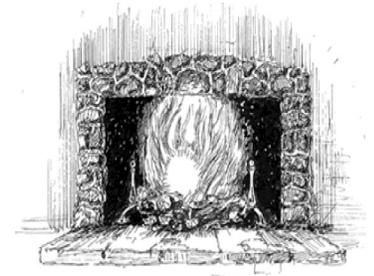


The Spark



Our Liberty in Christ

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in Love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

We live in a day when people seem to love the word "liberty" but they may have different understandings of what the word means (and of the responsibility that must go along with it). This is not a new problem. The Apostle Paul goes to great length to remind his readers that Christians been set free from all kinds of external, man-made bondage. In John chapter 8, Jesus was speaking to those who claimed to be redeemed because they are born and raised as Jews, but in it says:

"Our father is Abraham!" they declared. "No," Jesus replied, "for if you were really the children of Abraham, you would follow his example. Instead, you are trying to kill me because I told you the truth, which I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing.

Today, there are Christian believers who become so focused on trying to only live by their rules (and trying to be sure everyone else lives by their rules). In doing so, they lose sight of the damage they do to the very cause they support. This is why it is so important that we correctly understand this term "liberty in Christ".

The requirements of the Old Testament law have been fulfilled for us, by none other than Christ himself through his sacrificial death and resurrection. But we must also consider that our liberty in Christ does not mean we can just do whatever we desire.

Look at Gal 5:13 again; 'For brethren you have been called unto liberty only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.' John MacArthur worded it this way: "Liberty in Christ is not freedom to sin; It is freedom from sin." Next, our liberty in Christ is not freedom to hurt others. It's a thin line between legalism and holding to biblical principles. A strong, mature believer is one who understands their liberty in Christ. A weaker believer is still hung up on all the rules that were placed on them when they first came to believe.

Finally, our liberty in Christ is not to ignore the law, but liberty to live in the fulfillment of the law.

That is what Jesus came to do; not to replace the law but to fulfill the Old Testament law. We should embrace our liberty in Christ while fully submitting to the Holy Spirit who helps us to walk along those pothole-filled paths of life. We do this until that day when our savior returns or that day when he calls us into his presence, whichever comes first. Until that day, know that God loves us, he sent his only begotten Son to pay the debt we could never pay, and he sent the Holy Spirit to call us to faith and guide us through all the days of our lives.

The question for each of us is: are we listening to what he is trying to tell us?

Pastor Jim

Pastor Jim Huber

**November
2022**

**First
Union
Church**

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- Matter of Prayer
- How about You?
- Just off the Hwy
- The Recipe Box
- To Your Health
- Christian Music
- Wisps from Willow
- Board Highlights
- College Student Updates



A Matter of Prayer...

Thoughts on prayer from S. Michael Houdmann

We pray for a variety of reasons. Prayer is a form of serving God and obeying Him. We pray because God commands us to pray. If Jesus thought it was worthwhile to pray, we should also.

Another reason to pray is that God intends prayer to be the means of obtaining His solutions in a number of situations. We come to God with our specific requests, and we have God's promise that our prayers are not in vain, even if we do not receive specifically what we asked for ([Matthew 6:6](#); [Romans 8:26-27](#)). He has promised that when we ask for things that are in accordance with His will, He will give us what we ask for ([1 John 5:14-15](#)).

However, sometimes He delays His answers according to His wisdom and for our benefit. In these situations, we are to be diligent and persistent in prayer ([Matthew 7:7](#); [Luke 18:1-8](#)). Prayer should not be seen as our means of getting God to do our will on earth, but rather as a means of getting God's will done on earth.

- The reason is simple: God's wisdom far exceeds our own

Pastor Jim

Bruce & Nancy Glupker's baby great-granddaughter "Winnie" is now over 6# and doing well. She was released from the hospital in Grand Rapids this week. Thanks to **Bruce & Nancy, Audrey & Nick** had a place to stay the entire 2-1/2 months they were in G.R. (**Glupker's** condo) while **Glupker's** were in the LCI. But now they are ready to switch back and Winnie has a long-ride-home. Pray for little Winnie to have extra stamina for the trip.

(She is home now and doing fine)

Continued prayer needed for the following people, groups and organizations:

- **Margaret Dingman's** grandchildren **Silas & Jess** lost their baby at 28 weeks, we send sympathies and prayers for them as they all mourn their loss
- **Loren Dingman** shows no new signs of cancer but is in stage 4 kidney disease. Please pray for **Loren**
- **Eunice Newville** continues her battle with kidney failure and other health issues relating to that... she would love prayers for her condition to stay stable, to feel better and for peace about it all
- **Claudia Brood** would like prayer for a cochlear implant for her hearing, she says she's very deaf and it's getting more difficult all the time
- **Jeanne Hays** is homebound and doesn't get to church anymore. I'm sure she misses it. Send her a card and say hi!
- **Mike Sweeney and Candy Perkins** are also homebound pretty much...so keep in touch with them
- **Jack Hays** is recovering at home from his cancer and lung issues and surgeries, let's pray that everything heals and stabilizes
- **Keith Kester** is at Cedar Cove, it's nice he has **Stacey**, his daughter working there, he gets to have family around all the time and **Marc & Amy** visit often too.
- There are lots of lovely people in the Cove to visit including some people from our church, like **Joan Leach, Yvonne McDonald, Judy Izzard and Audrey Fisher. Also Leslie Freil's mom Gerry Izzard.**
- Pray for **Kathy Tassier's** dizziness problems, to go away. It's bad enough to keep her from playing the piano!! Plus it's a horrible feeling.

How About You?

The Paper Clip

Just like you I have been using paper clips for years. Metal ones, plastic ones, even some colored ones, both large and small. Some designs even look like triangles. Usually 100 per box and believe it or not, many are made here in the United States with up to 50% post consumer waste. Samuel B. Fry is credited with the first patent in 1867. It was originally designed to hold tickets to fabric, however the patent did include holding small amounts of paper together.

There are claims that the British intellectual, Herbert Spencer, registered his "binding pin" in 1846. Even Norway claims they had the first paper clip and have a huge monument of the paper clip in Sandviks. That little wire is now used in many computer applications to reset, recessed buttons and some computer instructions say to use the clip for "emergency eject" such as ejecting a SIM card. On the evil end, the paper clip has been stretched out and used to pick a lock and open hand cuffs.

How About You? That little wire is keeping my papers

organized and is used as a book mark for some special verses within my Bible.

Like the paper clip, My Bible, holds together my notes and study guides for our Sunday morning classes and Sunday evening studies. Like the paper clip, I have also seen where people stretch out the Bible meaning to misrepresent it's contents to support their unbiblical agenda and try to reset the meaning. It is good to know that the good Lord has us clipped to HIS 'to do list' as HE is sending out HIS blessings. See you Sunday to share what HE has done for you!

Mike Davis



Just Off the Highway...

Grandkids special trips

While our grandkids have been growing up we have tried to let them pick a road trip destination of their own. They are responsible for the budget for the trip and also raising at least part of the money to make the trip a reality, **Alyssa** chose the Statute of Liberty to include the 8 month wait to get a reservation to actually climb to the top.

Ben wanted to see and ride in a World War II amphibious vehicle like the one his Great Grandfather operated during the war.

The Wisconsin Dells have several of these original surplus vehicles available for tours on land and in the water.

Sammie (11 years old) is now in the process of organizing her special trip. She has chosen to visit the Creation Museum and The Noah's Ark exhibit in northern Kentucky near Cincinnati.

Stay tuned as I think I will let her write about her experience in next month's



The Recipe Box



This picture reminds me of a few years ago when I got inspired to rake leaves. I have a very small lot with 3 huge trees that shed about 2.7 million leaves (lol). So ..feeling pretty good, I went out and raked the leaves for hours. The next part is not a joke, I paid for that raking (in pain) for a whole year and never did it again! On to recipes...The first is another cookie recipe from **Cass Moore**. She had it at coffee hour a couple weeks ago and then people always want her recipes,

Apple Oatmeal Cookies

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 and 1/2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup light brown sugar packed
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups chopped apple. (2 large granny smith apples)

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350*. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, and baking soda until well combined. Stir in the old-fashioned rolled oats and set aside.
3. Beat together the butter, brown sugar, and

granulated sugar until fully combined. Mix in the eggs and vanilla extract.

4. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and mix until just combined. Gently fold in the chopped apples until fully incorporated into the cookie dough.

5. Scoop balls of cookie dough onto the prepared baking sheets, leaving a little room between each one.

6. Bake for 15 minutes or until the tops of the cookies are set.

7. Let cool for 5-10 minutes, then transfer to a wire cooling rack to cool completely.

Taco Pizza from Carol Duncan

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 taco seasoning mix (packet)
- 1 16 oz can refried beans
- 2 tubes crescent rolls
- 2-3 cups Mexican cheese, shredded
- 1/2 cup tomatoes, chopped
- 4 green onions, sliced

Brown beef, add taco seasoning, Unroll crescent rolls in Ungreased 11x 16" jelly roll pan, press down in the pan and 1/2" up the sides, bake 11-13 minutes
Microwave beans for 1 minute and spread on crust.

Top with beef, cheese, tomatoes and green onions

Return to oven and bake to melt the cheese about 3-6 minutes

Tweaks: If you can find these...they do make crescent rolls in sheets now which would be a little easier to use in this recipe. I would have a little shredded lettuce to sprinkle on top when it's completely cooked

Sue Rye



To Your Health...

Safety Tips for Winter

Safety is important all year long. However, as winter and holiday events approach there are some things to remember to protect you, your family and your pets.

If you have a small child in attendance at a social activity be sure to have one person be responsible for each young child. It is easy to become distracted and think someone else is being attentive. There are many things at a party a young child will be attracted to: purses, gift bags, brightly colored medicine and even the punch bowl. It only takes a moment for little fingers to get into something harmful. Being alert all the time is important.

With doors and windows closed more in the cooler weather, be sure to have carbon monoxide alarms installed outside every bedroom or other sleeping area. Check the batteries in your existing alarms to be sure they are working.

Antifreeze and windshield washer solutions are used more frequently during the winter. Be certain they are stored in a locked closet where children and pets are unable to find them. Now is the time to secure both products. Car antifreeze tastes sweet but even a small amount can cause kidney damage.

Your medications and those of others who live in your home also need to be locked and out of the reach of children and pets. When company is visiting, be sure the purses are out of sight and reach to be sure children do not get into any medication or other harmful items.

If a child or pet does swallow some medication or poisonous solution, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 right away to get guidance on what to do in the home and where to take the child for follow up care. Post this number now on each of the phones in the house, cell and landlines, before you have a need to call.

Properly dispose of any glass mercury thermometers in your home. They can break and cause the mercury to end up in the mouth or spill in your home. Mercury needs special clean up in your home to avoid contamination. If ingested, mercury may cause kidney problems in addition to affecting the skin, eyes and gastrointestinal tract. Replace glass thermometers with digital ones.

More tips to prevent poisoning can be found at the poison help website listed below.

Your pets need to be kept safe, too. Be alert to keep

your pets away from harmful substances, including plants. During the holidays be mindful to keep certain plants away from your pets.

When eaten some colorful plants used during the holidays may cause vomiting, skin irritation or diarrhea. Some plants that are of concern for both small children and pets are Christmas tree needles. They can be picked up by a child and placed in their mouth, causing choking. Pets may drink the water under the tree and get the needles stuck in their throat. If you have a concern about a particular plant, food or medication your pet has consumed, be sure to call Animal Poison Control for guidance at 1-888-426-443

Shiny tinsel poses problems for cats who may like to play with the strands and get it in their mouth leading to choking. Some plants are more toxic and can cause more severe reactions if eaten even if in small amounts: amaryllis, holly, ivy, mistletoe are just a few. Poinsettias are not toxic to animals but can cause irritation to the mouth and stomach and vomiting if ingested. Best to keep them away from your pets. More information on plants and your pets can be found at the two websites listed below.

Source: aspc.org ; medvetforpets.com ; <https://poisonhelp.hrsa.gov/what-you-can-do/prevention-tips>

You make him to rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

Psalm 8:6



Betty Mitchell BSN

Christian Music...thinking outside the box

Several weeks ago, in worship service, we sang "I Sing the Mighty Power of God". It was written by the famous Rev. Isaac Watts. This song is based on Isaiah 40:26 KJV Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things...HE is strong in power. It is a celebration of GOD's creative power that made heaven and earth. It was first published in 1715.

I Sing the Mighty Power of GOD

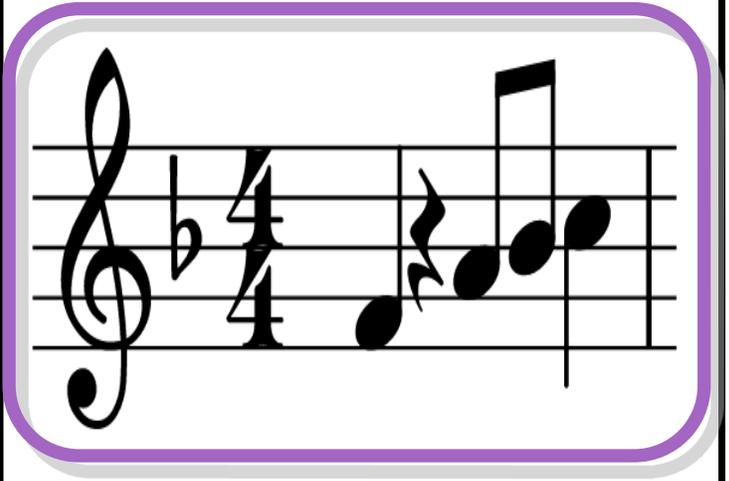
I sing the mighty power of GOD, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at HIS command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the LORD, who filled the earth with food,
Who formed the creatures through the WORD, and then pronounced them good.
LORD, how Thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne.
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, GOD art present there.

Thinking outside the box... The line 'While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy

care' is quite comforting



June Davis



Kim Dunn and
granddaughter
Vivian Estelle
Minarik

“Wisps from Willow” Greg Wagner



Show this one to the kids..... A young man went to seek an important position at a large Landscaping company. He passed the initial interview and was going to meet the director for the final interview.

The director saw his resume, it was excellent. And asked, "Have you received a scholarship for school?" The boy replied, "No". "It was your father who paid for your studies?" "Yes." He replied. "Where does your father work?" "My father is a Farmer" and landscapes for fun.

The Director asked the young man to show him his hands. The young man showed a pair of hands soft and perfect. "Have you ever helped your parents at their job?" "Never, my parents always wanted me to study and read more books. Besides, he can do the job better than me.

The director said:
'I have got a request: When you go home today, go and wash the hands of your father and then come see me tomorrow morning.'

The young man felt his chance to get the job was high.

When he returned to his house he asked his father if he would allow him to wash his hands.

His father felt strange, happy, but with mixed feelings and showed his hands to his son. The young man washed his hands, little by little. It was the first time that he noticed his father's hands were wrinkled and they had so many scars. Some bruises were so painful that his skin shuddered when he touched them.

This was the first time that the young man recognized what it meant for this pair of hands to work every day to be able to pay for his studies. The bruises on the hands were the price that his father payed for his education, his school activities and his future.

After cleaning his father's hands the young man stood in silence and began to tidy and clean up the workshop. That night, father and son talked for a long time.

The next morning, the young man went to the office of the director.
The Director noticed the tears in the eyes of the young

man when He asked him,

'Can you tell me what you did and what you learned yesterday at your house?'

The boy replied: 'I washed my father's hands and when I finished I stayed and cleaned his workshop.'

'Now I know what it is to appreciate and recognize that without my parents, I would not be who I am today. By helping my father I now realize how difficult and hard it is to do something on my own. I have come to appreciate the importance and the value in helping my family.

The director said, "This is what I look for in my people. I want to hire someone who can appreciate the help of others, a person who knows the hardship others go through to accomplish things, and a person who realizes that money is not his only goal in life".

'You are hired'.

A child that has been coddled, protected and given everything he or she wants, develops a mentality of "I have the right" and will always put himself or herself first, ignoring the efforts of parents, family and friends. If we are this type of protective parent are we really showing love or are we helping to destroy our children?

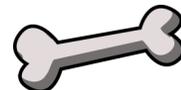
You can give your child their own room in a big house, good food, a computer, tablet, cell phone, and a big screen TV, but when you're washing the floor or painting a wall, children need to experience that too.

After eating, have them wash the dishes with their brothers and sisters, let them fold laundry or cook with you, pull weeds or mow the lawn. You are not doing this because you are poor and can't afford help. You are doing this because you love them and want them to understand certain things about life.

Children need to learn to appreciate the amount of effort it takes to do a job right. They need to experience the difficulties in life that people must overcome to be successful and they must learn about failure to be able to succeed.

Children must also learn how to work and play with others and that they will not always win, but they can always work harder to reach their goals. If they've done their best, then they can take pride in all the effort they put forth.

Life is about giving and serving and these qualities are taught in most homes.



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Board Report will return
next month

College Students & Recent Grads

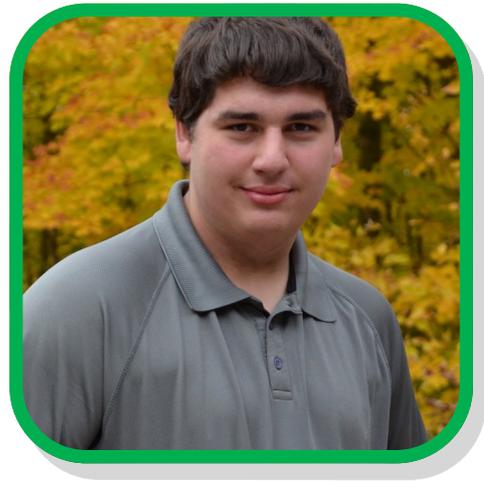
Audrey Pearson



Audrey Pearson is the daughter of **Chris and Laurie Pearson**. She is in her second year at Northern Michigan University studying Social Media Design Management. She enjoys exploring the many beautiful places around the Marquette area. She still enjoys running, skiing at Marquette Mountain and is involved in the NMU Campus CRU group.

Audrey Pearson
338 VanAntwerp
Marquette, Mi
49855

Drew Bailey



Drew, son of Andy & Deb Bailey, is currently attending Michigan Technological University, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering. In his free time, he enjoys baking homemade bread and going to bible study with his fellow Navigators (a Christian ministry that focuses on spiritual development and discipleship, with the goal of making spiritual generations).

Drew Bailey
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The students profiled in this and coming months would love hearing from home. Send a card, or call, maybe a goodie box to let them know you are thinking of them!

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