

2022

 FEBRUARY

The Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SD

Pastor's Pulpit

FABULOUS FEBRUARY 2022

February is a month for lovers. For those who love football — there is the Super Bowl. For those who love our country — there is Presidents Day. And, for those who love, well ... love — there is Valentine's Day. A few years ago Dr. Gary Chapman explored, researched and then wrote a book concerning the way that we as human beings are different and special in the way that we like to show or give and to receive Love. The Book is entitled: *The 5 Love Languages*. The subtitle to the book states: "The secret to love that lasts." To the right is a synopsis...see if you can find your language...

LIVING OUT THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES AT HOME			
Love Language	Actions	Communication	Avoid
Words of Affirmation	Spoken words Written cards and letters	Encouraging words Compliments Affirming spirit	Emotionally harsh words Undue criticism
Quality Time	Running errands Taking trips Doing things together Going on walks Sitting/talking at home	Quiet places with no interruptions Undivided attention One-to-one conversations	Too much time with friends or groups Isolation Gaps of time between meetings
Receiving Gifts	Giving gifts Giving time Remembering special occasions Giving small tokens	Private giving of gifts Pleasant facial expressions	Materialism Forgetting special events
Acts of Service	Assisting with house chores Ongoing acts of helpfulness Exchanging of chores	Say: "What can I do for you?" "I will stop and get..." "Today, I did... for you." Making a checklist	Forgetting promises Over commitment of tasks Ignoring
Physical Touch	Hugs Pats Touches Sitting close	Pleasant facial expressions Mostly non-verbal	Physical abuse Corporal punishment Threats Neglect

* Taken from Gary Chapman's *The Five Love Languages of Teenagers*

(Continued on next page)

**Did you find yours? Can I share a secret with you?
There really is a secret to love that lasts
and it's not a language or a preference — it's a person.**

Think about it. First, Jesus gave us Words of Affirmation, recorded for us in the Bible. Included are promises such as: **"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"** (Matt. 11:28-30 ESV). According to some references, there are 7,487 promises of God to us in the pages of Scripture. What's amazing is what Paul noted: **"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ"** (2 Cor 1:20 NIV). If you need a touch of affirmation today, you may want to open your Bible and ask God to show you a promise He has for you.

Second, did you know that when you became a Christian, one of Christ's promises was that He would never leave you nor forsake you? Originally, these words were spoken by God to Moses: **"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."** (Deut. 31:6). As a Christian, this promise literally comes true with the presence of the Holy Spirit in one's life. As God's "Down Payment", God is literally and tangibly with you every minute of every day. Why? Because it is His desire to be with us, to love us, walk by us, and to spend quality time with us.

Third, in Ephesians 4 we read, **"¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."** Then in 1 Corinthians 12, we are familiar with Paul's description of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to every single converted and cherished Christian: The Holy Spirit is given to each of us in a special way. That is for the good of all. **"⁸ To some people the Spirit gives a message of wisdom. To others the same Spirit gives a message of knowledge. ⁹ To others the same Spirit gives faith. To others that one Spirit gives gifts of healing. ¹⁰ To others he gives the power to do miracles. To others he gives the ability to prophesy. To others he gives the ability to tell the spirits apart. To others he gives the ability to speak in different kinds of languages they had not known before. And to still others he gives the ability to explain what was said in those languages. ¹¹ All the gifts are produced by one and the same Spirit. He gives gifts to each person, just as he decides."** God loves to love His people by generously bestowing gifts upon those whom he calls his own.

Fourth, Jesus stated in Matthew's Gospel, **"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."** The crux of the matter is simply the fact that God loved us by sending His Son. His Son loved us by serving His Father. Think about John 3:16. **"For God so loved the World that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."** Have you considered the fact that for us, in service to us, God literally bankrupted heaven?

And finally, God in His wisdom and in His great love for us, gives us church families to be a part of and to enjoy. Why? Because, here is where we get closest to our Heavenly Father. He surrounds us with all sorts of people who will literally be God's arms hugging and holding us, and His voice speaking and assuring us. Later, God will welcome us into His presence with the words, "Well done good and faithful servant." I am positive that those words will be whispered intimately into our ears as He gives us a Physical Touch and hugs us to let us know how glad He is to see us — in person, in His Home. So, there you have it. We may have individual ways to show, give and receive love — but God is not only the secret to a love that lasts —but uses all of them! Such a cool insight in this month of love.

Blessings,

Pastor David

THE UNITED CHURCHES MEN'S GROUP

Will be hosting a **Valentine Event**
Sunday, February 13th — 6:00 PM — in the Fellowship Hall
Featuring a Gourmet Catered Meal
With Music by Kim and the Classics

Limited seating, all are welcome, but reservations are required.

For reservations, call the church office at 745-5640

AFTER February 1st.

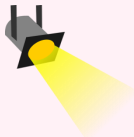


United Women's Gathering Group

Will have their next monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 15th
1:30 PM — in the Fireside Room

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

We are continuing our Scripture engagement study in the book of Psalms.
We still have books available. See Jeanne Wyatt for more information



THE UNITED CHURCHES SPOTLIGHT

In February we will be spotlighting our Methodist denomination

Learn: **Who we are ... What we believe ... What we do ... How to join.**

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

DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT PROJECT:

While doing the research for the 100th Anniversary booklet, we found out that after the 1951 cornerstone laying ceremony, the Church had no funds left for further construction. The “new” church sat there for a year and a half while the congregation raised more money to rehire the contractor to finish the building. The dedication of the finished building was in 1956. We are presently working on a “Drainage Management Project” to divert roof water and hillside runoff away from the church's rear foundation. It is up to the present church generation to protect the “Churches one Foundation” for future generations. The Board of Trustees has approved this project. Any additional help with this project will be greatly appreciated.



5TH SUNDAY MUSIC CELEBRATION — SOUP & SANDWICH POTLUCK MEAL

THIS SUNDAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 30TH — Following the Worship Service

Bring a pot of soup . . . Or some sandwiches ... Or a dessert.

Or just bring yourself!



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

22 Claude & Karen Bent

5	Carla Richmond	26	Jon Schuchardt
9	Shirley Leigh	26	Lynn Mason
14	Karen Bent	27	Sheryl Brost

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

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

FOOD PANTRY CLIENT PROFILE: Number of Active Clients (visited the pantry in 2021): 406; Single: 209; Family: 197; New sign ups (since January 1, 2021): 128.

FROM THE FOOD PANTRY — YEAR IN REVIEW:

**VOLUNTEERING: 1000+ HOURS — FOOD DONATIONS: 13,000+ POUNDS
3200+ HELPED IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

THANK YOU! FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF DONATING TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

Funds Raised: Food Pantry: \$21,236.50; Needy Fund: \$11,789.57; Domestic Violence: \$250.00 = Grand Total: \$33,276.07. (*"For comparison we raised \$27,033.32 in 2020. Great job everyone!"*)

ATTENTION UNITED METHODISTS:

Please mark your calendars! Rev. Bob Ruedebusch, the UMC District Superintendent will be with us **Sunday, February 27th, 11:30 am-12:30 pm** for a **UMC meeting in the Fellowship Hall**. The purpose of his visit is to discuss issues which will be on the agenda for the 2022 UMC General Conference. He will be inviting Methodist members from Edgemont and Smithwick UMC churches to join us for this meeting. Please plan to attend.

FEBRUARY MISSION EMPHASIS:

Our **Mission Emphasis for February** will be the **Hot Springs Ministerial Association**. The "Loose Change Offering" will be gathered on Sunday, February 13th and offering envelopes for February will have a line designated for this mission fund.

A NOTE FROM THE SPICERS:

We have received a letter from Walter & Cheryl Spicer in the Philippines. It has been posted on our MISSION BULLETIN BOARD (along with a photo). The bulletin board is located in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to check it out!

FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERMON SERIES:

6	"Lordy, Lordy, Sonny, Sonny"	Mark 12:35-37
13	"Robed Rascals"	Mark 12:38-44
20	"All of it on Olivet: Part 1"	Mark 13:1-8
27	"All of it on Olivet: Part 2"	Mark 13:9-23

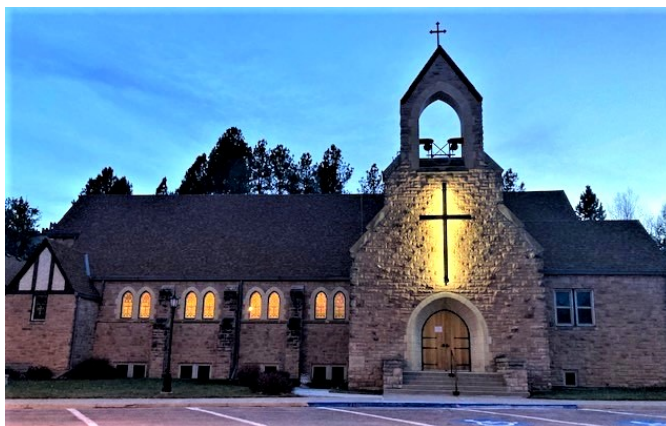
GOOD NEWS CLUB

Kids ages 5 to 12-ish are invited to join our **GOOD NEWS CLUB** (from Child Evangelism Fellowship) held at The United Churches, Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:00 am. The young people will enjoy learning about the Bible through crafts, songs and other Biblically-based activities (and fun stuff) ... designed to make a lasting impact for Christ in their lives

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UNITED CHURCHES



HOT SPRINGS, SD