



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Pastor's Pulpit:

R. C. Sproul makes an interesting comment in his little book, "Why Should I Join a Church ... redemption is not a group activity." In the end, when we stand before almighty God, we will stand alone. Our brothers, sisters, father, mother, friends, nation, club or church will not avail us when we stand before God. God will deal with us as individuals; and it is as individuals that we will enter the Kingdom of God.

But we can't confuse that reality with individualism. When Jesus redeems an individual, He places him or her into a group, and He calls that group His own body. How in the world can a person love Christ and hate His body? How can a person embrace Christ for any period of time and continually absent themselves from fellowship with the company of God's people ... the family of God? Sinclair Ferguson picks up on this conversation by noting, "we are apparently supposed to pray the Lord's prayer daily ... give us this DAY, our DAILY bread ... but notice that it's not give ME my daily bread, but rather give US our daily bread." Even at the beginning of the prayer, it's "OUR Father ... who art in heaven." Christ has so set up His church that when we come to close to Him, we naturally come close to one another.

Our particular church family, as you know, has within it three separate denominations: American Baptist Church, United Methodist Church and Presbyterian (USA). In the plural, the word denomination actually is defined as: "a recognized, autonomous branch of the Christian Church." Denominations which are recognized as an established, legitimate, time-tested, and policy-adhering group of Christians, but are autonomous in their ability to come down slightly different on various views (on subjects such as membership, view of scriptures, sacraments, beliefs about heaven and hell, leadership structure). Yet still being Christian, they hold firmly to the fundamental beliefs concerning: the Omnipotence, Omniscience, and Omnipresent realities of a Holy God; Christ's redeeming work of salvation; the place of the Holy Spirit as a sign and a seal of that salvation; and the importance and need of discipleship, fellowship, evangelism and prayer. Each of our denominations is a little different. All have their many strengths and of course, each has their areas which make them unique.

**WHY
SHOULD
I
JOIN
A
CHURCH?**

(Continued on next page)

There are some people who say that they love our church family, that they give and support and are involved in the church, but if there was a category for non-affiliated people, they would join. I get that, to a degree. But even if we incorporated a “category” for non-affiliated members, that group would in itself become, and end up being, a denomination. Think about the definition of denomination: a recognized, autonomous, branch of the Christian church. Of course, the “non-affiliated” would still have a structure, a settled set of beliefs, a perspective concerning certain elements of worship, and so on. For some people it is simply a matter of not to have to be part of any denomination, not realizing that that is really what they are insisting on having themselves. As a pastor, my heart is heavy because for some of these folks it’s not just a matter of denominations and the need to choose, as it is simply the freedom to not have to choose. Which by the way is not Christ’s view, nor is it His intention for His church, His people to look like, or operate as. With all that said, it’s just a thought to ponder.

We are offering again this year, a time to consider and make a decision concerning church membership. On Palm Sunday, we will be hosting a New Member Question & Answer Time following our worship service. Here we will consider the differences and the leanings of each of our denominations. We have spotlighted the denominational basics throughout the first three months of the year. Each denomination has attempted to put their best foot forward in sharing who they are, what they believe, what they actually do and how to join. We then will welcome all who have chosen to join the opportunity to become an official part of our collective and diverse church family the following week on Easter Sunday. We would love for you to join us and be a part of what God is continuing to do in us and through us here in our beloved, 102-year-old congregation.

Blessings,

Pastor David

New Member's Class

Sunday, April 10th (Palm Sunday)

11:15 am-11:45 am — In the Fireside Room

We want you to become a member of our Church ... but we want you to make an informed decision. For the past three months, we have been highlighting our church's three denominations. Please join us for this class where we can give you any further information you may need, or answer any questions you may have, about church membership. Information on each denomination is available on the table in the Bethany Room if you missed one of the handouts in your Sunday bulletins.



Welcome New Members **SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH (Easter Sunday)**

On Easter Sunday, April 17th, we would consider it a great privilege and pleasure to welcome new members into your new church family!



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Jerry & Jamie Cantu
22 Richard & Margaret Behrson
29 Brad & Summer Humbracht

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 4 Ryan Nichols | 16 Carn Blume |
| 6 Steve Keller | 18 Bernice Cook |
| 8 Barb Melstad | 20 Carey Callens |
| 8 Sheila De Vries | 24 Julian Cantu |
| 9 Brad Humbracht | 25 Megan Wynia |
| 12 Angela Puffer | |
| 12 Darlene Jackson | |
| 14 Sergio Cantu | |
| 16 Ed Coates | |

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

LENTEN LUNCHESES:

Our last Lenten luncheon for this season will be held on **Wednesday, April 6, from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM**. A heartfelt thank you to all who have taken part in these blessed times of fellowship and for supporting the Hot Springs Ministerial Association.

FOOD PANTRY CLIENT PROFILE:

Number of Active Clients (visited the pantry in 2022): 214; Single: 100; Family: 114; Veterans (included in single/family count): 47. New sign ups (since January 1, 2022): 26.

PLEASE NOTE:

We have received several comments regarding the change in the Newsletter title from "Yucca Breeze" to "The Breeze." It was basically thought to name it what everyone seems to call it: "The Breeze." We have since learned that the history of the title is: "The 'YUCCA' referred to the yucca plants blooming on the hillside behind the manse and designated "Yucca Breeze" as the newsletter for The United Churches instead of any newspaper or newsletter called "The Breeze." Our "faux pas" has been corrected with our sincere apologies.

APRIL SUNDAY SERMON SERIES:

- 3 Guest Speaker Morris Nelson
10 Palm Sunday — "The Triumphal Entry" — Matthew 21:1-11
17 Easter Sunday — "The Triumphal Entree" — Matthew 28:1-15
24 "Two, Two: Two in One" — Mark 14:27-42

UNITED WOMEN'S GATHERING GROUP:

Will have their next monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 19th at 1:30 PM — in the Fireside Room. All women are invited to join us for a time of: spiritual nourishment, prayer, encouragement, fellowship, and sharing. We are continuing our study in the book of Psalms and you can join in anytime! Please see Bernice Cook if you need a book.

A WORD FROM YOUR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM:

With the approval of The United Churches Board of Trustees the Property Management Team has implemented a policy concerning any new project being considered by our church family. Please contact any member of the Property Management Team for more information: Owen Meadows; Pat Collogan; Pat DeSmet; Gary Martino; Mark Posthumus.



APRIL MISSION EMPHASIS

"LaGonave Alive! is a nonprofit organized to serve God and bring hope, health, and happiness to the people on the island of LaGonave, Haiti. We convey the message of Christ through the areas of education, healthcare, and ministering to those in need, especially women, children, and the elderly."

Our April "Loose Change" offering will be taken on Sunday, April 10th. Weekly giving envelopes will have a line designated for this mission. More information on LaGonave Alive! is available on the Missions Table in the Bethany Room.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Maundy Thursday Service at The United Churches

6:30 PM—7:15 PM — In the Sanctuary

Will Include "12 Men" and Observance of the Lord's Supper

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Good Friday Service — 6:30 PM

At Prairie View United Methodist Church Smithwick

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EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

6:30 AM — CENTENNIAL PARK

SPONSORED BY THE HOT SPRINGS MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

(In case of weather, alternate plan is The United Churches Fellowship Hall)

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOINS US FOR ...

FRIDAY FAITH FELLOWSHIP

With Food and a Movie

Friday Evenings in the Fireside Room

Food at 5:30 PM (you are welcomed to bring a side)

Followed by a movie.



It is time to Spring Clean our church kitchen!!

Come on out to help us on Saturday, April 2nd at 9:00 AM for a Spring Cleaning & Kitchen Inventory party. All are welcome! Jeanne Wyatt will bring her world famous SWEET ROLLS!! See you there!

A BIT OF HISTORY ABOUT THE UNITED CHURCHES



When the current church building was being constructed and the congregation ran out of money just after the cornerstone was laid, members of the Church used their talents to help raise additional funds. Church members presented a couple of community plays at the city auditorium. The Women's Kitchen Committee served dinners during the State Kiwanis Convention in the city auditorium. Gerry Kennedy baked bread and the Kennedy brothers delivered bread on their bikes all over town. Louise Collogan sold vegetables from her small garden and Don Collogan painted small signs for customers to help raise additional funds.

Please consider donating to the current *Drainage Management Project*. This project is slated to be completed early this summer.

Thank you for your help,
Gerald Collogan

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Hot Springs, South Dakota