



# Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

## **Pastor's Pulpit:**

With October comes the first real chill of the beginning of winter. And with October comes the age-old Christian question, should we celebrate Halloween? I'm not going to touch that. But I want to share with you some pretty good bits of information, from a Library of Congress blog, concerning Halloween and its origin. Enjoy.

### **THE ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN TRADITIONS**

**October 26, 2021**

**Posted by: Heather Thomas**

Carving pumpkins, trick-or-treating, and wearing scary costumes are some of the time-honored traditions of Halloween. Yet, the Halloween holiday has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (a Gaelic word pronounced "SAH-win"), a pagan religious celebration to welcome the harvest at the end of summer, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1<sup>st</sup> as a time to honor saints. Soon after, All Saints Day came to incorporate some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before All Saints Day was known as All Hallows Eve, and later, Halloween. Here is a look at the origins of some of the classic Halloween traditions we know today.

#### **Carving Jack-o'-Lanterns**

The tradition of carving Jack-o'-Lanterns originated in Ireland using turnips instead of pumpkins. It is allegedly based on a legend about a man named Stingy Jack who repeatedly trapped the Devil and only let him go on the condition that Jack would never go to Hell. But when Jack died, he learned that Heaven did not want his soul either, so he was forced to wander the Earth as a ghost for eternity. The Devil gave Jack a burning lump of coal in a carved-out turnip to light his way. Locals eventually began carving scary faces into their own turnips to frighten away evil spirits.

#### **Wearing Scary Costumes**

In order to avoid being terrorized by all the evil spirits walking the Earth during Samhain, the Celts donned disguises so that they would not be mistaken for spirits themselves and be left alone.

#### **Black and Orange**

The traditional Halloween colors of black and orange also traces back to the Celtic festival of Samhain. For the Celts, black represented the "death" of summer while the orange symbolized the autumn harvest season.

## **Trick-or-Treating**

There is much debate around the origins of trick-or-treating, but generally there are three theories. The first theory suggests that during Samhain, Celtic people would leave food out to appease the spirits traveling the Earth at night. Over time, people began to dress as these unearthly beings in exchange for similar offerings of food and drink.

The second theory speculates that the candy boon stems from the Scottish practice of guising, which is a secular version of “souling.” During the Middle Ages, generally children and poor adults would collect food and money from local homes in return for prayers for the dead on All Souls’ Day. Guisers dropped the prayers in favor of non-religious practices with the inclusion of songs, jokes, and other “tricks.”

A third theory argues that modern American trick-or-treating stems from “belsnickeling,” a German-American Christmas tradition where children would dress in costume and then call on their neighbors to see if the adults could guess the identities of the disguised. In one version of the practice, the children were rewarded with food or other treats if no one could identify them.

## **Bobbing for Apples**

The game of bobbing for apples has been a staple at Halloween parties for many years, but its origins are more rooted in love and romance. The game traces back to a courting ritual that was part of a Roman festival honoring Pomona, the goddess of agriculture and abundance. While multiple versions existed, the gist was that young men and women would be able to predict their future relationships based on the game. When the Romans conquered the British Isles in 43 AD, the Pomona festival blended with the similarly timed Samhain, a precursor to Halloween.

## **Pranking**

Playing pranks often varies by region, but the pre-Halloween tradition known as “Devil’s Night,” is credited to a different origin depending on the source. Some say that pranks started as part of May Day celebrations. But Samhain, and eventually All Souls Day, also included good-natured mischief. When Irish and Scottish immigrants came to America, they brought with them the tradition of celebrating Mischief Night as part of Halloween.

## **Lighting Candles and Bonfires**

For much of the early history of Halloween, towering bonfires were used to light the way for souls seeking the afterlife. These days, lighting candles have generally replaced the large traditional blazes.

## **Candy Apples**

For centuries, people have been coating fruit in syrup as a means of preservation. But during the Roman festival of Pomona, the goddess was often represented by and associated with apples; her name derives from the Latin word for apple “pomum” and the fruit is at the heart of harvest celebrations. It is believed that candy apples were invented accidentally in 1908 by William W. Kolb, a candymaker in Newark, New Jersey. As the story goes, Kolb was experimenting with red cinnamon candy to sell at Christmastime and he dipped apples on sticks into the red glaze and put them in his shop window to showcase his new candy. But instead of selling the candies, he ended up selling the apples to customers who thought they looked good enough to eat. They became fashionable treats for Halloween starting in the early 1900s and they remained popular up until the 1970s.

### **Devouring Candy**

The act of going door-to-door for handouts has long been a part of Halloween revelries. But until the mid-20th century, the “treats” children received were not necessarily candy. Things like fruit, nuts, coins, and toys were just as likely to be given out. Trick-or-treating rose in popularity in the 1950s and it inspired candy companies to market small, individually wrapped candies. People began to favor the confections out of convenience, but candy did not dominate at the exclusion of all other treats until the 1970s when parents started fearing anything unwrapped.

### **Candy Corn**

A candy maker at the Wunderle Candy Company in Philadelphia is sometimes credited with inventing the tri-colored candy in the 1880s. But candy corn did not become a widespread sensation until the Goelitz Company brought the candy to the masses in 1898. Candy corn was originally called “Chicken Feed” and it sold in boxes with the slogan “Something worth crowing for.” Initially, it was just an autumnal candy because of corn’s association with harvest time. Candy corn later became Halloween-specific when trick-or-treating grew in popularity in the U.S. during the 1950s.

### *Blessings, Pastor David*

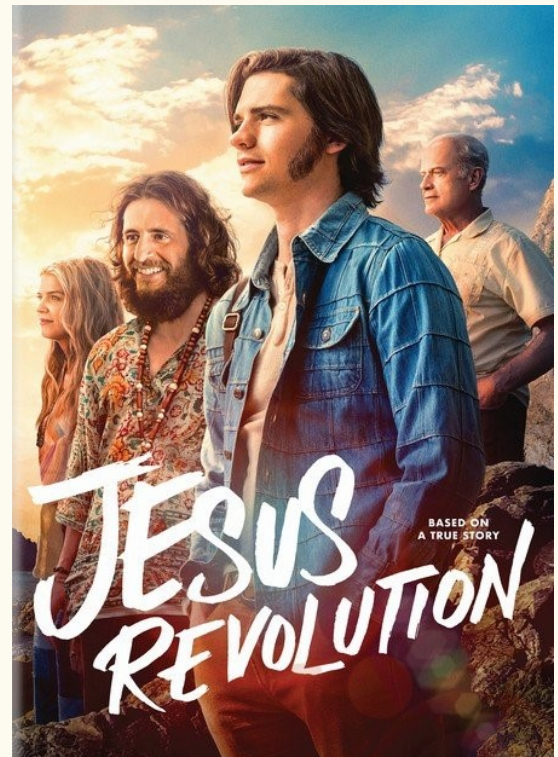
Tells the story of a young pastor, Greg Laurie, being raised by his struggling mother, Charlene in the 1970's. Laurie and a sea of young people descend on sunny Southern California to redefine truth through all means of liberation.

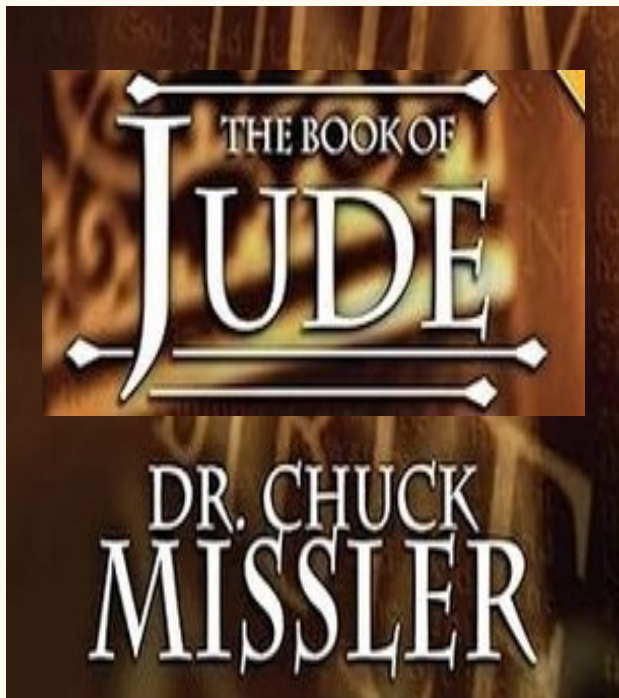
Inadvertently, Laurie meets Lonnie Frisbee (Jonathan Roumie), a charismatic hippie-street-preacher, and Pastor Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer), who have thrown open the doors of Smith's languishing church to a stream of wandering youth. What unfolds becomes the greatest spiritual awakening in American history. Rock and roll, newfound love, and a twist of faith lead to a **JESUS REVOLUTION** that turns one counterculture movement into a revival that changes the world.

**Updates will be posted on The United Churches Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/unitedchurcheshotspings>

**Will be shown  
at The United  
Churches  
Friday, October 27th  
6:30 PM**





**MARY/MARTHA BIBLE STUDY  
THURSDAYS 10:30 AM**

**THE BOOK OF JUDE  
WITH CHUCK MISSLER  
8 LESSONS**

**ON THE 25 VERSES  
IN THIS SINGLE BOOK  
SMALL BOOK, BIG MESSAGE**

**IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM  
FACILITATED BY CORA REID**

"The New Testament in the Old Testament concealed ... the Old Testament in the New Testament Revealed" Chuck Missler

**Dr. Chuck Missler was an internationally known author, and among the best-known Bible expositors in the world. He was a prominent speaker on the subject of Bible prophecy and was featured on many Christian radio and television stations worldwide.**



**CALLING ALL METHODIST MEMBERS OF THE UNITED CHURCHES**

***Please add Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> to your calendar and plan on attending*** our annual meeting in the Fireside Room after our church service. We will be voting for a new Lay Leader/Personnel Committee member for the next two years with other agenda items. Please prayerfully consider yourself for this opportunity. If you have questions on the position, or have anything to add to the annual agenda, please give me a call.

**Grab a cup of coffee and a cookie, and meet us on October 22ND!**

**Thank you, Marce Largent, 719-640-6414.**

**SPECIAL EVENT:  
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD  
GUEST SPEAKER**

**Sunday, October 1st, 2023**

**12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

***Join us for lunch and to hear the testimony of this shoebox recipient and the impact on her life. Learn more about OCC, packing shoeboxes, and pick up boxes & materials for the 2023 season!***



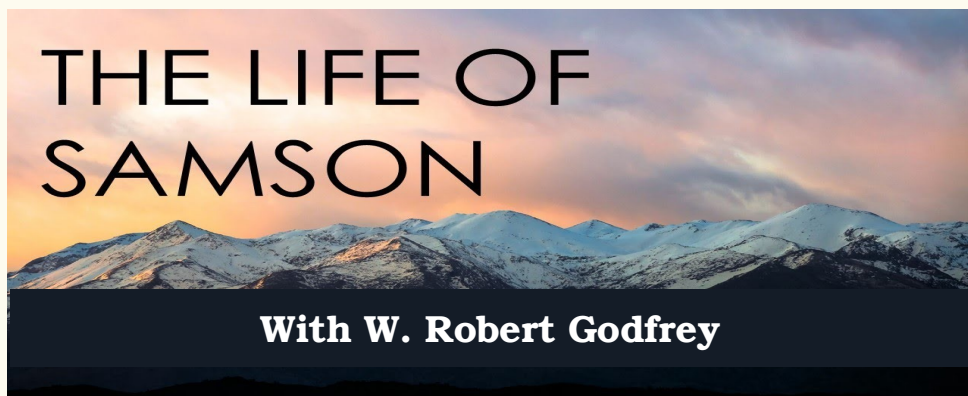
**Remember . . . You can build your shoebox online!**



The United Churches of Hot Springs SD hopes to fill 20 boxes online. If you're worried about shopping build your shoeboxes with build a shoebox online. Go to The United Churches Shoebox Page (link below) to build a shoebox online. Go to the page and just click the button that says "Build a Shoebox Now" on the page.

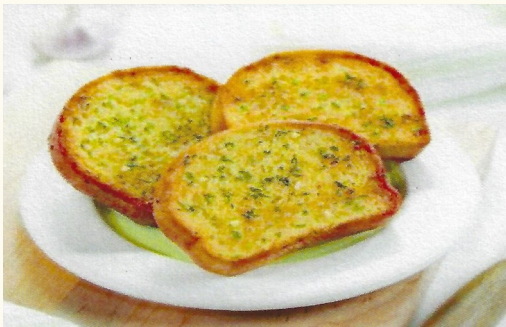
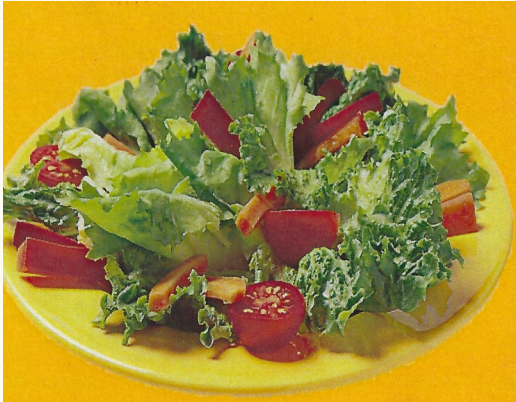
<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fe6fe32a-5cda-4d88-b7af-2a227d66c74a>

**BIBLE STUDY COMING SOON!**



"A man of incredible physical strength and debilitating moral weakness, Samson was nevertheless God's instrument to rescue Israel from the Philistines during the era of the judges. In light of these contrasts, we are faced with this key question: What, exactly, are we to make of Samson and his place in the Lord's purposes?"

***Watch for details and a start date!***



# Spaghetti Supper

**WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS**

**Beginning October 12th**

**at The United Churches  
in the**

**Basement Fellowship Hall**

**4:30 — 6:00 PM**

*Donations Appreciated*

**Basic Needs Boutique**

**Bearly Used Boutique**

**Also open:**

**4:30 — 6:00 pm**

**During Spaghetti Supper**

*In case of inclement weather check  
The United Churches Facebook Page:*

[https://www.facebook.com/  
unitedchurcheshotsprings](https://www.facebook.com/unitedchurcheshotsprings)

**NOT SERVING ON:**

**Thursday, November 23rd  
December 23rd & 28th**

**Final Night: April 18, 2024**

**(NO CALL AHEAD ORDERS)**

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES  
OF THE DAKOTAS**

**CHURCH OF HOPE'S QUILT RAFFLE 2023  
MADE BY: IMMANUAL BAPTIST CHURCH WOMEN  
MINOT NORTH DAKOTA**

The Church of Hope's quilt raffle helps to cover the Pastor's salary, Bible studies, Bibles, prisoner exit bags and other expenses. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. If you would like to help with this vital ministry, see **Jeanne Wyatt** or **Bernice Cook** for tickets. The winner will be drawn in December. (Please make checks payable to **Church of Hope**.)



**CHURCH OF HOPE—SD WOMEN'S PRISON—PIERRE, SD**

The Church of Hope is an *American Baptist Church* gathering within the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre, South Dakota. Financial support is provided by member churches of ABC Dakotas, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and many other churches and individuals.



**Fifth Sunday Music Celebration  
Sunday, October 29<sup>TH</sup>  
10:00 am Church Sanctuary  
Guest Pianist: Lois Wells**

**Followed by:  
All-Church Potluck  
In the Fellowship Hall**



**Make plans to join us for a great Sunday of music, worship and fellowship!  
Bring your favorite potluck dish to share.  
(Rumor has it that the Pioneer Woman's Chicken Dorito Casserole may appear.)**

**A NOTE FROM OYATE HOPE ACADEMY**

*Thank you for your continued prayer and support of our work with the Lakota children. We are off to a great start to our fall semester in our new location. The Lord has blessed this transition. Please continue to pray for our future building plans, there are several possibilities out there. Blessings to all, Wendell Gehman*

*Oyate Hope Academy*

**(A copy of the September Newsletter has been posted on the Mission bulletin board located in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Fireside Room.)**



# October Anniversaries

01 Steve & Cheryl Keller



- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Mary Martino     | 18 Cindy Meadows    |
| 7 William Coffield | 21 Mavis Olstad     |
| 10 Annie Zwetzig   | 27 Kadlin Humbracht |
| 11 Sandra Nichols  | 29 Cherie Largent   |
| 12 Lisa Welch      |                     |
| Frank Mason        |                     |

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

## THIS AND THAT

### UNITED WOMEN:

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm** in the Fireside Room. Join us for a time of spiritual nourishment, prayer, encouragement, fellowship and sharing!

### PASTOR DAVID'S SERMON SERIES / THE GOSPEL OF JOHN:

- |            |                     |              |
|------------|---------------------|--------------|
| October 1  | "John's Prologue"   | John 1:1-18  |
| October 8  | "Who Are You?"      | John 1:19-28 |
| October 15 | "The Lamb of God"   | John 1:29-51 |
| October 22 | "The Wedding Feast" | John 2:1-11  |

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

Meets on Monday mornings at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room. They are currently studying "God of Covenant" with Jen Wilkin. All women are welcome to attend this study of Genesis 21 to 50. Call Delores Hickman, 605-745-5338 for more information.

### NOMINATING TEAM:

Our Nominating Team will begin meeting soon. Please pray where God would have you serve next year!



### ATTENTION CHURCH COMMITTEE & TEAM LEADERS:

It is that time of year again ... ANNUAL REPORTS! Annual Reports from church committees and teams are due in the office by January 1st, 2024 ... don't let this sneak up on you!

### OCTOBER MISSION EMPHASIS — HOT SPRINGS FOOD PANTRY:

Our Mission emphasis for October is our local Food Pantry. A food donation container is located in the Bethany Room outside the Sanctuary for food donations. This is a great opportunity to help the Food Pantry "stock up" in anticipation of the upcoming holidays. The **Loose Change Offering** for this mission will be gathered during the Worship Service on **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**.