

The Spark



Summer of 2024

As we progress through the summer of 2024, many great things are happening here at First Union Church. Vacation Bible School was a huge success, and involved more than 50 children and 20 volunteers. I'd like to express many thanks to Christy Cloud-O'Hare and her great team of volunteers. It is obvious how they love children and how they love the Lord. Please pray that the seeds planted will result in young people coming to and growing in their faith in Jesus Christ.

Throughout this summer, our church attendance has been truly amazing. The 4th of July weekend was our high point of attendance at 198. Our congregational singing was wonderful and I enjoyed it so much that I placed an audio clip of it on the church Facebook page. I wanted you and potential visitors to have a chance to hear what it is like to be a part of that kind of worship. As we seek to have a healthy mix of classic hymns and newer songs, let's keep our eyes on Christ and always remember that He is the reason we worship every Sunday morning.

I want to express a special thanks to those who serve on the church board. They carry out so many

details that are behind the scenes. You may not know what it is that they do, but you would most definitely notice if they were not doing it. Please take a moment to extend your personal thanks to Mike Bolcer, Wayne Brood, Dave St. Onge, Mike Davis, Jeremy Bigelow, Terry Moore, Stan Jack, Marcia Perkins, Deb St. Onge, and Rick Wilson.

Our new church photo directory will be arriving soon and will become another piece of history of this local congregation. In one hundred years, people will be able to look back and see the evidence of a healthy church that shined the light of truth to a community that needed to hear it. Thank you to all of you, and may God bless the ministries of First Union Church.

Pastor Jim Huber

**August
2024**

**First
Union
Church**

- Summer of 2024
- Matter of Prayer
- How about You?
- Just off the Highway
- The Recipe Box
- Wedding Pictures
- Board Highlights
- Wisps from Willow
- Me & My Dog



A Matter of Prayer

What is prayer?

Prayer is *communication* with God. We communicate by praising Him, confessing our sin before Him, thanking Him, and asking Him for both our needs and desires. Prayer is *communion* with our Creator. When we pray, we engage in loving fellowship with the Maker of heaven and earth. He has graciously invited us into a close covenant relationship with Him through the person and work of Christ. Prayer is *central* to the Christian life. As Christians, we are **commanded to pray “continually” as we seek God and grow in intimacy with Him (1 Thess. 5:17).**

Please continue to keep the following people and groups on your prayer list:

Fred Renaud needs prayers for his cancer. Pray that he remains encouraged, that God will give him hope and provide strength, and that his vision problems will be resolved.

Pray that **Lynn Forrester** is able to have her back surgery as soon as possible. She is in a lot of pain and is not functioning very well.

Pray for **Dick Carr** and his trips to Petoskey for dialysis. Pray also for the care of his wife, **Bertha**, as they travel this journey.

We were sorry to learn of the passing of **Loren Dingman**, a former member of our church. His wife, **Margaret**, used to be our church bookkeeper.

Sheila, Sue Rye's daughter-in-law's mother, is at Cedar Cove Assisted Living and needs prayer.

Jim & Madge Berryhill's granddaughter, Hannah, is pregnant, and an ultrasound shows there is a growth on the baby's liver. Please pray that the growth will dissolve before the baby is born. Pray also for peace for **Hannah** and family.

Pray for the Crockett family. **David Crockett's brother, Bert Crockett**, died a few weeks ago. David also lost his wife, Mary, last year. Both Bert and Mary were lovely people.

Leslie Freel's mom, Gerry Izzard, broke her arm recently. The cast is off now and she has a splint. She may need physical therapy.

Pray for the **Miller Family** who lost their son, **Eli**, in a motorcycle accident recently. The Miller's were formerly associated with Cedar Campus.

Please continue to pray for **Kevin Thompson** and his ongoing treatments for lymphoma.

Kathy Reno's friend is doing better and thanks us for the prayers.

Pray for the **family of Stella Pendery**, as Stella passed away recently. Pray also for the **family of 'Real Estate' Bob Smith** on his passing.

Gene Scrader Nutter passed from this life into the arms of her Savior on Wednesday, August 21. Please pray for Marcia & Norm Perkins and the rest of Gene's family as they grieve.

We ask for continued prayer for: Paul Kuiper, Mike Bolcer, June Davis, Stan Jack, Janis Smith, Jim Farero, Greg Wagner, Tom Moore, Barrett (3 years old), Holly Perkins' dad, Tom, the Sweeneys, the Vandergeests, the Baileys, Madge Berryhill, and Jack Hays.

Let's give thanks for the health of our church. Numbers are up.

Pray for our missionaries. **Jim & Paula Roberts**, with Wycliffe Bible Translators/SIL International, recently led our church service. It is wonderful to hear from the missionaries we support. They do so much Kingdom work around the world.

Pastor Jim encourages us to pray and to remain level-headed about the upcoming election. Let's not let Satan sway us in ways that will divide us. Pray for peace and that God's will be done.



Ryder Glyndon Pearson was dedicated to the Lord during church Sunday, July 28. His parents are **Cody & Charity Pearson**. He joins Caleb and Felicity at home.

How About You? ... Mike Davis

During the month of August, insurance bills start arriving in the mail. First comes the bill for car insurance, then homeowners insurance followed by medical insurance co-pays, insurance on the boats, life insurance premiums, and an umbrella policy because we live on the lake. The list goes on. We even keep insurance riders on June's more expensive award-winning quilts. All of this is to protect us from calamity. Oh, and we don't want to forget the Will and Trust to protect major assets.

How About You?

Isn't it wonderful that our *spiritual* life insurance is paid-in-full through our belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Every Easter, it feels as though our spiritual life insurance should come due. Every time, it says, "Paid-in-full".



My natural tendency is to try to pay the bill myself. I can't...You can't. The best thing we can do for Christ is to Pay it Forward. We still have to comply to His terms and conditions to the best of our ability. There is no small print, or as I call them, 'insurance weasel words'... just the promise of life in heaven... *guaranteed*. We will never find a better promise than that!

Just Off the Highway...

Rather than taking the Jeep for a ride the other day, June and I decided to take one of the boats out on the lake. We wanted to see how many of our friends' homes we could find from the lake side of things. Our perspective was a bit different on the lake, but with various landmarks, we found several homes, and all were very 'welcome-looking' from the water.

Our church family has truly been blessed to live in this area. God's area code must surely be 906!





Hi, everyone! Has this been a busy summer or what? It has gone by so fast. It's August already!! There was a picture that I loved of Heidi Montague Sloane and her husband in the last issue of *The Spark*. The explanation of who they were did not seem to come through in all copies. The printed copies were okay, but the emailed copies weren't. Anyway, Heidi grew up in Cedarville.

If you have blueberries, this recipe might be for you..

Blueberry Kuchen

- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1-1/2 t grated lemon zest
- 1-1/2 t. ground nutmeg
- 1/4 t. salt
- 2/3 cup 2% milk
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 large egg, beaten, room temperature
- 1t. vanilla extract
- 2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

Topping

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup butter, melted
- In a bowl, combine the first 6 ingredients. Add milk, butter, egg & vanilla. Beat 2 minutes. Pour into a greased 9x13 pan.
- Sprinkle with the blueberries
- In a bowl, combine sugar & flour, add butter. Toss with a fork until crumbly and sprinkle over blueberries.
- Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes until lightly browned.
- If using frozen blueberries, do not thaw ahead of time.

The Best Bean Soup

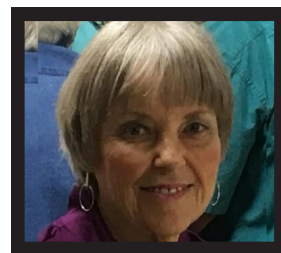
- 1 large jar of Randall's Great Northern Beans
- 2 cups diced, cooked ham
- 4 cups of water
- 4 diced carrots
- 1 diced onion
- 1 cup diced potato
- 1/2 cup chopped cabbage
- 1/4 cup diced celery

Put all ingredients in a Dutch oven. Bring to a boil-then simmer 2 hours. Then add: 3 t. or 3 cubes chicken bouillon dissolved in 1-1/2 cups boiling water, 1 T. White Vinegar, 1 T. Molasses Stir well and simmer 1/2 hour more.

This is **Nancy Glupker's** recipe. A lot of us think it's the "best" bean soup. I put this recipe in *The Spark* several years ago, but now it's time for a new generation to make this soup!

Cinnamon Roll Coffeecake

- 2 cans of cinnamon rolls, quartered
- 1 can Apple Pie Filling
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans or a mixture
- Mix together in a bowl.
- Pour into a sprayed 9 x 13 pan and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.
- Drizzle with the frosting packets.



Board Highlights...June 2024 minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. and was opened with prayer by **Mike Bolcer**.

Attendance – Present: **Mike Bolcer, Mike Davis, Wayne Brood, Daniel Peterson, Terry Moore, Jeremy Bigelow, Marcia Perkins, Deb St. Onge, Dave St. Onge, and Pastor Jim Huber**.

Minutes of the May 2024 meeting were reviewed.

Dave St. Onge made the motion to accept, **Stan Jack** seconded. Unanimous vote to accept.

Treasurer's Report - Rick Wilson reviewed the financial updates and development of 2024-25 fiscal year budget. Report on file. Motion by **Marcia Perkins** to accept, seconded by **Dave St. Onge**. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report - Jim Huber (written report on file) Date for church picnic and date for baptisms will be Aug 18.

Elder's Report - Mike Bolcer Reviewed process for nominations for Elders and Deacons; Church maintenance, youth program needs, prayer for community and congregation.

Deacon's Report – Rick Wilson Motion by **Deb St. Onge** to install mini-splits in Fellowship Hall and basement area with quote of \$15,750 – \$4,000 = \$11,750. Not to exceed \$17,000. Seconded by **Mike Bolcer**. Unanimously approved.

Motion by **Mike Davis** to purchase Vermont Castings Standance IFT gas fireplace for the Manse at a price of \$6,000 (not to exceed). Seconded by **Mike Bolcer**. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by **Mike Bolcer**, seconded by **Marcia Perkins** to repair and replace the bell tower floor/roof by Great Lakes Roofing's bid of \$6,500. Motion approved unanimously.

Mission committee – Marcia Perkins Jim Roberts (Wycliffe) will be here on July 28. August missions update will be by **Chad Schlosser** with Flint Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship.

Women's Association – Deb St. Onge
We need a new representative for the Church Board.

Christian Education – Marcia Perkins
Update on transition in Junior Church leadership. Dis-

cussion. Considering a part-time position to coordinate Christian education (see handout). Compensation to be included in new budget.

Youth Program -Daniel & SolanaPeterson

Day trip to Petoskey June 28 reviewed and discussed. Campfire at the Pearson's tentatively planned for later this summer.

Old Business – The church photo directory project is July 18-20. **Sharon Wilson** has stepped up to take the lead in Lynn's absence.

New Business - Date for the Annual Meeting, picnic, and baptisms will be August 18; Deadline for Annual Report submissions is Monday, July 29 (but sooner is much preferred)

Pastor Jim closed in Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Perkins, secretary

Board Highlights...July 2024 minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm and was opened in prayer by Pastor Jim.

Members present: Mike Davis, Rick Wilson, Wayne Brood, Stan Jack, Pastor Huber, Dave St.Onge, Jeremy Bigelow, and Marcia Perkins

Minutes of the June 24, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Marcia Perkins moved, Stan Jack seconded to accept the minutes, unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Rick Wilson proposed budget beginning 9.1.24 for 2024-25 fiscal year. Verbally reviewed by Rick Wilson. Motion by Mike Davis, Second by Wayne Brood to approve the treasurer's report. Approved.

Pastor's Report – Jim Huber (report on file)

Elder's Report – Mike Bolcer was out of town. Dave St. Onge provided brief update on July discussions

Deacon's Report – Updates on various projects (mini splits, manse fireplace, bell tower roofing, others) Report on file

(Continued on next page)

JULY BOARD HIGHLIGHTS continued...

Mission committee – Jim Roberts (Wycliffe Bible Translators) will be with us this Sunday, July 28. Chad Schlosser (InterVarsity) will be here Sunday, August 18.

Women's Association – Deb St. Onge: There wuk be a Men's fall dinner; the women are going to Cedar Bay retreat. We need a new board representative for the Women's Association.

Christian Education – Marcia Perkins Good reports from VBS. Coordinator of Christian Education position is included in the new budget beginning 9.1.24. Christy Cloud-O'Hare will fil; this position.

Youth Programs – Daniel and Solana Peterson - Report on file. Follow-up on Petoskey day trip last month. Two upcoming events: Campfire evening and a day trip to the Firborn Quarry & Caves

Old Business –

Upcoming dates: **Annual Meeting is Sunday, August 18 at 11:45am.** Picnic to follow at 1pm (Heritage Park pavilion). Baptisms to follow afterward (Hessel Beach); **Written reports are due this Friday, July 26 (send to Lynn Forrester);** Church directory project follow up/ completed

New Business - New budget reviewed. Motion by Wayne Brood, Seconded by Mike Davis to approve the new proposed budget. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, August 26 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Perkins, secretary

*Congratulations,
Rick & Janaan (Meyers) Hession!
The couple exchanged vows on April 11, 2024*



Rick

Janaan

“Wisps from Willow” Greg Wagner



A father used to say to his children when they were young, “When you Each reach the age of 12, I will tell you the secret of life.” One day, when the oldest turned 12, he anxiously asked his father what the secret of life was. The father replied that he was going to tell him, but that he should not reveal it to his brothers.

“The secret of life is this: The cow does not give milk.”

“What are you saying?” asked the boy incredulously.

“As you hear it, son: The cow does not give milk. You have to milk it.

You have to get up at 4 in the morning, go to the field, walk through the corral full of manure, tie the tail, hobble the legs of the cow, sit on

the stool, place the bucket, and do the work yourself. That is the secret of life. The cow does not give milk. You milk her or you don't get milk. There is this generation that thinks that cows GIVE milk. That things are automatic and free: Their mentality is that ‘if I wish, I ask..... I obtain.’ They have become accustomed to getting whatever they want the easy way. But no, life is not a matter of wishing, asking, and obtaining. The things that one receives are from the effort of what one does. Happiness is the result of effort. Lack of effort creates frustration.”

So, share with your children from a young age the secret of life, so they don't grow up with the mentality that the government, their parents, or their cute little faces are going to give them everything they need in life.



Remember:

"Cows don't give milk. You have to work for it."

Me and My Dog



Cass Moore and her dog,
“Sadie”

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

Creating intentional followers of Jesus Christ
