



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SD

Pastor's Pulpit:

November Nuances

Here's a little challenge. How many things are you truly thankful for? Using the chart below, begin with the letter A and find something you are thankful for using each of the letters of the alphabet. For example, **A**-Applesauce; **B**-Beauty, etc.

A		B		C	
D		E		F	
G		H		I	
J		K		L	
M		N		O	
P		Q		R	
S		T		U	
V		W		X	
Y		Z			

What I find so appealing about taking the time to try this little exercise, is the sheer wonder and thoughtfulness that we get when we actually sit back and think hard about what we are really thankful for. You know, in reality, in light of everything, there *is* so much to be thankful for!

Toward the end of November, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. It's a great American holiday and a time to ponder the things that truly make our lives happy and fulfilled. In reality, thankfulness is a great way to begin the **Holy Days** (what we now refer to as the holidays), which is a time filled with all sorts of things to be thankful for: our country, our families, the coming of Christ, the wonder of salvation, the end of a year and the beginning of a new year full of anticipation — a season of great thankfulness!

One thing on the list above that I am truly thankful for begins with the letter — **G**, and it's not "G" Christmas is right around the corner. No ... it stands for **Gathering**. It does seem that we are finally relatively safe to once again gather together as friends and church family ... to spend time in one another's actual physical presence! I know it's still going to take time to fully get back to some sort of normalcy, but at least we can see some light at the end of the tunnel as COVID seems to be abating through herd immunity and/or vaccines.

(Continued on next page)

Which leads me to another “thankful and thank-filled” letter, **V**— **Visitations**. I don’t mind telling you, it’s been hard to get out and visit people, hard to make any pastoral visits, hard to know what and even if institutions are open or shut down, hard to know if it would be more beneficial to go and visit someone or to stay away and not take the chance of passing along lingering germs to them ... and the list goes on. But now, after a long season of waiting and speculation, I believe, as does the church board, that its time that we get out and begin to touch base with as many of our beloved congregation as possible. In the coming months, someone should be in touch with you asking you how things are going, if you would like to receive in-home communion, if there are any concerns or joys that can be shared, if you have any special needs, and if you would like to have a pastoral visit. We know that we are not through with the pandemic yet, but we are standing firm on the premise that we are a church family and families stick together through thick and thin. So **R** you ready for a family visit? Did you know that **U R** missed?!?! In the meantime, can **U** find as many things as possible to be thankful **4**, and *pen them in the spaces provided on the first page*? I know I can ... and so can **U**! **G** this whole thankful theme is pretty **X**-citing! Happy pre-Holy Days.

God's Blessings and Peace, *Pastor David*

From the Belfry . . .

I hate articles that start off asking for money. So, I'm not going to do that. Instead, I'll give you some little-known information about handbells.

Our church handbells were donated as a memorial in the 80's. That's 1980. Since that time, they have never been professionally serviced.

Many bell owners believed when they originally bought their bells that they were “maintenance free instruments”. Grand pianos need regular tuning, pipe organs need adjustments, a Rolls Royce needs an oil change every now and then (anyway, that's what I'm told). While handbells need far less attention than most musical instruments, they do need occasional routine servicing.

Handbells are cast of raw bell bronze. They have no protective plating or lacquer finish on them like most other musical instruments. Even though our ringers are careful about not touching the bell with bare hands, eating or chewing gum while ringing, and wiping the bells after practice, SPIT happens. Bells are subject to natural oxidation and visible corrosion that shows up first as an amber haze and then tiny green spots. Without cleaning, the green spots pit the metal. Excessive pitting will change the tune of the bell.

Our bells need a professional machine cleaning. Machine cleaning requires special custom-made equipment and is very time-consuming. They also need a few replacement washers and probably some parts I don't even know about. During their “servicing” they will also be “voiced” (has to do with sound quality from one bell to the next). After the servicing they will look brilliant, sound more consistent, and be easier to ring (just ask any ringer about their cranky bell).

Then after the refurbish, we should plan on basic service every 3 to 4 years or 200 hours of use. Basic service includes replacing parts, playing action adjustments, and voicing. It is recommended the more intensive machine cleaning be done every 10 years.

I enjoy listening to the bells. I'd like to see the bells as part of the worship service for many years to come. I hope you do, too.



Carol Posthumus, Bell Choir

We Are Looking for Assistance in the Following Areas!

If you are looking for a way to serve, our Worship and Music Team suggest serving as: a *Sunday Worship Assistant*, a *Sunday Music Leader*, or as a member of our *Audio/Visual/Media Team*. If you can count to 6 ... consider joining our *Church Bell Choir*. For those who have ever found themselves singing in the shower ... our *Church Chancel Choir* can use more joyful voices ... and you get to wear a robe!

Please contact one of us to join:

Gordon Brooks, Worship & Music Team Chair
Lynn Michelle Mason, Choir Director
Carol Posthumus, Bell Choir Director
Pat DeSmet, Audio/Visual/Media Director

CALLING ALL WOMEN!!!

UNITED WOMEN'S GATHERING

Beginning in January 2022

**Would you like to start off the New Year gathering together
with women of the church?**

This group would meet monthly for:

spiritual nourishment; prayer; encouragement; fellowship and sharing.

More details will be forthcoming.

Please see Jeanne Wyatt if you are interested.



**THE POWER
of a
SIMPLE
GIFT**

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES 2021

- We have several Shoe Boxes stacked up in the Bethany Room and in the Fireside Room ready for you to pack. You may pick up boxes on a Sunday, or any weekday during office business hours, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.
- Each colorful box contains a Leaflet with packing information, shoebox gift ideas (include a "WOW" item) and a labels to indicate if you are packing the box for a girl or a boy.
- Located next to the shoeboxes you will find "starter kits" that Cora Reid has prepared. Each starter kit includes: school/craft items; soap; a washcloth; and a toothbrush. Please take one to give you a jump start preparing your box!
- **November 15th is our deadline!**
- **Our goal is to fill 100 SHOEBOXES!!**
- **BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE:** If you are unable to get out and shop, build a shoebox online with the following link: <https://sampur.se/3v5JG4P>. The link is for United Churches Web page to build a shoebox. It will also total the number of shoeboxes our congregation builds. It gives you the option to pick a boy or a girl, age category, and type of gifts to place in the shoebox. The cost is \$25.00 which includes the \$9.00 for mail/administrative fee.
- **God is at work through Operation Christmas Child!!! Thank you for your participation in this vital ministry!**



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

25 Adam & Anna Swift
25 Tom & Judy Hofer
25 Bob & Mary Puffer

2 Todd Wynia	14 Barb Beery
2 Cathy Olstad	15 Gerardo Cantu
10 Owen Meadows	16 Jayden White Face
11 Florence Jost	16 Jennifer Campbell
12 Bob Puffer	19 Paul Pickerell
13 Mystic Dorian	28 Gary Salverson

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

DON'T FORGET TO FALL BACK! Be sure to set your clocks back 1 hour **Saturday evening, November 6th**.

ANNUAL PRESBYTERIAN DENOMINATION MEETING: will be held on Sunday, November 14th at 11:15 AM in the Fireside Room. All members are encouraged to attend.

ABW MEETING:

The American Baptist Women will meet on Tuesday, November 16th at 1:30 PM in the Fireside Room.

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE: Bill is now home from the hospital. It is with deep gratitude that I say, thank you, for your prayers, love and support for Bill. He has a journey ahead to complete health, and with God's help will do so. Your continued prayers are deeply appreciated.

Blessings, Pat Coffield.

DEAR CONGREGATION: Thank you so much for the cards and continued prayers during Mike's and my recent illness. It has seemed like such a long time since I have been able to come to church. Every day seemed like a week until I got back to the Hot Springs hospital in the swing bed ward (two of the weeks) and then home. During my drug-induced coma (10 days in ICU) and intubation, I could only think of Jesus and heaven, although I was vaguely aware that if I was restrained on a gurney it was not heaven. Gradually my memory has returned and I am working on decreasing my oxygen dependence and increasing my strength through physical therapy and occupational therapy. My speaking voice is now recognizable. Thank you again for your cards, care, concern and prayers. Love to my church family, **Lynn Buchholz**

NOVEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS — FOOD PANTRY: Our Mission emphasis for November is the Hot Springs 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 month will be collected during the Worship Service on **Sunday, November 14th**.

FOOD PANTRY REPORT-CLIENT PROFILE:

Number of Active Clients (Visited the pantry in 2021): **334** (+18 from previous month); **Single 170;** **Family 164;** **New Sign-Ups (since Jan 1, 2021) 81** (+12 from previous month); **Average Days Open Each Month 16.**

MISSION BULLETIN BOARD UPDATES:

Oyate Concern Christian School — September 2021 School Newsletter has been posted on our Mission bulletin board (located in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Fireside Room).

Walter & Cheryl Spicer — Be sure to check out the October letter received from the Spicers (who are back serving in the Philippines), which has also been posted.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: P— Pecan Pie Blizzard from Dairy Queen.