



# Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS

## PASTOR'S PULPIT:

### The Return

In the days before the temple was built in Jerusalem, the people of Israel utilized a portable structure known as the “Tent of Meeting” or the “Tabernacle” to: worship in, sacrifice to, and accommodate for, the presence of the Lord. His promise to Israel’s forefathers was twofold:

- 1) He was their God, the God of the living and not the dead (i.e. I **am** the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...not I **was**)
- 2) He would not only **go** with them always, but would actually **be** with them continually. That twofold promise was the constant reminder, and thus reason, for the tabernacle itself!

In the wilderness days of wandering, the Tabernacle was always situated at the very center of the camp. In other words, God was to be the central focus of their lives and as such, all of life was to revolve around Him.

The *Tent of Meeting* itself was some 1200 square yards. The inner most structure, called the Holy of Holies, was 10 cubits wide by 10 cubits high by 30 cubits long. A cubit is the measurement from the elbow to the end of the middle finger when the arm is outstretched, roughly about 18 inches. This structure came to be the template for what we now call churches or better yet, *sanctuaries*.

The word sanctuary comes from the Latin *sanctum*, which itself means **sacred** or **holy**. The overall idea is pretty straightforward: God’s people are called to enter the presence of God as they leave the secular and enter the sacred. That is kind of what we actually do every time we have church.

Now, it’s not that the children of Israel didn’t realize that God was everywhere, they did. But they recognized the need to meet Him somewhere where He promised to be, away from distractions, away from the profane.

The same could be said today. It’s okay to watch church on TV or on our computers, especially in the days of the pandemic! But it’s not a habit or a routine that God would have us get completely comfortable with!

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# The Return

Sooner or later, as we can, as we feel more comfortable, we need to once again begin to gather back in His presence, back into that sacred space where God has designated that we meet Him.

I like to think of it as **“the return”**:

- The return to our sweet fellowship with our fellow travelers in this life.
- The return to the company of the people of God.
- The return to the place where God is the central focus, and we can enjoy His presence.

*Blessings, Pastor David*



**ON GOOD FRIDAY — APRIL 2ND  
OUR CHURCH SANCTUARY  
WILL BE OPEN FROM 12:00 PM TO 3:00PM  
FOR ANYONE WHO WISHES TO COME IN FOR QUIET REFLECTION**

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE — SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH  
CENTENNIAL PARK — 6:30 AM**

**CONDUCTED BY:**

**THE HOT SPRINGS MINESTERIAN ASSOCIATION**

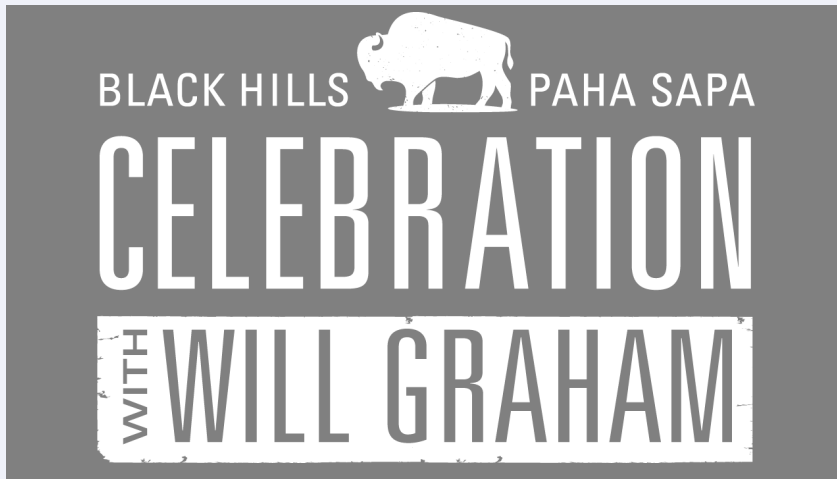
*In the event of inclement weather,  
we will move to The United Churches Fellowship Hall.  
(Coffee and rolls will be served after the service)*



# Easter Morning

*"Jesus saith unto her... 'Mary'... His voice startled her... She would have recognized it anywhere. She lifted her head with a jerk... blinked back the tears from her eyes and looked—right into His eyes. She knew... her heart told her first and then her mind... She saw the livid marks of the nails in His hands and looking up into His face, she whispered: 'Rabboni!' The loveliest music of that first Easter dawn in the sound of those words echoing in the Garden... His gentle... 'Mary'... and her breathless... 'Master!' Mary had come prepared to weep—Now she could worship. She had come expecting to see Him lying in the tomb—She had found Him walking in the newness of resurrected life."*

~ Peter Marshall



**RUSHMORE PLAZA  
CIVIC CENTR**

**SEPTEMBER 24-26  
2021**

### **ABOUT WILL GRAHAM:**

Will Graham is the third generation of Grahams to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ under the banner of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA). Will is the grandson of Billy Graham and the oldest son of Franklin Graham.

“This world is a broken place,” Will said recently. “People are hurting, dealing with addictions, family issues, job and financial issues, or depression. So many are hopeless. I desperately want people to know that there is hope, and it’s found in Christ.” Since 2006, Will has been telling people about that hope through events called Celebrations. He’s had the privilege of preaching all over the world, on every continent except Antarctica.

Will is an ordained minister who serves as vice-president of the BGEA. He’s also executive director of the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove, a spiritual retreat center in the mountains of North Carolina. He and his wife Kendra live near Asheville, North Carolina, with their three children.

### **WHAT IS A CELEBRATION?**

➔ **Since 1950** the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has held Crusades all across the globe for one purpose: to proclaim God’s love to people who need Jesus Christ. Today, Will Graham Celebrations continue this life-changing mission.

### **THE MESSAGE AND THE GOAL:**

➔ **1) To mobilize the Christian community to gather as many people as possible to hear the message that *Jesus Christ is “the way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6, NKJV). 2) To give people an opportunity to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. 3) To refer inquiries to a local church for follow-up and Christian nurture. 4) To strengthen the local church.**

### **THE METHOD:**

➔ **A Will Graham Celebration** is much larger than the few days of the actual event. While the evangelistic services are the most visible aspect, they are not the only part. It all begins with local Christians praying and working behind the scenes to prepare the way. Long after the event is over, area churches carry on the work, discipling those who came to faith during the Celebration.

### **SIX WAYS:**

➔ **A Will Graham Celebration can benefit you and your church.** 1) Prayer; 2) Evangelism Training; 3) An Action Plan for Witnessing; 4) Spiritual Renewal; 5) Christian Unity; 6) New Christians in Local Churches



# CHRISTIAN LIFE & WITNESS COURSE

©2021 BGEA  
"ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE."  
— 1 PETER 3:15, NIV



**YOU ARE INVITED!**

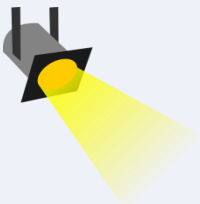
**TUESDAYS  
APRIL 13 – 20 – 27, 2021  
6:30 – 8:30 PM**

To participate in the **Christian Life & Witness Course** a three-part discipleship training on to be held at our church on April 13, 20, & 27

These sessions will deepen your faith while giving you confidence to tell others about Christ. Will you plan to join us as we offer practical ways to live a life that points people to Him?

This is a ministry of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and a prelude to the "Black Hills Paha Sapa Celebration with Will Graham" being held in September in Rapid City.

## *The United Churches Spotlight*



We are continuing the spotlighting of each of our three denominations. We as **Methodists (February), Presbyterians (March), and Baptists (April)** will take a month to emphasize:

- Who we are
- What we believe
- What we do, and
- How to join

We want you to become a member of our Church ... but we want you to make an informed decision. On May 2, 2021, 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, May 9, we would then deem it a great privilege and pleasure to welcome you into your new church family! Information on each denomination is available in the church office if you missed one of the handouts in your Sunday bulletins.

**Sharon Kalvels, UMC  
Stephanie Nelson, PC (USA)  
Garry Strauser, ABC**



- 6 Steve Keller
- 8 Sheila De Vries
- 12 Darlene Jackson  
Angela Puffer
- 16 Rev. Ed Coates
- 18 Bernice Cook

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 Richard & Margaret Bershon



*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](mailto:uc@gwtc.net) or call 745-5640.*

## THIS AND THAT

### APRIL MISSION EMPHASIS:



#### ***One Great Hour of Sharing.***

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The April **Loose Change Offering** will be designated for this mission, and will be collected **during the Worship Service on the second Sunday (April 11th)**. Throughout the month of April, a coin container will be located in the Bethany Room as you enter the Sanctuary. Feel free to drop in your spare change anytime!!

### FEBRUARY FOOD PANTRY REPORT:

Services provided to: Single: 111; Family: 99; New Sign Ups (since January 1st, 2021) 19; Average days open each month: 16.

### PRESBYTERIAN SESSION MEETING:

The Presbyterian Session will meet on Sunday, April 11th 11:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room. If you have any questions, contact Stefanie Nelson at 605-890-3112.

### THANK YOU!

To everyone who supported our two fundraisers for the "Basic Needs Boutique." The Silent Auction brought \$300, and the Chili and Fry Bread Meal raised \$500, for a much-appreciated total of \$800!

### JOYFUL NOISE ALL CHURCH CHOIR:

Youth and adults are invited to come to church on Wednesdays **(beginning April 7th until May 26th)** 4:00 PM-6:00 PM (after school or work) for fun, laughter, music and food. All persons are encouraged to join in this church activity to thank the Lord for giving us music and a way to express our joy and thanks for Him loving us. We will be meet in the church basement. For more information contact Lynn Buchholz (605) 890-1841 (leave message)



The United Churches  
342 N. Garden St.  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
605-745-5640  
Email: [uc@gwtc.net](mailto:uc@gwtc.net)  
[www.unitedchurcheshotsprings.org](http://www.unitedchurcheshotsprings.org)

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U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #84  
(Return service requested)

**UNITED CHURCHES**



**HOT SPRINGS, SD**