



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES, HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Pastor's Pulpit:

Matthew 22:36-38 (Amplified Bible)

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” And Jesus replied to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”

When is Father's Day?

Father's Day is Sunday, June 18, 2023.

Is Father's Day the same date every year?

No. In the United States, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. As a result, its date each year varies.

Why do we celebrate Father's Day?

Father's Day was inspired by its counterpart: Mother's Day. Mother's Day became a commercial holiday in 1908. By 1914, it was made official by President Woodrow Wilson, who said the second Sunday of May would be dedicated to honoring “that tender, gentle army, the mothers of America.” After hearing a Mother's Day sermon, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington was inspired to create a similar holiday that celebrated fathers. Dodd was raised by a widower with 14 children. As a result, she wanted to honor “loving service” of fathers.

Dodd gained support from community members, such as shopkeepers, churches and government officials. This led to the first Father's Day, which was celebrated on June 19, 1910. Though Father's Day did not see immediate success, it eventually spread beyond Washington State. In 1916, Wilson recognized the holiday, and in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge urged states to observe Father's Day.

This did not happen until 1966 when President Lyndon B. Johnson made the first presidential proclamation that honored fathers, designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Father's Day was made a permanent holiday and was officially signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1972.

Being a Dad is one of the most life giving, precious privileges that I have experienced in life. I love my two sons beyond the ability to express that love in any group of sentences. Probably, my deep affection as a dad for my kids has to do with the influence of the three father figures I have experienced in life. My biological dad was married to my mother for 11 years. He had two maladies; first he never made the emotional transition from teenager to adult, and second he was stricken with Casanova complex. Thus, by time that he died 25 years ago, he was pretty much estranged from his three boys as well as the 14 woman he had married! His was an example of what not, as a dad, to be.

My second father figure was a divorcee that already had three girls of his own when he and my mother met and eventually married. His three tours in Vietnam led him to contract Agent Orange related cancer that eventually took his life while he was in his forties. Before he came to know Christ as his Savior and Lord, he had been a good provider and husband, but a mean and brutal father. His was another example of what not, as a dad, to be.

In fact, the only positive father figure that has ever influenced my life was found in my early twenties, when I came to know Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. The key verse that I could not escape was John 3:16: *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

The Perfect Father

Jesus had a Father that He loved so much, that He literally gave His life to and for. Jesus' Dad made a way for humanity to know that not only is there a God, but that He can be found in and through the saving, life producing, death and resurrection of His Only Begotten Son. And that Father/Son relationship literally changed my entire view of parenting and having children. I have always tried to use my early life examples of two of my dads as what not to be or to do; but to always look to my Heavenly Father's example of how to be and act as a truly decent dad. I have tried to do my best, but I know that I was not, am not, or ever will be, perfect. But there is hope.

So, what about His perfect example ... how can I explain it? Well, let me try in another way to talk about what I'm getting at. About a year ago, I lost my favorite cat. She was always sickly, but I was her human companion, if you know what I mean. She spent nights at my side. She sat with me in my recliner every night for about 11 years. She owned me much more than I owned her. And I really don't mind telling you when she passed away, I really was not sure I wanted to adopt another cat. That was over a year ago, and recently we decided to maybe just start *looking* at other cats to be a part of our family. We began to consider different felines, but just didn't find one that we felt connected with ... until ... we stumbled across a PetSmart newbie named Guy (now named Little Guy). The first time I just greeted him he meowed. The first time I picked him up he stated to purr. In fact, every time since that initial lifting he continues to purr. And now of course his place is on my lap or at my side. I would say that his presence has made me purrfectly happy. He seems to be purrfectly at home.

He continues to be God's purrfect answer to my willingness to move on, start being open to loving another animal again, enjoying the lessons along the way. One of those lessons was how to react when I come to church or spend time in fellowship with God. Do I truly "purr" in my own love for my Heavenly Father? Let's look again at our scripture text for this month:

Matthew 22:36-38 (Amplified Bible)

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” And Jesus replied to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Could it really be that the God we are so often in awe of, and sometimes uncomfortable with, just desires that we simply love Him. When we experience His presence, we like Little Guy (when he comes to spend time with myself), can't stop expressing our hearts: purrfect contentment and purrfect satisfaction in just being there.

Let me ask you, how do you feel when you walk into the Sanctuary? Do you truly miss not being here where He has promised to be with us as we worship Him? Is there a purring in your souls when you come and sit and sing and look around and view all of your brothers and sisters and sense that you are truly home? Is there a secret joy that is inexplicable in your heart when you are here ... are you purring for all the right reasons?

If not, why not use this month when we celebrate the role of “fathers” in our lives, to really consider the question of ... where am I truly in my relationship with my Heavenly Father? When was the last time I can actually remember being aware that I was in His presence? When did my arms automatically raise in awe of my Purrfect Heavenly Father? June is, after all, a designated month for observing and celebrating Father's Day.

Blessings and Love,
Pastor David

Author Unknown



June Mission Emphasis *Samaritan's Purse Water & Hygiene*



**“Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert,”
[Isaiah 35:6, NKJV].**

**The June Mission Emphasis will be
*Samaritan's Purse Water & Hygiene***

**Our "Loose Change" offering will be collected on Sunday, June 11th.
Giving envelopes have a line designated for "Mission Offering"
just indicate "Samaritan's Purse Water" on that line.**

WATER IS WORTH CELEBRATING

- **Easy access to clean water can bring positive, holistic change to impoverished communities**
- **In a world where 748 million people live without access to clean water, Samaritan's Purse is actively digging wells, installing filters, and implementing life-saving water projects around the globe.**
- **Together, we can pour into the lives of others in a way that satisfies more than just physical thirst.**
- **The world's water needs are ongoing and you can continue to support our projects throughout the year.**



Just Sharing . . .

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT CHRISTIAN TITHING?

By: R. C. Sproul

"A widespread cynicism toward giving exists in our culture. Some nonprofit organizations have mismanaged funds. Thus, many people are reluctant to support these organizations with their donations. But the cynicism extends even to the Christian community. Some unscrupulous televangelists have given tithing a bad name, so many believers do not contribute to the work of the church. This, I believe, is a significant error, for the Bible commands Christians to be good stewards of their resources for the sake of the kingdom of God.

"The whole concept of stewardship begins with creation. Creation is celebrated not only in Genesis but throughout Scripture, especially in the Psalms, where Israel celebrated God's ownership of the whole universe. "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein" (Ps. 24:1). God is the author of all things, the Creator of all things, and the owner of all things. Whatever God makes, He owns. What we own, we own as stewards who have been given gifts from God Himself. God has the ultimate ownership of all of our "possessions." He has loaned these things to us and expects us to manage them in a way that will honor and glorify Him.

"The steward in the ancient culture was not the owner of the house. He was hired by the owner to manage his house affairs. He managed the property and was responsible to allocate the resources of the home. The steward's job was to make sure that the cupboards were filled with food, the money was taken care of, the lawn was tended, and the house was kept in good repair.

"Humankind's stewardship began in the garden of Eden, where God gave Adam and Eve full dominion over the entire creation. Adam and Eve were not given ownership of the world; they were given the responsibility of managing it. They were to ensure that the garden was tilled and cultivated and not abused or exploited, and that the goods God provided were neither spoiled nor wasted.

"In our own households, we learn that if we spend fifty dollars on clothes, that's fifty dollars we no longer have for other purposes. Everyone, even billionaires, functions with limited resources. Every time we use a resource, we make a decision, and that decision reveals what kind of stewards we are. That's where God holds us accountable. He held Adam and Eve accountable for how they took care of the garden. God is interested in how we take care of our ministries, personal lives, homes—every aspect of life. All of these areas deal with managing and allocating resources.

"At the center of the biblical concept of stewardship is the tithe, which first appears in the Old Testament. The word *tithe* means "tenth." The basic principle was that every person was to return one-tenth of his increase to the Lord on an annual basis.

"The beauty of the tithe is that it precluded class warfare and the politics of envy. It prohibited unequal taxes from being imposed wherein one group of people paid a higher percentage than another. When that happens, economics becomes politicized, and it creates vested interest groups where justice is ignored for the sake of power.

**WHAT DOES THE
BIBLE SAY ABOUT
CHRISTIAN TITHING?
(Continued)**

"In Israel, everyone gave the same percentage but not the same amount. In this structure, a person who makes \$10,000 per year returns \$1,000 in tithe. The person who makes \$1 million per year returns \$100,000. The rich person returns far more money, but it is the same percentage that the poor person pays.

"Trouble developed in the Old Testament when the people held out on their tithes. They were not obedient to God's law. Malachi 3:8–10 tells us: Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, "How have we robbed you?" In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

"This means that if the tithe principle is still in effect, we systematically rob God when we don't tithe. Let me repeat that. Malachi's teaching indicates that when we fail to tithe, we are not merely robbing the church, the clergy, or Christian educators—we are robbing God Himself. But note that God had words not only of condemnation for the people but also a promise of prosperity were they to change their ways. God challenged them to be faithful, giving His own promise that He would open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings upon them.

"Why did God institute the tithe in the first place? In order to support the Levites, who had no tribal allocation of land. The Levites were set apart to take care of the spiritual and educational responsibilities of the nation, and their work and physical necessities were paid for by the tithe (Num. 18). Under the new covenant, the tithe continues to support the work of building up people in the truth of God and reaching sinners with the gospel. Christ works through churches, seminaries, parachurch organizations, missionaries, and many others to build and grow His kingdom.

"When we don't tithe, we reduce the ministry of Christ. One of the greatest barriers to expanding the kingdom of Christ in this world is financial. A fundamental principle is at work here. If we have \$100 to work with in ministry, we are limited by that dollar amount. We can waste that money and do only \$10 of actual work. But even if we are expert managers and scrupulous stewards, we cannot do \$110 of ministry.

"Christian ministry depends upon Christian giving. That giving always and everywhere limits the work of ministry.

"Of course, my argument assumes that the tithe continues in this new covenant era. Some deny that the tithe continues today, but that's not what the earliest Christians believed. In the Didache, written at the end of the first century or early in the second, there is a significant amount of material on the question of supporting the work of the kingdom. The tithe principle is clearly communicated in this work, showing us that the primitive Christian community continued the practice of the tithe. Also, there is in the Didache a prudential warning given to the Christian, saying, "Let your donation sweat in your hand before you give it." An interesting metaphor, isn't it? The injunction is not for your hand to squeeze the money so hard that you never give it. That's not the point. The point is to be very careful, very discerning where you give your donation.

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE
SAY ABOUT CHRISTIAN
TITHING?
(Continued)**

"That brings up a controversial question with respect to financing the kingdom. Again, in Malachi 3:10 God says, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in my house." In the Old Testament, the tithe, either in animals or produce, was brought to a central location, the storehouse, which was managed by the Levites. The whole tithe from the whole nation was brought into this single receiving place, and it was then distributed by the Levites according to the needs of the people.

"Some people believe that means that in the New Testament age, there should be a single storehouse where all the tithes go and from which they are distributed. There are two problems with that. In the first place, in the Old Testament, the people of Israel had a single central sanctuary. When the New Testament church began, churches were established in every town and every city—in Ephesus, in Corinth, in Thessalonica, and so on. No longer was there one central sanctuary. So the idea of bringing tithes into one central storehouse becomes problematic.

"Some people believe that the local church is the storehouse, and is, therefore, the only appropriate place for us to give our tithes. But nothing in the New Testament equates the local church with the Old Testament storehouse. If we believe that the local church is the storehouse, we would then have to argue for a central location where the tithes of all Christians would go. All of your tithes would have to go to a central receiving house and then be distributed from there. I have never heard a local church favor that. It is simply not biblical to require people to give their entire tithe to their local church. I do believe that the lion's share of it should go to the local church, but I also think that the principle of letting your donation "sweat in your hand before you give it" implies not only discernment but also liberty in giving so that your giving may include a seminary, a Christian college, and other worthy ministries.

"The Bible teaches that we are to invest in the kingdom of God. We live in a country that was built on the principle of capitalism, and the fundamental idea of capitalism is this: delayed gratification. Instead of taking the money we make and spending it all now, we save it and invest it. This allows our capital to go to work for us, expanding our wealth.

"The most important investment we can ever make is in the kingdom of God, because it has eternal returns. These returns are not just for us but also for our family, our children, our grandchildren. This generation of Christians must invest in the things of God for the sake of the next generation. This follows Jesus' admonition: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33).

"I honestly believe that if you invest in the kingdom of God, you won't lose anything in the final analysis. Tithe from the top, and learn to do that as early as you can in life. If your child gets a dollar allowance, make sure that the first ten cents goes into the collection plate on Sunday, so the child learns the principle early. We know we cannot spend the tax the government takes out of our paycheck. We must live on our "take home" pay. Our obligation to God takes precedence over our obligation to government. God should get paid first, "from the top." If you want to know how serious you are about investing in God's kingdom, look at your checkbook. It is an objective, concrete record of where your treasure is and where your heart is."



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Paul & Sandy Swenson
- 10 Dean & Nancy Cape
Sean & Molly Cape
- 17 Bill & Pat Coffield
- 21 Linda & Adam Heath
- 23 Frank & Lynn Mason



- 2 Pastor David Cook
- 4 Donna Jenniges
- 11 Richard Nelson
- 13 Ed Cerney
- 14 Cheryl Keller
- 15 Cora Reid
- 20 Jean Schuchardt
- 27 Nancy Cape
- 28 Mark Tupper

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

FOOD PANTRY CLIENT PROFILE:

Number of active clients (visited the pantry in 2023)=**238**; Single=**107**; Family=**131**; Veterans (included in sgl/fam count)=**78**; New Sign Ups (since Jan 1, 2023)=**35**; Average Open Each Month=**16**.

MONDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

During the summer months, the Monday Bible Study women will meet on the 2nd Sunday of June, July and August. The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 12th at 9:00 am**.

UNITED WOMEN:

The United Women will meet on **Tuesday, June 20th at 1:30 pm** in the Fireside Room. We are continuing our study in the book of Psalms.

BASIC NEEDS & BEARLY USED BOUTIQUES — SUMMER SCHEDULE:

The Basic Needs and Bearly Used boutiques will be open during the summer on the **second Saturday of the month from 10:00 am—12:00 noon**. Saturdays open: **June 10**; July 8; August 12; September 9th.

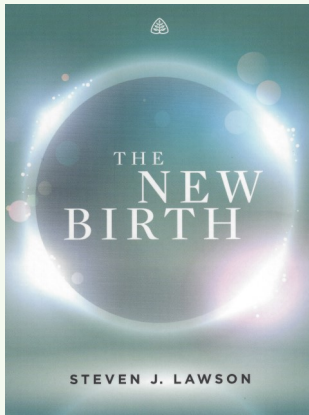


The Bearly Used Boutique is in need of men's jeans in good condition, size 30 to 34!

YOUTH PROGRAM ON THURSDAYS

4:00—6:00 PM

CHURCH BASEMENT FELLOWSHIP HALL



You are invited to . . .

"THE NEW BIRTH"

Steven J. Lawson

**"Sensibles" Class — Sunday Mornings
8:30 am — In The Fireside Room
Facilitated by Sharon Kalvels**

"Unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." John 3:3

"Christians often describe themselves as "born again." While this phrase is familiar to many, people rarely explain what they mean when they use it. Unfortunately, talk of being "born again" often accompanies a man-centered understanding of salvation. In this teaching series, Dr. Steven J. Lawson will examine what Jesus said about the new birth in John 3 in order to recover a biblical understanding of what happens when a person is born again."

SUMMER COMMUNITY SUPPER

Every Thursday

June 8 – August 24

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

538 University Avenue

4:30pm – 6:00pm

All Are Welcome

Free Will Offering



UPCOMING EVENT MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

The month of July will feature one of our Fifth Sunday Music Celebrations with Potluck. Right now we are hearing rumors of fried chicken.

So ... mark your calendar ... save the date ... and ... stay tuned for more details!!!

The United Churches — JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4. COMMUNION</p> <p>8:30 – Sensibles Class Fireside Room</p> <p>9:30 - GOOD NEWS CLUB – Basement</p> <p>10:00 – Worship Service</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5 pm - PEO Meeting Fireside Room</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:30 pm – Lunch Bunch – Fireside Rm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 pm – Orchestra Reh - Fellowship Hall</p> <p>7:15 pm – Personnel Committee Fireside Room</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10 am – Mary/Martha Fireside Room</p> <p>4 pm – Youth Group Basement</p>	<p>9 (Pastor's Day Off)</p> <p>7:30 am – 5:30 pm Master Gardeners Basement</p> <p>Receipts & Reimbursements Due</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10 am - B&B Boutiques – Basement</p>
<p>11. MISSIONS</p> <p>8:30 – Sensibles Class Fireside Room</p> <p>9:30 - GOOD NEWS CLUB – Basement</p> <p>10:00 – Worship Service</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9 am – Women's Bible Study – Fireside Room</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:30 pm – Lunch Bunch – Fireside Rm</p> <p>7 pm – Board of Trustees – Fireside Rm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 pm – Orchestra Reh - Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10 am – Mary/Martha Fireside Room</p> <p>4 pm – Youth Group Basement</p>	<p>16 (Pastor's Day Off)</p> <p>No Activities Scheduled</p>	<p>17</p> <p>No Activities Scheduled</p>
<p>18. Birthdays/Anniversaries</p> <p>8:30 – Sensibles Class Fireside Room</p> <p>9:30 - GOOD NEWS CLUB – Basement</p> <p>10:00 – Worship Service</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:30 pm – Lunch Bunch – Fireside Rm</p> <p>1:30 pm – UNITED Women – Fireside Room</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10 am – HSMA Meet Fireside Room</p> <p>5:30 pm – Orchestra Reh - Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10 am – Mary/Martha Fireside Room</p> <p>4 pm – Youth Group Basement</p>	<p>23 (Pastor's Day Off)</p> <p>No Activities Scheduled</p> <p>Receipts & Reimbursements Due</p>	<p>24</p> <p>No Activities Scheduled</p>
<p>25. FRIEND</p> <p>8:30 – Sensibles Class Fireside Room</p> <p>9:30 - GOOD NEWS CLUB – Basement</p> <p>10:00 – Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:30 pm – Lunch Bunch – Fireside Rm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30 pm – Orchestra Reh - Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10 am – Mary/Martha Fireside Room</p> <p>4 pm – Youth Group Basement</p>	<p>30</p> <p>No Activities Scheduled</p>	