



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SD

Pastor's Pulpit:

Well here we are: a new year has begun! I wonder what it will be like? Frankly we just don't know! For some, anything would be an improvement. For others, it would be hard to beat all the great things that happened in 2021. For most of us, it's been a mixed bag; some good, some bad.

Personally, as far as our church goes, I think that this year is going to be great—maybe the best we've had in a while! After all, we do serve a great God. And He has given us His precious Word; words of comfort, words of encouragement, words of challenge. The scriptures remind us in Proverbs that having vision — a dream, a goal, a plan — is not only important, but a true life sustainer. Think about it, Proverbs 29:18a states: **"Where there is no vision, the people perish."** I like to look at it in a more positive sense believing that **IF there IS a vision then the people will prosper!** And that's what I want and am praying that 2022 will be: a year of growth, a year of gladness, a year of great things! For example, in January there are three great things happening in the life of our church.

The first event happening in the life of our church in January has to do with discipleship for our adults—AKA big kids. On January 2, at 11:15 AM, Disciple to Disciple is having its organizational meeting. Here's the honest truth about D2D: the only way I know of to grow our church is not merely to have a lot of new ideas or worship services or contemporary music—all these things can be good. And I'm all for trying whatever the Lord leads us to try or to do. But I do know this, if we are to procure the Lord's favor: or in other words if we want HIM to grow our church and send more people our way, then it's not simply a matter of what the Pastor or the Board can come up with. It's just not that simple. I have a vision that every member of our beloved congregation, old or new, be a Disciple that can (at least in theory and in expertise) have the ability to help another person become a true disciple of Christ. Won't you consider joining us for an initial class? For those of you who have had time conflicts and constraints in the past, could you come back aboard and pick up where you had to leave off? **Remember, where there is a vision the people will prosper.**

The second event has to do with discipleship for our young people. I was approached last year about starting a "Good News Club" (sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship). I shared this request with the Board of Trustees, who saw the great opportunity we could have to make a lasting impact in the lives of kids from our church and others who may join in. Good News Clubs have been around since 1937. They have a proven track record of solid, biblically-based, faith enhancing materials and activities.

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In addition, the Board thought that having our a "Good News Club" during our worship service time would be beneficial to both kids and parents. For more information, You can check out Child Evangelism Fellowship's website at <https://www.cefonline.com>.

Our start date is set for Sunday, January 9, at 9:30 AM. Keep in mind, **where there is a vision the people will prosper.**

And finally, our third event that is unfolding throughout the month of January is the formation and hopefully implementation of our Visitation Team. Jerry Wyatt, whose time as our Board of Trustees President has run its course, has agreed to work together with those folks who like to call, visit, text or pray with and for people in our church family. Please, if you have inkling to come along side of others and just be there and listen and talk, won't you consider joining this wondrous Christ-centered, Spirit-led group of saints. Touch base with Jerry. And once again, let me point out: **where there is a vision the people will prosper.**

So there you have it, a new year, a new beginning, and just as an aside: January is just the starting point! It does feel, however, like we're getting off on the right foot. We have a great church family; we are blessed with a great facility; and yes, we do indeed have a vision. A vision that is meant to make us prosper!

Blessings,

Pastor David



As Pastor David referenced in the November Yucca Breeze, he and the Board of Trustees are working to increase visitation among our members. We want to include all our church folks not just as people who are visited, but also to include as many of our congregation as would like to participate in *being* visitors. We feel fellowship is more than just potlucks.

In this thought to connect with others and encourage them, we are forming a team to coordinate and spearhead visitation. For this to be effective, we need a person, or 2-3 persons, to lead a team. The "job description" is pretty open as we have never done this before, but with prayerful input we are excited about the growth that will come.

The Board of Trustees has met 3 times so far to work exclusively on this and we have some ideas, but are very open to input from all of you; especially from those who would be interested in helping on this fun effort. *Our goal is to have this to have this in operation by January.*

Please touch base with Pastor David or any of the Board of Trustees members (Dean Cape; Cora Reid; Claude Bent; Carla Richmond; Frank Mason; Jan Speirs) if you are interested in helping in this ministry.



**D2D ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9TH — 11:15 AM
IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM**

Our heartfelt thank you to our sweet congregation for all the cards and gifts received over the Christmas season. May we shine the light of Christ in the New Year!

Pastor David & Bernice



JANUARY MISSION EMPHASIS — The Joshua Fund

What Is The Joshua Fund?

“Now the LORD said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’” (Genesis 12:1-3)

Founded by best-selling author Joel C. Rosenberg and his wife Lynn in 2006, the Joshua Fund (TJF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to “blessing Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus, according to Genesis 12:1-3.”

"Our unique 'both/and' approach to ministry is focused on sharing God's love with Jews, Arabs and Palestinians living in Israel, the West Bank and neighboring nations (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & Iraq). Building relationships, coming alongside pastors and ministry leaders on the ground and working primarily through the local church, The Joshua Fund seeks to: Care for the Needy; Equip and Encourage the Body of Believers; Preach the Gospel; Educate and Mobilize the Global Church to learn to Pray, Give and Go."

Our January "Loose Change Offering" will go to this vital ministry. Offering envelopes will have a line designated to this fund.

For more information, visit The Joshua Fund Website at: <https://www.joshuafund.com>.

ATTENTION!!

LADIES OF THE CHURCH!

The first meeting of our new
United Women's Gathering Group
will be held on Tuesday, January 11th at 1:30 PM — in the Fireside Room
(we will meet monthly)

You are invited to join us a special time of:
spiritual nourishment, prayer, encouragement,
fellowship, and sharing.

We will be doing a Scripture engagement study in the book of Psalms.

For more information on Scripture engagement go to:
BibleGateway.com ([Scripture Engagement \(biblegateway.com\)](https://www.biblegateway.com))

SPAGHETTI MEAL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9TH — FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE
JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS SPAGHETTI MEAL WITH ALL THE FIXINS'
A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN — (FUNDS TO BE USED FOR THE WATER RUNOFF
MANAGEMENT BEHIND THE CHURCH PROJECT)



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

26 Pastor David & Bernice Cook

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|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Marley White Face | 24 Patricia Coffield |
| 4 Paul Swenson | 27 Aiden Swift |
| 20 Kye Kutz | 27 Katlyn White Face |
| 22 Jerry Wyatt | 31 Jan Speirs |
| 22 Arika Brink | |

If your name is not included on the Birthdays and Anniversaries list and you would like it to be added, please contact the church office by email: uc@gwtc.net or call 745-5640.

THIS AND THAT

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERMON SERIES:

- January 2: "Render to Caesar" (Mark 12:13-17)
 January 9: *Elder Ordination/Installation Service*
 January 16: "Who's Wife?" (Mark 12:28-30)
 January 23: "The Greatest Commandment" (Mark 12:28-34)
 January 30: 5th Sunday Celebration / Potluck

BOUTIQUES OPEN: Our "Basic Needs Boutique" and "Barely Used Boutique" will be open on Saturday, January 8th from 10:00 AM—12:00 Noon.

FOOD PANTRY CLIENT PROFILE: Number of Active Clients (visited the pantry in 2021): 382; Single: 200; Family: 182; New sign ups (since January 1, 2021): 111.



THE UNITED CHURCHES SPOTLIGHT

This year we will again be spotlighting of each of our three denominations:

BAPTIST ... METHODIST ... PRESBYTERIAN

Who we are ... What we believe ... What we do ... How to join.

If you are not already a member of our church, we would like you to become one, but we want you to make an informed decision. In the upcoming weeks, information on each denomination will be available as handouts in the Sunday bulletins, or in the church office if you miss one of the handouts.

On Sunday, April 10, 2022, we invite you to join in a New Member class (11:15-11:45 AM) to answer any lingering questions you may have. Then on Sunday, April 17th, we would consider it a great privilege and pleasure to welcome you into your new church family!

Your Denominational Representatives:

Garry Strauser, Baptist; Marce Largent, Methodist; Nancy Cape, Presbyterian

5TH SUNDAY MUSIC CELEBRATION / POTLUCK MEAL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30TH

Our first 5th Sunday of 2022 — Stay tuned for details on the Worship Service!!

Soup & Sandwich Potluck . . . following the service.

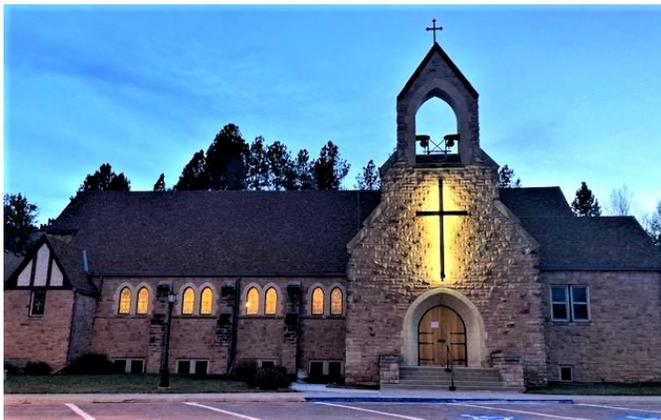
Call or email Bernice at: 573-723-2365 or ucassist@gwtc.net ... IF YOU CAN:

- Bring a pot of soup . . . Or some sandwiches.
- Otherwise, just bring a dessert.

The United Churches
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UNITED CHURCHES



HOT SPRINGS, SD