**, had gall stone removable surgery..

**Jim Farero** had an allergic reaction to an iron infusion..

**Dick Carr** is on the mend, severely dehydrated. Needs to drink more water & liquids..

**Greg Wagner**, is recovering from heart, pancreas & gall bladder surgeries. Pray for Greg..

**Tom Moore** will be having heart valve surgery very soon, pray he feels great relief with a new valve

Happy news; **Brittany Logan, (Jason & Karen Perkin’s** daughter) is pregnant!

**Emilie Bigelow** has had many ear surgeries to help her hearing, and just had another. Pray for her hearing to be restored as much as possible.

Pray for **Barrett**, making amazing progress in his cancer recovery (**Bill Scoble’s** nephew)

Pray for Cedar Cove residents, it’s normal to have good days and bad days..and they do. Pray for more good than bad!

**Eunice & Del Newville** are both facing challenges with accidents & illnesses in their family.

**Holly Perkins** dad may have had a stroke, is in process of moving as well/

Keep on praying for: Our country; elected officials in Lansing & Washington, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine...Voters in America, Unity in local church Cedar Bay, Northwoods Christian Camp, Cedar Cove. L.C. School.

**Anna Hamel**, pray for healing of a burst appendix

Sue Dental, recovering from a serious illness & will be seen at Cleveland Clinic this week.

# The Recipe Box...Sue Rye



Hi everyone! Well the news is wonderful from the Cloud/O'Hare & Berryhill households as we all got the news that **Alyssa & Will** are engaged!



## Freezer Mashed Potatoes

5 pounds of potatoes, peeled, cut in chunks and boiled about 10-15 minutes. Drain & cool.

Dump potatoes in a large mixer bowl and beat in 2 T softened butter. Add in and beat 1 cup of sour cream, 6 oz of cream cheese, (cubed), 1/2 t onion powder, 1/2 t salt & 1/4 t pepper.

Lastly, either bake for 30" in a 9x13 pan at 350 degree oven, to eat immediately..or..

Divide into smaller freezer portions and bake-when you take out of the freezer—at 350 deg. For 30"

Smaller portions would be handy if you live alone.

It is recommended that you thaw overnight in refrigerator.

Add bacon, chives or sliced green onions on top if you wish...



## Creamy Seafood Chowder

- 2 T butter
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 celery rib, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, shredded
- 2 T flour
- 1/2 cup 2% milk
- 3 cups seafood stock
- 1 medium potato, peeled & diced
- 1 T Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t salt, 1/2 t pepper
- 1 lb uncooked shrimp (41-50 per lb.), peeled & de-veined.
- 2-(6&1/2 oz each) chopped clams, drained
- 2-(6oz.) cans lump crabmeat, drained
- 1-8 oz pkg cream cheese, cubed

In a dutch oven, heat butter on medium heat; add celery, onion & carrot and cook until crisp-tender, (2-3min). stir in flour until blended, gradually adding milk. Bring to a boil, cook and stir about (2 min). until thick. Add stock, potato, Worcestershire, S & P. Stir, cover & cook about (10-15) min. on med heat until potato is tender.

Add shrimp, clams, crab & cream cheese. Cook & stir until shrimp turns pink & cheese is melted. (4-5"). Garnish with parsley.

It's Perfectly ok to use other fish, such as a flaky whitefish or scallops( any combination will work)

Substitute half & half or heavy cream for all or part of the milk to make this soup even richer!





# Board Highlights

Meeting was called to order at 6:40pm and was opened with prayer (Mike Bolcer)  
Attendance – Present: Jim Huber, Mike Bolcer, Dave St. Onge, Deb St. Onge, Marcia Perkins, Wayne Brood, Jeremy Bigelow, Mike Davis, Rick Wilson  
Absent: Stan Jack and Terry Moore

Minutes of the March 25th meeting were reviewed and Corrected  
Mike Davis moved, Rick Wilson second to accept Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Rick Wilson gave the report and it is on file.  
Motion to accept by Mike Davis Seconded by Dave St.Onge Motion carried

Pastor's Report – written (attached) and reviewed by Pastor Jim

Elder's Report – No report

Deacon's report – Rick reviewed status of current and future projects. Report is on file.  
Motion by Wayne Brood Seconded by Mike Davis to authorize the expenditure for AV upgrade in sanctuary, not to exceed 5000 dollars. Motion Carried.

Mission committee – Presenters for May – August (see pastor's report).

Women's association – Deb St. Onge - we need to designate a day for Church clean up.  
"Daughters of the King"  
dinner  
is this Saturday at 4:30pm

Christian Education – Marcia Perkins reported on downstairs Sunday School, Jr church, Anchor Club.  
Committee to meet within the next two weeks.

Youth Programs – Daniel & Solana Peterson. Averaging 6 students, going well. Planning for fall. Thinking about adding some generational interaction.

Bowling this week on Sat evening at the Soo.

Old Business – Worship times for the summer will remain at 10:30am (not change from normal).

New Business – Pastor appreciation discussion.  
Randy and Marlee Brown - schedule for an evening performance, Deb will check on schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm  
The next scheduled board meeting is: Mon  
May 20 th

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Perkins, Secretary



## “ Church News”



**Madge and Jim Berryhill** traveled to Ann Arbor to hear their son **Andrew**, sing in a concert.

The **Berryhill's** have 6 children; **Lynn, Steven, Paul, Jon, Andrew, and Amy**, ranging in age from 68 to 51yrs old. Those were busy years for the **Berryhills'**. **Paul** and wife **Kathy**, are the parents of **Will** who just got engaged to **Alyssa**.

( picture on Page 3)

## Cedar Bay News

Cedar Bay is thankful to the members of First Union Church who give their time with us to serve camp regularly. We would like to start highlighting volunteers who have been a tremendous help! This time we would like to honor **Rick Wilson** who has been such a bright light with electrical work around camp. Thank you, **Rick**, for the many hours you have served along side us at Cedar Bay!

Cedar Bay thrives off volunteers who are willing to give their time and use their skills to further God's kingdom. If you are looking for volunteer opportunities and are interested in joining the Cedar Bay team, we are still looking for 3 more regular volunteers as the summer season approaches. The desired positions available include:

- Front Desk Host (1/2 Days)
- Laundry (Tues/Fri-4 hours)
- Lawn Mower (Fridays)

Please feel free to ask our current volunteers **Carol Jacob and Cass Moore** for insight into the Front Desk Host role, and **Mike Bolcer** about lawn mowing at Cedar. If you feel called to fill any of these positions, please contact us at [volunteer@cedarbay.us](mailto:volunteer@cedarbay.us). We look forward to hearing from you!

(Editor's note: I'm sorry that the 3 pictures of **Rick** would not transfer at this time, if you can picture **Rick** up on a ladder.. .that would be about right!) LOL

---

## **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**

*The Spark*