

2022 November



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SD

Pastor's Pulpit:

I love to explore the meaning of words, or what is referred to as its *etymology*. Not surprising, the Holiday Season that we are about to enter, beginning with Thanksgiving and on through Advent and Christmas, has a wondrously religious meaning.

Holiday (n.)

1500s, earlier haliday (c. 1200), from Old English haligdæg "holy day, consecrated day, religious anniversary; Sabbath," from halig "holy" (see holy+dæg "day"); in 14c; meaning both "religious festival" and "day of exemption from labor and recreation," but pronunciation and sense diverged 16c. As an adjective mid-15c. Happy holidays is from mid-19c., in British English, with reference to summer vacation from school. As a Christmastime greeting, by 1937, American English, in Camel cigarette ads.

As a Christian, I understand that every day is actually a Holy Day. But I'm also aware that God in His sovereignty has built into our country a period of "Holy Days" that believers and non-believers alike take part in and enjoy. How paradoxical that a nation that has moved more secular than religious, still has the witness of Christ front and center at "Christmas" year after year. After all, the etymology of Christmas itself is:

Christmas (n.)

"Church festival observed annually in memory of the birth of Christ," late Old English Cristes mæsse, from Christ (and retaining the original vowel sound)+ mass (n.2).

God just seems to be intent on not only just hanging around but actually keeping His holy hand on our country in ways that folks can and cannot see or realize. Praise the Lord that He does! You know if you sit down and think about it there is a message even in the order of the holidays. For our purposes let's begin in October not November. You know, Halloween:

Halloween (n.)

Also Hallow-e'en, Hallow e'en, "last night of October (the eve of All Saints Day) as a popular holiday," 1781, in a Scottish context, a Scottish shortening of Allhallowe'en, All Hallows even, etc., 1550s, "the evening before All-Hallows." This is from even (n.) + otherwise-obsolete hallow (n.), Middle English halwe, "holy person, saint," from Old English halga, from the source of hallow (v.). Also see even (n.), and compare hallows.

You know the time for Trick or Treating:

Trick-or-treating is a traditional Halloween custom for children and adults in some countries. On the evening before All Saints' Day (1 November), children in costumes travel from house to house, asking for treats with the phrase "Trick or Treat".

Continued on next page

The "treat" is usually some form of candy, although in some cultures money is given instead. The "trick" refers to a threat, usually idle, to perform mischief on the homeowner or their property if no treat is given. Trick-or-Treating usually occurs on the evening of October 31. Some homeowners signal that they are willing to hand out treats by putting up Halloween decorations outside their doors; others simply leave treats available on their porches for the children to take freely. Houses may also leave their porch light on as a universal indicator that they have candy.

No matter where you stand in regards to the custom, just for a moment consider the idea that this is the night of frolicking before the observance of the day for Godly people whose lives God has used and blessed. It's kind of like the beginning of a person's coming to know and experience God in their life. This is the start of the "Holy Days," at least in one person's heart. There really is a time when frolicking gets old, when trick playing wears thin, and the person begins to consider the lives of the Godly people around them. What makes them so different? There's something there that whets the spiritual appetite of the soon to be seeker.

Then of course comes **Thanksgiving**. As God continues to work in our will-be-saint's life, there may be a catastrophe or incident that truly makes one take stock, see life differently, make one desire to live a better life. Often during this time, God allows a person to see themselves in light of all the real blessings they have had in life: family, friends, good health, how one has just taken so much for granted. A sense of *thankfulness* takes hold, but so does the hand of God as He begins to crack the door of His soon to be child a little.

That is what the **Advent** season represents: God working on and in someone's heart, wooing them, something new is on the horizon. Little does our friend know that something, or should I say Someone, is about to come to them and change their life completely ... a new beginning is at hand.

Thus, **Christmas Day**, Christ is born. For our seeker, our soon to be saint, a new birth truly takes place as the Gospel story takes hold and Jesus comes not just into the world, but into the inner world of a human heart. And here in this human cradle, Baby Jesus finds a home.

And appropriately as Christmas Day leads to New Year's Day, so does our new babe in Christ begin not only a new year but a new life. The Holy days are in a sense over, but in reality everyday now is a Holy Day!

This Thanksgiving let your imagination go for a while and consider your own life and how very, very blessed you truly are. Look around, there really is so much to be thankful for!

Personally I am thankful for Bernice and my boys, for Christ, and our church family. I'm also thankful for advances in medical technology. At the time of your reading this, I will be about two weeks from surgery (it's a guy thing). I will miss some of the official Holy Days as I recover, but I am looking at early December to be back in the pulpit. I just ask that you would uphold Bernice and myself in prayer during this time.

Blessings, *Pastor David*



DON'T FORGET!
Set you clocks back one hour
Saturday Evening
November 6th



November BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Todd Wynia | 15 Gerardo Cantu |
| 2 Cathy Olstad | 16 Jayden White Face |
| 10 Owen Meadows | 16 Jennifer Campbell |
| 11 Florence Jost | 19 Paul Pickerill |
| 12 Bob Puffer | 23 Myrna Halls |
| 13 Mystic Dorian | 25 Alexis Cape |
| 14 Barb Berry | |

November Anniversaries

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



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 or call 745-5640.

THIS AND THAT

THANK YOU!:

We appreciate all the thoughts, prayers, and delicious meals delivered during our recent bout with COVID-19. We are so thankful for restored health and a loving church family!

May God bless you, *Garry & Pat Strauser*

IN APPRECIATION:

A heartfelt thank you for all the cards and wonderful cakes for Pastor Appreciation Day! We are so blessed to be a part of this church family!

With God's love, *Pastor David & Bernice*

NOVEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS

CORNERSTONE WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S SHELTER RAPID CITY

"The Women and Children's Home opened in March of 2005. The home provides a safe place for homeless women and children. Families are the fastest growing segment of homelessness. The shortage of affordable housing and an increase in poverty are two reasons we are seeing such a demand for rooms in the home.

Many of these single mothers have three (3) or four (4) children under the age of 5. The Mission provides shelter and assistance to an average of 350-400 women and children annually. The home allows these women and children a chance for stability and healing while becoming self-sufficient and independent."

Our "Loose Change" Offering for November will be gathered on Sunday, November 13th. Giving envelopes will also have a line item designated for this fund. Thank you for your faithfulness to our missions!



BIBLICAL PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

"Lord, how can we ever thank You enough? You endured more pain, more shame, more sorrow, more grief than we can possibly fathom. Help us remember why You gave Your life. Because of love. Because of mercy. Because we desperately need them both. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

The Amazing Journey of a Simple Shoebox Gift

PACKING: From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world.

COLLECTING: Churches and groups of all sizes collect boxes from their communities.

SHIPPING: Thousands of volunteers serve annually inspecting and preparing shoeboxes for international shipping. Every hour work stops for a few minutes to pray for the children who will receive the boxes.



WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION: Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children.

The United Churches Shoebox Page

How many children can we bless with the Good News of Jesus Christ by building shoebox gifts online? If you're worried about shopping build your shoeboxes with "Build a Shoebox" here:

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

The United Churches hopes to fill 20 boxes online.

This goal page will help us track our progress.

(You can access the above link by going to the United Churches Website and click the newsletter tab on the bottom left of the homepage. On the newsletter list, choose November 2022.)

If you are building a regular shoebox, please have them to the church by November 13th.



NEW SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

"THE DOCTRINES OF GRACE IN JOHN"

By Steven J. Lawson

BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

8:30 AM — IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

"Each book of the Bible contributes poignantly and uniquely to the message of redemption revealed in God's Word. John's gospel offers much to the picture of redemption, but it provides special insight into the deity and supremacy of Jesus Christ. For this reason, it naturally follows that John would present the sovereignty of God in a profound, thorough manner. Therefore, Dr. Lawson will use the Beloved's record of the life and ministry of Jesus, the all-mighty Son of God, to explain and analyze the doctrines of grace."

The United Churches

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