



# Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS

## PASTOR'S PULPIT:

### The Challenge

Although the pandemic has been a harsh reality and a challenging episode in our history, there have also been positive effects that have emerged because of our mandated isolation. For example, God has granted us as a nation and as a world the call, if you will, to return to Him:

- Return to what we know is the right way to act and to be.
- Return to our biblical roots and seeking after the God who indeed created us in His image.
- Return to a life concerned more for the other and not so self-absorbed.

Plagues, wars, pandemics, and times of unrest have always served a greater purpose; and in a way, we can grow to be thankful for them. Nevertheless, it's always good to be able to get beyond our current crisis and move on to some sort of normalcy. Amen! The question is, did we learn, did we actually discern His beckoning to return? Did we become a better Nation or better person?

The reason I bring this up is because for the past several months we have been asking each of our three denominations to put their best foot forward by spotlighting who they are, what they believe, what they do and how to join. We did this not to emphasize the differences, but to explain them. Not to divide, but to showcase each denomination's strengths and good qualities. However, we did this not to just disseminate information, but to work alongside of our gracious God during this time of His calling His people to come back, get serious and reconnect with Him.

Being a part of a church family has always been a part of God's calling. God calls each of His children to both *believe* and to *belong*. He changes our desires and now we long to be around more like-minded and like-hearted people. In addition, we each are given a literal plethora of gifts and talents that He would have us use in helping other members of His family, as well as helping us to realize our own unique purpose in His Kingdom. In other words, we are not only in this thing together, we are literally in need of and dependent upon one another. And probably the greatest part of being called to believe and belong is the unique fact that we are given the privilege, as well as the opportunity, to put some feet to our faith as we learn the meaning of family life, commitment, loyalty, dedication, and responsibility.

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I don't believe God ever intended us to not have a church family. I really don't believe He ever intended folks, His folks, to be uncommitted to, or unfaithful to, or not in a church family. And as such, as much as our society balks at the reality we tend to forget that being a member in a church family is not our idea but His. Being faithful and fruitful in a church family is not really about us, but for Him. Being a church member is not really a personal choice as much as it is a Divine mandate as well a privilege.

So there you have it. The challenge is before us. Have we heard His voice during the past year, calling us to come back, get involved, get right with Him, and serve His people? Have we felt His pull to join a church family: having a part of the decision making processes; having and being a voice in the direction our church should go; being His faithful teacher; dedicated Elder; Christ-like leader; inspirational choir member; supportive team member; or whatever role He would have you live out and be dedicated to do for Him? I hope so, not only for God's sake, but for yours...and ours.

On Sunday May 2, following the worship service, we are giving God and you the opportunity to settle the issue concerning His choice and your desire to find a good church home. At 11:15 AM we invite you to join us and learn a little more about our special church family here at the United Churches.

Blessings,  
*Pastor David*

**ATTENTION ALL WOMEN!  
DO YOU NEED A BREAK?  
NEED SOME QUALITY AWAY TIME?**

***Then check this out:*  
Women's Retreat  
Camp Judson, Keystone, SD  
Friday June 4, Saturday June 5, Sunday June 6**



*Take advantage of this opportunity for some quality fellowship time!* If you are interested in attending, please **contact Jeanne Wyatt at 424-2633** for more information and to schedule. You may attend part or all of the retreat.



*A place apart in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota.*

*Camp Judson's 160-acre campus borders the Black Hills National Forest. Its forested setting provides an peaceful retreat getaway.*



# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



THUR MAY 6 | 12-1 PM

## Prayer Service

Centennial Park — 12:00-1:00 PM

w/Soup & Bread Following

Conducted by the Kiwanis & HSMA

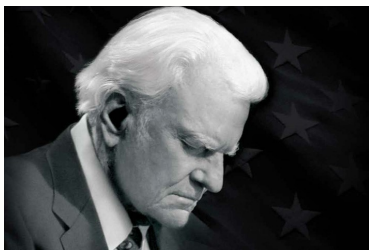
*(Bring a chair and share in the fellowship)*

*In the event of inclement weather, the service and meal will be held in The United Churches Fellowship Hall.*

***"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV)***

### Prayer Challenge

- 1) To ask God for forgiveness for our own sins first — to be able to go before Him having clean hands and a pure heart;
- 2) To then pray for forgiveness for the sins of our nation — that God has promised in Vs. 14, *to heal our land*;
- 3) It is not the time to cower or be complacent but to push back the works of darkness with prayer;
- 4) That people are looking for strong leadership to give them hope & purpose;
- 5) If you feel so led, take the challenge to pray for 5 minutes every hour for our Nation — from the schoolhouse to the Whitehouse;
- 6) Pray in the Spirit for more effective powerful prayer.



*"Our Father and Our God,*

*We praise You for Your goodness to our nation, giving us blessings far beyond what we deserve. Yet we know all is not right with America. We deeply need a moral and spiritual renewal to help us meet the many problems we face. Convict us of sin. Help us to turn to You in repentance and faith. Set our feet on the path of Your righteousness and peace. We pray today for our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it. You have said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." May this be a new era for America, as we humble ourselves and acknowledge You alone as our Savior and Lord. This we pray in Your holy name, Amen."*

*~ Billy Graham*

[https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/a\\_prayer\\_for\\_america\\_by\\_billy\\_graham](https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/a_prayer_for_america_by_billy_graham)

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



3 Dean Cape	19 Ellen Heafner
6 Katelin Wynia	Jeanne Wyatt
8 Pat Strauser	20 Sherry Mower
9 Barb Wilson	Taylor Sun Bear
10 Nancy Nilsen	21 Jeanne Donnell
14 Sally Hageman	22 Jill Evangelista
Calla Hanson	23 Carolyn Pulley
Julianna White Face	30 Alicia Evangelista-
18 Reta Bristol	Anderson
Ginny Coates	

*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.*

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

14 Mark and Carol Posthumus



## THIS AND THAT

### JOYS AND CONCERNS IN PRAYER:

Beginning in May, there will be a new format for the “**Joys & Concerns in Prayer**” page in the **Sunday Bulletin**. We will be listing current concerns and updates for one month at a time. Hopefully, it will allow for new prayer requests to be included, while also making it easier to keep up to date on some on-going needs. Please bear with us as we make this transition, and do keep the church office posted with updates on prayer requests you have provided.

### MAY MISSION EMPHASIS — LOCAL FOOD PANTRY:

The **Hot Springs Food Pantry** began in 1990 when local churches joined forces to address hunger in our community. An all-volunteer team works tirelessly to support the pantry and continue the fight against hunger in our area. Hours of operation are: 1:00 pm-3:00 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; and 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Saturday. Our **May Loose Change Offering** will be designated for this mission, and will be collected **during the Worship Service on the second Sunday (May 9th)**. There is also a coin collection container located in the Bethany Room as you enter the Sanctuary ... *feel free to drop in your spare change anytime*. Food donations for the pantry are accepted at any time. Place in the bin at the back of the Sanctuary.

### FOOD PANTRY REPORT-CLIENT PROFILE:

Number of Active Clients (visited the pantry in 2021): 233; Single: 122; Family: 111; New Sign Ups (since January 1st, 2021) 27; Average days open each month: 16.

### DOES THIS BELONG TO YOU?:

During the outdoor Centennial Banquet, a number of E-Z-Up canopies were borrowed for social distancing purposes. The Centennial Committee is looking for the owner of a small 8x8 canopy. If you are missing yours, please contact Gerald Collogan.

### THE UNITED CHURCHES — OUR DENOMINATIONS:

All of the denominational information that has been handed out over the past three months *is available on our Website*.

#### Here is how to access:

- 1) Go to [unitedchurcheshotsprings.org](http://unitedchurcheshotsprings.org)
- 2) Go to tab that says **About Us** (this is located on the blue bar below the name of our church)
- 3) Scroll down and choose **Denomination Information**
- 4) Each of our denominations are listed separately there; simply click on the one you would like to see.



The United Churches  
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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**