

Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SD

Pastor's Pulpit:

As a Rotarian, I am asked to speak at our weekly meeting from time to time. I had the opportunity this past week to share about the Hot Springs Ministerial Association: who we are, what we do, and how we pay for the help that we do provide. I thought I would share with you what was presented.

HOT SPRINGS MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

WHO WE ARE:

The **HSMA** was formed by local churches in 2004. The goals were pretty simple: helping the needy (Food Pantry, assistance vouchers); serving our community; meeting together as ministry leaders for mutual support; and announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

WHAT WE DO:

We people with: paying rent, needing propane, lodging, overdue phone bills, overdue electric bills, food needs and so on. We work with landlords, local motels, Black Hills Electric, the VA, the Hot Springs Police and Sheriff departments, and others. We *do not* distribute any cash to meet any need. We operate solely on a voucher system. As you can see on the voucher sample located on page 8, we do have limits as far as the amount of assistance we provide. Sometimes we can extend an additional amount if the situation warrants (larger families, etc.). We always encourage people to utilize the food pantry, if at all possible, for food needs. We also encourage people to participate in the monthly food distribution provided every 2nd Wednesday in Butler Part by Feeding South Dakota. Like our voucher system, all participants are electronically registered to try to guard against those who might want to take unfair advantage of the system. When an individual comes in for assistance, they first are checked for past assistance. We provide every church and pastor with a monthly updated list of every one who has utilized our voucher system. (We keep very good records and do have some folks who have abused the system and are on the "do not help" list.) After a person had provided ID, and stated their need, we discuss how we can proceed and then send them to the Police Station for a background check to make sure we are not helping or abetting anyone.

I personally tell people that if they do not have car insurance and they are trying to get a gas voucher, or if they have a need for a motel, and have an outstanding warrant, that our police department will arrest them—and they have. Once the voucher is complete we then can provide payment to whichever entity we are working with in helping the individual or family. It's just a good system of trying to keep everything above board. Have we been taken advantage of? Sure, sometimes it takes the Wisdom of Solomon to try to discern people's motives and so on. And let's face it sometimes you just have to trust your gut in certain situations.

HOW DO WE PAY FOR IT?

It was pretty interesting, because in my talk at our Rotary Club, I actually had Kay Birkholt share the financial part of how the HSMA operates. Kay not only runs our Food Pantry, but also works in writing grant requests and pursuing local partnerships. But surprisingly, the very large majority of our funding comes simply through our great community.

Organizationally, we solicit funds usually in November and December through our **Hot Springs Cares Campaign**. These funds support both our food pantry and "needy" funds. In addition, the HSMA has bought the current building (across the street and down a bit from the Post office) for the Food Pantry and future expansion. I believe we are going to be initiating a capital campaign to hopefully, eventually pay off our mortgage. It's a good and worthy cause if you feel the desire to share. Check out our web page at

www.hsministerial.org . Our address is PO box 73, Hot Springs, South Dakota. 57747. If nothing else, please just know the HSMA is there to assist those who you may know who are in need. Hopefully you have a better idea about who we are, what we do, and how we pay for the services we provide. **Blessings, *Pastor David***



**Disciple to Disciple
Informational and Organizational Meeting
This coming Sunday, September 3rd
11:15 am — Noon in the Fireside Room
In the Fireside Room**

"Disciple to Disciple" is a 33-week course (3 x 11 weekly classes) spread throughout a year, that has always been on my heart as more than a few Christians feel they:

- 1) Have not had the opportunity to really develop the primary and solid Christian habits that can be life changing and fruitful for the Kingdom of God;
- 2) Don't really know how to share with someone about how Jesus Christ became real to them;
- 3) Don't know what to say when talking to someone about Christ and the offer of salvation;
- 4) Are feeling guilty because of all the above! and
- 5) Have always wanted to grow deeper in their own faith but haven't found the means, material or mentor(s) that could guide them through the process.

More detailed information will be provided at this meeting, or go to our church website and click on the "D2D" button at the bottom of the Home page.

COMING SOON!!!

Spaghetti Supper

at The United Churches

Beginning Thursday, October 12th

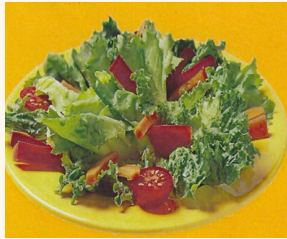
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

In the Basement Fellowship Hall



The Menu . . .

- Spaghetti
- Garlic Bread
- Salad
- Green Beans
- And ... Ice Cream!



SPAGHETTI SUPPER

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

- Volunteers are already signing up ... but we need more!
- There are several ways to serve. Many hands make light work!
- Please call the church office at: 605-745-5640
- Or email ucassist@gwtc.net

**OUR NEXT SPAGHETTI SUPPER PLANNING MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2:00 PM
AT THE UNITED CHURCHES — IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM**

**PLEASE JOIN US AS WE WORK TOGETHER ON THIS VITAL MINISTRY!
(BASIC NEEDS & BEARLY USED BOUTIQUES WILL ALSO START ON OCTOBER 12TH)**

SPECIAL EVENT: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GUEST SPEAKER

Sunday, October 1st, 2023

12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for lunch and to hear the testimony of this shoebox recipient and the impact on her life. Learn more about OCC, packing shoeboxes, and pick up boxes & materials for the 2023 season!



Walking a hour each way to school, Kimheang passed by a house church. She had never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ until age 14 when the pastor's wife invited her to a Christmas program. Kimheang was captivated by the worship music and message about Jesus. Then, she and the other children there each received a gift—an Operation Christmas child shoebox. It was the first gift that Kimheang had ever received. Come hear how receiving this gift drew her to the Greatest Gift, Jesus Christ!



**THE POWER
of a
SIMPLE
GIFT**

SEPTEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Our Mission Emphasis for September is **Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**. Our **Loose Change Offering for missions will be gathered on Sunday, September 10th**, and will be used for this fund. If using an offering envelope, please write **SHOBOXES** on the line designated for missions. The funds collected will be used for the starter kit and packing additional shoeboxes. The starter kit contains basic items of: crayons (24 count box), markers or colored pencils, eraser, sharpener, pencils, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, and a notebook. If there is any money left after the purchase of the starter kits, it will be used to purchase items for additional shoeboxes. During September, a short video will be run during announcements, talking more about the mission of Operation Christmas Child ... spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and the gift of salvation.



The United Churches of Hot Springs SD hopes to fill 20 boxes online. If you're worried about shopping build your shoeboxes with build a shoebox online. Go to The United Churches Shoebox Page (link below) to build a shoebox online. Go to the page and just click the button that says "Build a Shoebox Now" on the page.

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

CALLING ALL METHODIST MEMBERS OF THE UNITED CHURCHES

Please add Sunday, October 22nd to your calendar and plan on attending our annual meeting in the Fireside Room after our church service. We will be voting for a new Lay Leader/Personnel Committee member for the next two years with other agenda items. Please prayerfully consider yourself for this opportunity. If you have questions on the position, or have anything to add to the annual agenda, please give me a call.

Grab a cup of coffee and a cookie, and meet us on October 22ND!

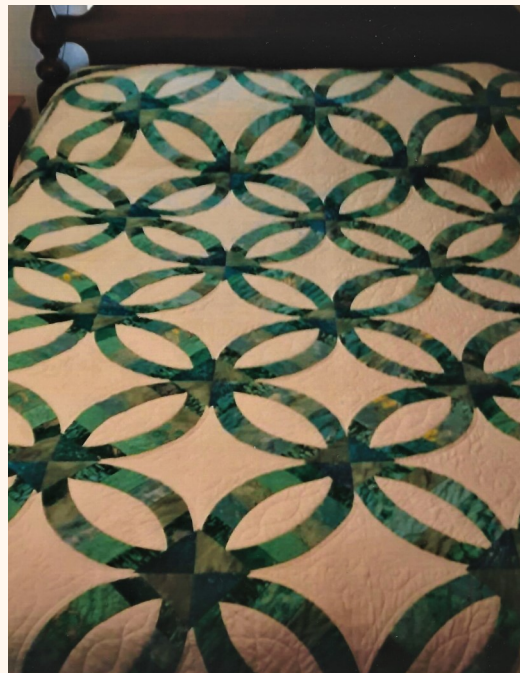
Thank you, Marce Largent, 719-640-6414.

**American Baptist Churches of the Dakotas
Church of Hope's Quilt Raffle 2023
Made by Immanuel Baptist Women
Minot, North Dakota**

The Church of Hope's quilt raffle helps to cover the Pastor's salary, Bible studies, Bibles, prisoner exit bags and other expenses.

Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

See Jeanne Wyatt for tickets.



**CHURCH OF HOPE — SD WOMEN'S PRISON —
PIERRE, SD**

The Church of Hope is an American Baptist Church gathering within the SD Women's Prison in Pierre, SD. church family is currently served by Rev. Sharon Ball, Pastor. Financial support is provided by member churches of ABC Dakotas, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and many other churches and individuals.

Attention Women!!!!



**FOCUS ON FRIENDS
South Dakota
American Baptist Women's Retreat
September 22-24, 2023
Lake Poinsett Camp
20 S. Lake Drive, Arlington, SD**

***Acclaimed Speaker *Basket Auction *Fun Activities *Free Time *Delicious Meals
*Meet Friends ~ Old & New *Rest & Relax *Worship & Fellowship**

"Friendships in the Bible"

Retreat Speaker: Audrey Wyatt Shrive

Audrey Wyatt Shrive is a Christian-living author and speaker who gets great joy from speaking at women's events and bringing God's word of hope and healing to others. She is a natural story teller and realizes when she writes and speaks, she's using the talents God has given her. She can feel His pleasure in those moments! She lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado with her husband and their huskies.

Registration Forms are located on the tables as you enter the Sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Jeanne Wyatt at 719-339-7272 for more information.

September Anniversaries

1 Garry & Pat Strauser
16 John & Carla Johnson



3 Sandy Swenson	24 Jerry Collogan
4 Ezekiel Cantu	26 Casen Humbracht
10 Mary Puffer	29 Garry Strauser
13 Judy Hofer	29 Jean Brooks

**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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

The Monday Women's Bible Study resumes with the study "**God of Covenant**" with Jen Wilkin, on **Monday, September 11, 2023 — in the Fireside Room — at 9:00 am.** All women are welcome to attend as we continue the study of Genesis 21 to 50. Contact Delores Hickman, 605-745-5338 for more information!

OYATE HOPE ACADEMY:

We have received the Oyate Hope Academy newsletter for August. It is posted on the Mission Bulletin Board located in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Fireside Room.

UNITED WOMEN:

The United Women group will meet on **Tuesday, September 19th at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room.**

A THANK NOTE FROM DR. WILLIAM:

- \$ 1,500 US dollars to buy foods and basic necessities for more than 150 families in the poorest parts of the island of La Gonave.
- From August 16th to August 20th of 2023, we will be able to send, thanks to your help, a medical team in Jeremi, in the south part of Haiti. This medical team will provide health care in the overpopulated and poor neighborhoods of this city. The team will be composed of general practitioner, nurses, pharmacists and dentists.
- \$ 1,100 US dollars will be reserved for the purchase of medications and \$500 for transport and food for the team.

Words cannot express how grateful we are for all your help. May God keep blessing you and your loved ones. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR NURTURING HOPE IN OUR HEARTS.

Dr William Hyppolite



I love how Jesus is portrayed as the Lion Aslan in the Chronicles of Narnia. The picture to the left is one of my favorites. I recently came across the quote I am sharing below about attitude. I pray it blesses others as much as it has blessed me. **The Editor**

"We cannot choose how many years we will live, but we can choose how much life those years will have. We cannot control the beauty of our face, but we can control the expression on it. We cannot control life's difficult moments but we can choose to make life less difficult. We cannot control the negative atmosphere of the world, but we can control the atmosphere of our minds. Too often we try to choose and control things we cannot. Too seldom we choose to control what we can ... our attitude."

John Maxwell

HOT SPRINGS MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION SAMPLE VOUCHER:

Request for Assistance

For payment please mail this signed voucher & receipt(s) to:
Hot Springs Ministerial Assn, PO Box 73, Hot Springs, SD 57747
 (hsmnafp@gmail.com)

Date: _____ Vendor's Name: _____

Name of Recipient: _____

Name of 2nd Recipient: _____

Address: _____ Phone/Email _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Veteran? Yes _____ No _____ Domestic Violence? Yes _____ No _____

Number of Persons: Adults _____ Children _____

Assistance

(Circle item to be received; cross out items that do not apply)

Gasoline: Not-to-Exceed **10 gallons** _____

Non-Food Items: \$ _____ (No more than **\$25.00**)

(No Tobacco or Alcohol; Diapers and Personal Hygiene Items Only –
 1 item each or smallest package)

Lodging: **1 night only** (see other side for rules and **Required Signature**) _____

Propane*: \$ _____ (Not to exceed minimum fill - no deposits/pressure checks)

Rent: \$ _____ (No more than **\$400.00** – No Deposits)

Other Assistance (no more than **\$200.00** HSMNA funds **UNLESS** utility*, then limit is **\$325**): \$ _____ / _____

***For electricity bills or propane bills see back of voucher for additional information.** (Black Hills CARES funds are limited to **\$325** per Calendar Year)

By accepting and using this voucher, you hereby give permission for the HSMNA to obtain a copy of your account information for verification.

Signature(s) of Person(s) Requesting Assistance: _____

Signature of Minister/Agent (**required**): _____

Church Affiliation: _____ Phone #: _____

Law Enforcement Signature (**required**): _____

Invalid without Law Enforcement Signature or if voucher is altered in any way

VENDOR (please see back for notes), PLEASE CHECK RECIPIENT'S ID

Salesperson's Signature: _____

Please attach **signed receipts** to this voucher and mail to the above address so records may be verified for audit. Thank you!

Addendum

These things will result in loss of hotel room and possible contact with law enforcement with the possibility of charges being filed:

- If voucher is authorized for 1 adult, but 2 or more show up without appropriate background checks
- Panhandling on hotel property
- Drug use in or near hotel room or on hotel property
- Damage to room, any items in the room, or any hotel property
- Theft of any item(s) from hotel
- Smoking of any substance including sage

By signing this document, you are indicating that you will abide by these rules.

Signature of Person Requesting Assistance: _____

Signature of Person Requesting Assistance: _____

Vendor Notes (please note if there were any issues): _____

ELECTRICITY/PROPANE (HEATING) VOUCHERS

- Ask if they are currently utilizing the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (IEAP) from the Department of Social Services
 - If not, refer them to the website: <https://dss.sd.gov/economicassistance/energyassistance/> to fill out an application
 - If yes, ask if they have used all of their allowance
 - Utility bill must be 30 days past due unless on a monthly plan
 - The first full page of the utility bill must be included with voucher
- If using Black Hills CARES funds - \$325 is the maximum allowed per year.**
 Additional HSMNA are available up to our normal limit (\$325). If not using BH CARES funds, the limit for utilities is \$325. Check with Treasurer to verify CARES funds are available.