

The Spark



The Doctrine of Anthropology

For this month, we turn to a most favored subject in all the world—ourselves. Of course, I write that with a bit of tongue in cheek. Nevertheless, knowing oneself is certainly a necessary prerequisite for knowing anything at all. At the foundation of knowing about God is a need to understand the very ones attempting to know Him—that is us. So then, who are we? More than simply our names, places of residence, or family lineage who are we, really? Who are humans? In my pastoral career I've spoken to many people with divergent views. Sometimes we discuss. Sometimes we debate. There is never a shortage of speculation and opinion; and, neither are useful for getting to the heart of truth. The ultimate question I ask them (and myself) always boils down to, "How do you know?" In understanding what I know about humanity, I begin with what's observable. On the one hand, humanity has a noble side. We observe people turning out for community aid projects, helping around church, donating blood, time, or money, and generally serving their neighbors. On the other hand, we readily observe members of our species wreaking havoc. Lying, stealing, rioting, and killing are all among the top sensations on the evening news. Unless you live in some Pollyanna schizophrenic universe within your own irrational mind, you know evil exists alongside decency and within the same person.

Most of us live somewhere between the extremes of greatness and depravity. At Cedarville's First Union, people incline toward the good. In my brief time so far, I have watched people serve in many ways. One might say this group is good at being nice. If we're not careful, it's tempting to consider ourselves good enough to deserve heaven and to hastily overlook the occasions when we're not so good. Though it isn't comfortable to do so, a close and honest look will reveal that even in the best of us runs a common thread that is as dark as darkest evil. Even though it manifests rarely and typically in mild ways, it still manifests. Otherwise nice people are capable of arrogance, narrow-mindedness, self-centeredness, insecurity, dishonesty, gossip, and petty vengeance. Truth be told, not only are we capable of such things, but we are also culpable of such things.

This two-sided reality of good and evil is a defining quality of humanity. The question at hand is how to explain this dual nature in a way that represents God's truth. For centuries, philosophers, theologians, psychologists and anthropologists have wrangled with the concept of the human condition. To quell the clamor of the "intellectual," we need only turn to the final court of arbitration, our most trustworthy source of truth. There we discover the dual nature explained. God's finest object in all creation stands distinct among the glories of the universe simply because, in all God's creative expression, mankind alone bears the image of the Creator, himself. We are the object of disappointment and love, judgment and mercy, grace and forgiveness. We are the recipients of a severe mercy through the gift of Jesus. We learn a great deal about ourselves from the fall of man in Genesis to the redemption of man Christ. We are—YOU AND I ARE—God's most valuable possession. Severely broken, but quite valuable.

Pastor Jamey Nichols

September
October
2021

FIRST UNION CHURCH

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- Then Sings my Soul



A Matter of Prayer

Please continue to pray for the following people:

Lois Tassier, Myelodysplastic Syndrome with chemo and platelet treatment.

Paula Kaye, Metastatic breast cancer, has spread to bones, now in hospice care.

Kara Davis, daughter of Paula, diagnosed with breast cancer, now in treatment, has 3 small boys, both are daughter and granddaughter of **Sue Rye's** brother **Marvin**. She will have a double-mastectomy this week.

Norm Brood, Praise for his successful knee replacement surgery after his accident.

Loren Dingman, Health issues, In Thornapple Manor in Hastings MI. Dealing with a bladder tumor.

Lynn Ensworth, in recovery from a fall.

Gene Nutter, health issues

Chase Ford, diagnosed with stage 4 Glioblastoma, a rare, deadly brain cancer. Prayers for **Chase**, his doctors, and his mother **Heather**, who is **Holly Perkins** twin sister. **Holly** is downstate helping her sister now. **Chase** is the oldest of **Heather's** 4 children.

Steve Gulder, cancerous tumor found in colon. Pray for doctors wisdom deciding on treatment for Steve and God's healing and peace for Steve.

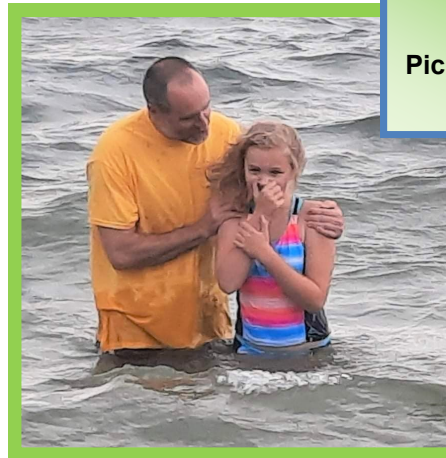
Lillietta Ruby Gulder, Infant daughter of **Benjamin** and **Julianna Gulder**. Praise that she is out of NICU and home thriving. (and don't you just love that name?)

Jack Hays, on schedule to see cardiology on Sep 29th. Prayers for other health issues as well.

Jeanne Hays, homebound, it would be nice to send her a card...

Prayers for all the students in **College, HS and Elementary**...Prayers for safety from all dangers, including Covid while at school.

Prayers for **Cedar Cove** and all our friends inside. Thinking of you often and wish we could see you more.



Picnic and Baptism

Sammie



Alyssa



We had the best picnic going at Heritage Park, when all of a sudden, the worst gale I've ever seen in 50 years living up here blew in and the napkins plates and cups were flying in the wind. It was spectacular and brutal but then it passed as quickly as it came and the baptism was able to take place at the Hessel Beach as planned.

How About You?

Last month, **June and I** took a sleeper car train ride, to Seattle, WA in route to the San Juan Islands. Rail travel provides some of the most beautiful views of this great country but it also shows the back side of many industrial companies especially in the larger cities. The back side of most things are usually, not very complimentary and these industrial parks are no exception. Where to put the 'beast' of the out-dated, broken down, worn out, rusty junk...out back?

I have to admit, like these old buildings, I have a junk pile back behind my wood pile and a junk drawer in the house. 'Out of sight...out of mind'. My proverb is...that the junk accumulates to the space provided. Fortunately at our house, **June** has a limit on such things. When she says, 'It is time to get rid of "her junk" and "my Stuff"... well... it is a sad day for my

high school varsity jacket and such.

Anyway, let's be careful and not let our Bible and study resources get pushed to the back of the shelf where the unused, forgotten pamphlets and study guides often get dog eared, torn and made useless. Don't just have the Bible out front for show...use it, especially around back as well.

Mike
Davis



Just Off the Highway...

Well, not off the highway this time, but rather a short Sea Plane ride from Seattle, WA are the San Juan Islands. This is the summer residence of a major herd, school, pod or other adjectives, of Orca Whales. These huge, but beautiful creatures, diverged from the hippopotamuses 40 million years ago. God created a big one with these creatures. We spent about \$400 to tour the area in a Zodiac boat with twin 200 Hp engines to quickly go to an area when one of the captains on the radio signaled that a pod was near.

However, the truth is, we did not see one single whale, not one! We are not sure what God's plan was on this one, but we were greatly disappointed. The locals told us it had been months since an Orca had been seen. Seems the salmon had disappeared and the whales need the salmon for food. We did enjoy a beautiful island for several days, but all of the predictions were way off for seeing whales.

Three companies taking 30+ people a day out to see whales and booked up for weeks are going to have a pretty big reputation to defend in the very near future in the San Juan Islands. I won't trouble you with contact information.



The Recipe Box



Hi Everyone, I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful Fall!

I have a good recipe for you that I made in my Instant Pot (IP) I thought it was very yummy and I gave half to **Tom & Karen** for their dinner. **Tom** really raved about it and his brother **Terry** ate with them (**Cass** was gone) and he liked it too, so **Tom** said he made it. If you know **Tom's** sense of humor, you'd believe he said that. So **Terry**, just so you know...I made it! LOL

Instant Pot Spaghetti Casserole

1# ground beef
1 t kosher salt
1 t black pepper
1 t garlic powder & onion powder
1 t Worcestershire sauce
2 cups beef broth
8 oz uncooked spaghetti, broke in half
8 oz sliced, fresh mushrooms
8 oz block cream cheese
1 12oz bag of broccoli
1 -2 cups shredded cheddar

Set 6 qt. **IP** for saute and cook beef, pour off grease if any. Add spices and broth. Break spaghetti in half and criss-cross over meat.

Add mushrooms. Put the 8 oz block of cream cheese whole (do not cut up) on top of mushrooms.

Set on manuel-hi for about 5 minutes for regular spaghetti, less for angel hair.

Quick Release the IP

Meanwhile cook the broccoli just to tender. When **IP** is done stir contents, then stir in broccoli, top with cheese and set lid back on to melt the cheddar.

Tweaks

I steamed the broccoli in a steamer

An option is to add a can of cream of mushroom soup when stirring. I added a half a can and could have added the whole can.

Meijers sells regular spaghetti that is already in half pieces...less mess than breaking it.

Can double this recipe

Jezebel Sauce

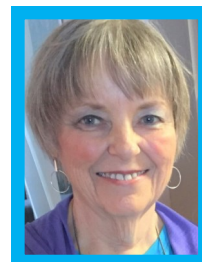
1 10oz. Pineapple preserves
1 10oz apple jelly
8 oz prepared horseradish sauce
1 T dry mustard
1 t cracked black pepper

Combine and refrigerate for 8 hours

Take a cracker put a dab of cream cheese on, then a dab of Jezebel sauce

Yummy!!

Sue Rye



The Recipe Box, continued

I promised several people that I would put in the 3 cheese/dip recipes from Sunday's coffee hour.

- Salsa Dip: Take an equal amount of cream cheese and of (Tostitos) salsa and mix together. That's it! You can make as little or as much as you wish. Oh and nuke the CC first so it mixes well.
- Jezebel Sauce: is on the previous page, however, I ran into a snag because I could not find apple jelly anywhere! Not at Cedarville Foods, Meijers, Walmart, Applecore or The Pinecone (the last two sell specialty jams & jellies). So I made it with tart sour cherry jam from American Spoon (Pinecone). Everybody seemed to love it. I would use 6 oz of horseradish sauce and taste, It has a bite! Yummy.
- Chipped beef Cheeseball: Marcia said she just googled a recipe. It was really good, but I guess you'll have to google one yourself.

Remember the Hills kids? Here they are on first day!



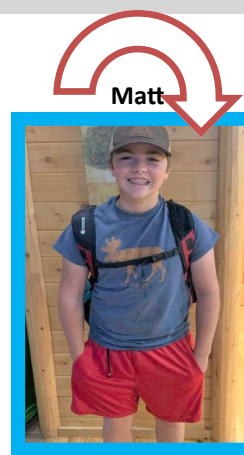
First day of school



Sonny



Ethan



Matt



Liam



Shan
&
Keira

Ryeley...Kurtlyn &
Sonny



To Your Health...

Know the Difference

Knowing the difference between a stroke and an aneurysm may help you save someone's life by getting them proper medical care.

A stroke occurs when a blood vessel in the brain ruptures or when the blood supply to the brain is blocked. Either event will cause brain cells to not have enough oxygen. It only takes a few minutes for brain cells to die when they are deprived of oxygen.

An aneurysm happens when the wall of an artery is weakened, causing the vessel to bulge. As the bulge increases in size, it may rupture and bleed. An aneurysm can occur in any part of the body, including the brain.

Generally, a stroke or a ruptured aneurysm comes on suddenly with no warning. Quick response to either event needs immediate and proper treatment.

Stroke symptoms to look for in someone are:

sudden, intense headache,
numbness on one side of the body,
weakness in the arms or legs,
trouble with balance or coordination,
visual disturbance,
confusion or dizziness.

Aneurysm symptoms are:

headache,
numbness or weakness in arms or legs,
memory issues,
vision problems,
stomach is upset,
vomiting.

Even if you are not sure if someone has a stroke or ruptured aneurysm but you notice any of the symptoms, your first reaction needs to be to call 911 to allow the medical team to evaluate the person for diagnosis and treatment as soon as possible.

The risk factors for stroke are similar. High blood pressure, if not controlled, increases your risk for either event. Smoking damages blood vessels and puts you at higher risk. Your odds for stroke or aneurysm increase if you have experienced either one previously. Age and family history put you at increased risk for either event.

Some risk factors, such as age or family history are risk factors you cannot control. Elevated blood pressure and smoking are risk factors you can control. Other ways to reduce your risk is to maintain a healthy weight, exercise regularly, eat a healthy diet and control your blood pressure.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/stroke-vs-aneurysm#causes>

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my should

know it very well."

Psalm 139:14

Betty
Mitchell
BSN



Grace
Minerek is
awaiting her
cosmetology
license, she
plans to do
hair in
Cedarville



Board Notes

PSC referred a pastoral candidate to the elders

Rev. Chris Engelsma will preach twice this month

A congregational vote-to-call will be held 9/26
Voting will be done by secret ballot

Mike Bolcer (elder) and **Jon Stonecipher** (deacon) have been nominated to serve

The manse deck has been shored up

Bids to repair/restore stained glass are under discussion

Prayer shawls continue to be distribu

Plans were finalized for picnic and baptism



Church Picnic Pictures



Then Sings my Soul

**Jesus Savior, Pilot me,
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
Chart and compass come from thee,
Jesus Savior, pilot me.**

Boating is an important part of the area we live in. We recently celebrated boating with the 43rd Annual Antique Wooden Boat Show.

Jesus knows everything there is to know about boats. Boats of all sizes from the tiny one that carried Moses down the Nile River to the huge ark that saved Noah and his family. He filled Peter's fishing boat. He knew all about the boat Jonah tried to hide in. He used boats. He preached from boats.

"Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea-the Lord on high is Mighty." Psalm 93:4

Sue Freel



**Pastor Ledy
Filled the pulpit
One Sunday**

Wisps from Willow

Where is God??

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.



The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it!!!'



**Greg
Wagner**

Memories

I've been going through some things today and came across some recipes my Mom had hand written. As I looked at her hand writing, I realized how much I missed her.

I miss the sound of her voice, which I no longer can remember. 😞

I miss her smile and her laughter, which would fill, and light up her whole face.

I miss watching her walk, which had slowed down as life had taken its toll on her body.

I miss visiting with her in this house, which was her home, that I now call my home.

Claudia Brood



Unless you are new, you probably know Judy Cason from church. She was able to spend a month in Iowa this summer visiting her daughter Joy and extended family. and was part of a family reunion. Judy is the oldest of 15 children, all living. 8 boys and 7 girls. She had a great time visiting everyone!!! (Judy, middle, front row)



4 Generations of Frontjes'

**Larry Frontjes,
holding baby
Eli,
Tom Frontjes
and
Andy Frontjes**



**Bob & Linda
Vanderboegh**

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**Church Annual Meeting
And Picnic**

The Spark