



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Pastor's Pulpit

April! NO more winter ... sorry, I jest!

This April is also representative of an event that has changed people's lives, people's hearts and people's destinies. That event? EASTER! The dark winter for humanity has opened up to the warmth and light of a new Spring, where real life began, and has continued now for over two millennia.

With Christ's Resurrection, there really was and is a new season for all of us. How? 2 Corinthians 5: 17 states, "¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." These precious verses not only inform us of what God was doing for us (*reconciled us to Himself*) but also infer how we can in return, with thankfulness to God and love for God, prove those feelings by living life for God as His representative offering His reconciliation to others ("*...we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*")

Easter is such a blessed season of new life! It is interesting that most of us feel that our greatest characteristic of being a Christian has to be love ... after all, "for God so loved the world." But just as important and just as challenging is understanding *what* God did to prove that love. He took the initiative. He planned it all out. God was proactive in and with His love. In other words, He didn't just say something ... He *did* something. In a real way, if we're truly going to be like Christ, we not only have to say things and be loving, but we also should ever be about the business of reconciliation, which calls for forgivingness. It was our need to be forgiven that spurred God's love to action. Thus, if we are going to be imitators of God, we also should display a capacity and desire for ourselves to also be reconciled and reconciling, forgiving and being forgiven.

And of course, you can see where I am going with all this. We need to have some real reconciliation within the four walls of our church. We need to see ourselves as recipients of God's love and forgiveness, but also be people who do and act the same. I believe reconciliation is totally possible and biblically mandated. We can, as a church, stand strong knowing that we can endure the different storms that all churches that are doing the right spiritual things go through.

If we do not as a church at least try to reach some form of reconciliation within the church family, we will be only setting a pretty unhealthy precedent for any future family squabbles that will arise. There are no winners in a divided church. Well, only one ... God's enemy.

For my part, I want my motivation to be love, but I want my action to start with what reconciliation demands — forgiveness. And I need to ask for your forgiveness. I really do and I really am. Bernice and I have believed, and still do feel, that God has vocationally saved the very best for last. I do seek forgiveness from those who have yet to accept my request. I can and do, offer my love and forgiveness in return.

In any case, we are given this opportunity in this great Spring month of April to display God's dual characteristics of reconciliation and love. We can do it!!

Hopeful and Hope-filled, *Pastor David*

April Mission Emphasis

Dr. William Hyppolite / Haiti Mission

"Greetings to you in the Name of Jesus Christ our Brother and Redeemer from Sioux Falls. We want to take this special opportunity to thank all of the integrated members of The United Churches for your continued support as we minister to our people in Haiti." With Love, Dr. William Hyppolite

AN UPDATE ON DR. WILLIAM FROM ANNIE

- Things in Haiti continue to be really bad right now.
- Dr. William is still not able to return to Haiti. He is able to access the funds donated through our church, which are mostly being used for medical care and food. He works remotely from Sioux Falls, and is in contact daily, with the Annie Zwetzig Medical Clinic.

Our loose change offering for missions will be gathered on Sunday, April 13th, and will be designated for Haiti Mission. If using an offering envelope, write "Dr. William" on the line designated for missions.

WEDNESDAY SOUP LUNCHESES
12:00-1:00 PM / in the Fellowship Hall
Soups, Breads, Desserts, Beverage
April 2nd, April 9th

WEDNESDAY EVENING
LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

6:45-7:30 PM / IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY
"SAVIOR — SERVANT — FRIEND"
April 2 — Week 4 -- "Protector"
April 9 — Week 5 — "Comforter"

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

April 17th / 6:45-7:30 pm
In the Church Sanctuary
An Extra! Extra! will be sent out with more details.

A Prayer at the Cross



Man of sorrows, man of grief, it was for me that you stepped into the horror of bearing my sin. It is incomprehensible that you would take my place and plead for my life. I give you thanks and praise you for your ultimate sacrifice. In Jesus' name, Amen

Our church Sanctuary will be open on Good Friday
12:00 — 3:00 pm / for personal prayer and reflection.

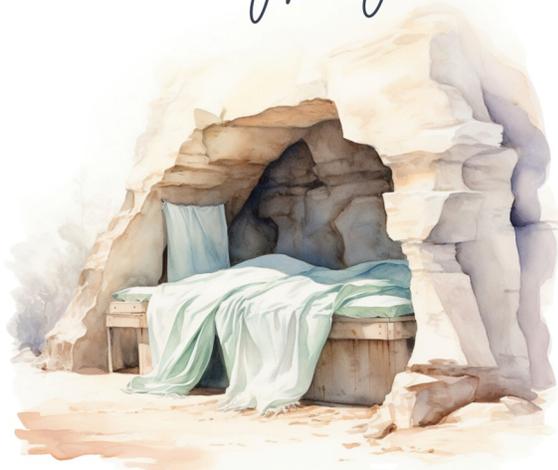
Easter Sunday Worship Service

The United Churches

Sunday Morning / April 20th / 10:00 AM

EASTER
IS THE DAY THAT CHANGED

everything



Heavenly Father,

On this blessed Easter Sunday, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and joy. We rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we gather with loved ones and fellow believers, we are reminded of the glorious victory over sin and death that He accomplished on the cross.

Lord, we thank you for the promise of new life and the hope that Easter brings. Your mercy and grace shine brightly on this day, illuminating our lives with the warmth of your love. May we never forget the incredible sacrifice of Jesus and the profound significance of His triumph over the grave.

On this sacred day, fill our hearts with the joy of the resurrection. Help us to experience the transformative power of your love, renewing our spirits and strengthening our faith. As we celebrate together, may the message of Easter resonate deeply within us, inspiring us to live as reflections of your grace and compassion.

As we rejoice in the miracle of Easter, we lift our prayers for those who may be struggling, lonely, or in despair. May your comforting presence be with them, bringing healing and hope. Use us, Lord, as instruments of your peace and vessels of your love in the world.

We dedicate this Easter Sunday to you, grateful for the promise of redemption and the assurance of your unfailing love. May our lives be a testament to the power of your resurrection as we seek to follow you faithfully.

In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!!

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Dates for Remaining Spaghetti Suppers:

April 3rd and

April 10th (*final Spaghetti Supper for the season*)

BASIC NEEDS BOUTIQUE

The Basic Needs Boutique

will be closing on Thursday, April 10th at 6:00 pm.

Beginning in June 2025, the Hot Springs Food Pantry will begin continuing this ministry, maintaining a supply of personal care products that will be available every other month.

BARELY USED BOUTIQUE

The Barely Used Boutique

will be closing on Thursday, April 10th at 6:00 pm

We will not have summer hours.

We encourage you to visit the:

Fall River Thrift Store (144 S Chicago Street)

or New 2 You Too (104 N. Chicago Street)

For low-cost clothing, kitchen, and household items.

LAST CALL FOR BARELY USED BOUTIQUE



The Barely Used Boutique clothing is at the point of either having new leadership to continue, or close down this ministry. If you would like to consider taking on leadership please contact Sally Park-Hagemen (605) 745-3802 to learn more by April 10th.

If new leadership is not found, the Boutique will close it's doors April 10th at the final spaghetti supper for this spring. If this is the case, racks and shelving will be available for use elsewhere in the church or will be disposed of.

Thank you to all who have made this wonderful ministry a success through the years — by donating clothing or by donating time and energy.



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4 Jerry & Jaime Cantu
22 Richard & Margaret Bershon
29 Brad & Summer Humbracht

4 Ryan Nichols	14 Sergio Cantu
6 Steve Keller	18 Bernice Cook
8 Barb Melstad	24 Julian Cantu
8 Sheila DeVries	25 Megan Wynia
9 Brad Humbracht	
12 Angela Puffer	
12 Darlene Jackson	

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.

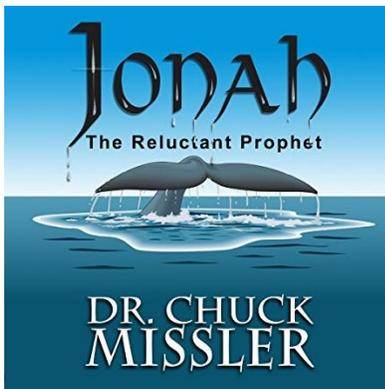
THIS AND THAT

UNITED WOMEN:

The United Women will meet on **Tuesday, April 15th at 1:30 pm** in the Fireside Room. We are continuing our study of **The Great Disappearance by Dr. David Jeremiah**. *If you are interested in joining us, please contact Bernice at ucassist@gwtc.net so she can get you a copy of the next lesson.*

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES:

April 6	"Heaven's Inheritance" Part II
April 13	Palm Sunday: "Up From the Crowd"
April 20	Easter: "Up From the Grave"
April 27	"Living God"



**NEW MARY/MARTHA BIBLE
STUDY
OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF
JONAH
THURSDAYS, 10:00 AM
IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM**

A verse by verse study on the prophet Jonah by Dr. Chuck Missler, internationally known author and Bible expositor.

'Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."' Jonah 1:1