



October 2019

“Yucca Breeze”

T H E U N I T E D C H U R C H E S O F H O T S P R I N G S
P A S T O R ’ S P U L P I T :

Dear Friends and Family,

As October rolls around, I am keeping a watchful eye on the weather. One of the big challenges of coming to settle in South Dakota was the “reputation” or at least the “perception” that winters here can be brutal. And maybe they can be...I don’t know. Whatever the case, I know that as the latter half of the year arrives we begin to consider the holiday season. As of October 1, we are at the 274th day of the year with only 91 days until the New Year. Take away the last week of the year and that puts us at 84 days till Christmas Day. October brings with it the dubious and much maligned observance of Halloween. I’ve thought about this for years and the question of whether a Christian should celebrate Halloween has always been a touchy subject. With that in mind, I want to share with you what the Billy Graham Association says about the subject—after all if you can’t trust Billy Graham, who can you trust! Here you go:

Should Christians Celebrate Halloween?

By **BGEA** • *October 30, 2018*

Q: I have mixed feelings about how our family should be involved in Halloween. What should I do?

A: People come to different conclusions about celebrating Halloween, particularly if they have young children or grandchildren to consider.

For some people, this holiday is a time for dress-up and candy; it is an opportunity for fun. Others express concern for their children’s safety or for the emphasis that is often made on violence or horror at this time of year. Those who are interested in the right or wrong of the celebration may look at the holiday’s origin in the occult and believe it should not be celebrated at all; they are aware that some groups celebrate Halloween as a tribute to Satan.

On the other hand, others recognize that Halloween, the eve of “All Saints’ Day” (November 1), is also associated with Martin Luther and the Reformation. They celebrate the religious freedoms won at that time in history. Since each of these perspectives contain truth, it is difficult to know how to respond.

We encourage each family to develop their own approach to Halloween based on their own convictions and the options for celebration available to them. The responsibility to make this decision rests on the adults in the family, not the children. The peer pressure on children is far too great for them to be objective. Certainly, providing a safe, fun environment must be a priority.

Some parents adapt the traditional Halloween practices, while others develop totally different alternatives. These alternatives may include fall festival parties where children are encouraged to dress in a particular theme such as positive cartoon or book characters, famous historical characters, or Bible heroes.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from front page)

Carrying out that theme with simple acting can be fun and an opportunity for teaching values. Children will always be attracted to costumes and treats; finding positive ways to enjoy these pleasures is the primary challenge for caring adults.

If you decide to make a major change in the way your family celebrates Halloween, you may not need to do all the work yourself. We would encourage you to contact churches in your area to determine what activities are being planned.

Rather than separate completely from the night’s activities, some Christians give Gospel tracts along with treats to children who come to their homes and make Halloween an opportunity to witness for Christ. Others offer safe places for lighthearted fun.

Actually, I think that is a pretty good way of approaching the subject. Our own kids never did celebrate Halloween as we were always involved in a church where an alternative was offered. But people’s views are different. Whatever conclusion you come to, keep in mind the line, “The responsibility to make this decision rests on the adults in the family, not the children.” Kids are one of God’s greatest gifts. But they are kids. And kids will grow and grow up. They will remember far more about how you as their parent or grandparent approached the subject of Halloween. 9 times out of 10 they will follow your example. *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” —Proverbs 22:6*

Blessings and Grace,
Pastor David

~~~~~

**Thank You, you really brightened my day!** Thank you to my Church Family for all the cards, prayers, & well-wishes. The “hurt” isn’t so bad when its shared.  
—Love, Margaret & Richard Bershon



**To the “GOOD NEIGHBOR” Guys & Gals:** Thanks so much to all who helped with the Good Neighbor Project. Jerry and Pat sure got a lot of branches down in front of my house. I can actually see the front of the house from the street now! What a good project for the church to do. —Blessings, Jan Speirs

*“I want to thank Pat, Cal, and the United Churches for helping with the task of painting our home and supplying some paint. We really appreciated the help and support from you and the members of your church! My family thanks you for being so kind, especially in our time of need, given my husband’s medical condition.” —Sincerely, The Cooks on 16th Street*

**United Churches Community Outreach Ministries**

**Spaghetti Suppers resume** on Thursdays 4:30 - 6: p.m., beginning on October 17, 2019, in the church basement! We greatly appreciate those who have volunteered their time and talent in the past! If you are interested in occasionally being involved with this ministry please contact Delores Hickman, 745-5338 or Sheryl Brost, 745- 3072. All are invited to come and dine and fellowship with community attendees! “Bearly Used Boutique” and the NEW “Basic Needs Boutique” will be open the same hours!

**Calling “Bearly Used Boutique” Volunteers:** Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:15 a.m. in the Bethany Room will be an organizational meeting for those who wish to work with the mission of the Bearly Used Boutique (clothing) this fall, winter and early spring. We need volunteers who are willing to take turns keeping the Boutique open on Thursday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. (same hours as the Spaghetti supper). We will discuss how the Boutique works and set up a schedule for October thru December.

Come find out what we are all about and how you can help families in our community.

Questions? Contact Sally Park-Hageman 745-3802

## OCTOBER Birthdays:

7 Bill Coffield  
8 Emily (Mason) Stiegel  
10 Anne Zwetzig  
12 Frank Mason  
18 Marcella Sunding  
18 Cindy Meadows



## OCTOBER Anniversaries:

None... *however, we did miss one in August:*  
9th—Ed & Pat Cerney



PAGE 3

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

## The United Churches "Good Neighbor" Project

A big THANK YOU to all the Community Project volunteer workers! We had at least 18 people working on September 14th to accomplish various task for folks in need. We trimmed trees, cleaned gutters, installed hand rails, skirted a mobile home, mowed, cleaned a culvert and did quite a bit of painting. It was a great day and the weather was perfect. Again, thanks everybody! —Jerry W. and Wayne H.



**SURE LOOKS LIKE IT WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL WORK DAY!**

P.S. Have you picked up the September/October 2019 issue of **South Dakota Magazine**? Our Own church administrative assistant Peg Sperlich, has a published picture on page 35. Run out and get a copy! (And you might want to pass along to her a hearty congratulations and well done!)

The United Churches  
342 N. Garden St.  
Hot Springs, SD 57747  
605-745-5640  
Email: [uc@gwtc.net](mailto:uc@gwtc.net)  
[www.unitedchurcheshotsprings.org](http://www.unitedchurcheshotsprings.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #84  
(Return service requested)

**UNITED CHURCHES**



**HOT SPRINGS, SD**