



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SD

Pastor's Pulpit:

October is upon us. Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas all lay before us in this last quarter of the year. Where has the time gone? October is also Pastor Appreciation Month. Let me share with you what I would consider *one-half* of the story in a short article from Christianity.com. What Is Pastor Appreciation Day and Clergy Appreciation Month?

THE
OTHER
SIDE OF
THE
STORY

What Is Pastor Appreciation Day and Clergy Appreciation Month?

“October has long been recognized worldwide as Pastor Appreciation Month, or Clergy Appreciation Month. The call to honor our church leaders’ contributions can be traced back to St. Paul. In establishing the first Christian churches, St. Paul advised the congregation to give “double honor” to the elders of the church who managed the affairs of the church well, “especially those whose work is preaching and teaching” (1 Timothy 5:17).

St. Paul further urged Christian communities to acknowledge those “who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you,” holding these spiritual leaders “in the highest regard in love because of their work” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

In 1994, the American Christian organization Focus on the Family began promoting Clergy Appreciation Month as a national month of observance. In highlighting Clergy Appreciation Month, Focus on the Family sought to encourage the faithful to outwardly show their appreciation for religious leaders on a national level.

When Is Pastor Appreciation Day?

From Pastor Appreciation Month grew the idea of emphasizing one specific day to nationally pay tribute to our clergy. This day became known as Pastor Appreciation Day. Also referred to as Clergy Appreciation Day, this day of showing national gratitude for clergy members is celebrated on the second Sunday in October. In [2022], Pastor Appreciation Day will be Sunday, [October 9TH].

Why It's Important to Celebrate Pastors and Clergy Members

As of mid-2018, there are approximately 51,000 people in the United States who are officially employed as clergy. When we consider all that religious leaders do, it becomes clear how important it is to celebrate and uplift our hardworking clergy.”

That's all nice ... and I so appreciate the sentiment that goes into having such a day. Half the story is the appreciation of congregations for their pastors. The *other half of the story* is the appreciation pastors have for the people they have been given the privilege of being their pastor. So for my Pastors Appreciation Month I've decided to focus on **6 things** that I truly appreciate about all of **U!**

Continued on next page

First, I appreciate the fact and the blessing that you are . . .

Not a divisive-minded congregation. Let's face it, with three denominations sharing one building there could be unbelievably contrasting views about polity, polices and theology. But, it's not like that here. Nor has it been for 103 years. What a true blessing for any pastor to come into a situation where people really have learned the art of not majoring on the minors or minoring on the majors. It's truly shows a quantity of Christian character that I really am appreciative of and thankful for.

Second, I appreciate the fact and the blessing that both . . .

I and Bernice have been wonderfully and graciously welcomed and accepted by both our church and the community. A large part of any Pastor's discerning process in deciding to take a pastoral position is "how is this move going to affect my spouse." Let's face it, if mama isn't happy then ... well, you know the rest. Bernice is genuinely happy and involved in more things here than I have seen her for a long time. I think she's happy and well you know what that means.

Third, I appreciate the fact and the blessing that there seems to be a true desire to spend quality . . .

Time in fulfilling the four aspects of being a congregation: time in prayer, time in worship, time in fellowship and time in reaching out to others. I would consider this congregation to be healthy in so many ways. So much so, that there does seem to be and awareness of and an acceptance of new things, if they will be helpful to our church family. What a blessing!

Fourth, I appreciate the fact and the blessing that there really is . . .

Evidence of Christ's presence in and among our congregation. I really do sense that Christ is moving not only in our worship times, but in our lives as well. I personally see His goodness in so many of you, His meekness and gentleness in others, His love in most. There is a Holy Presence when we gather and if you're still and quiet and observant you can feel it and see it too.

Fifth, I appreciate the fact and the blessing for your . . .

Dedication to Christ, our Congregation, and our Community. I see this in your activities and in your support of the myriad of projects we undertake and the numerous missions we support. I see it when I'm out and about and many of you are out there too! I see it on Sunday mornings when I'm the only one who gets to see everyone's face. I see it in meetings and meals, at work and at play. I feel at home . . .

Sixth, I am the most appreciative for ... and what's really first in my heart ... is where we started on our list: **U**! When we put the list together, we find what I've been trying to convey say all along. And that is of course that I really appreciate being here at the **UNITED** Churches!
You see Pastors Appreciation Day really is a two-sided story.

Blessings, Pastor David



AN AUTUMN PRAYER

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. Remind us to take time to rest. Remind us of the wonder of your creation. Remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.



October BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

October Anniversaries

01 Steve & Cheryl Keller



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Mary Martino | 18 Cindy Meadows |
| 7 William Coffield | Marcella Sunding |
| 10 Annie Zwetzig | 21 Mavis Olstad |
| 11 Sandra Nichols | 27 Kadlin Humbracht |
| 12 Lisa Welch | 29 Cherie Largent |
| Frank Mason | |

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

UNITED WOMEN'S GATHERING GROUP:

Our next "gathering" will be held on **Tuesday, October 18th at 1:30 pm**. We are continuing our study in the Book of Psalms. **If you have a book and have missed some meetings ... no worries!** We will be covering Psalms 91-100 in our books. Join us for a time of spiritual nourishment, prayer, encouragement, fellowship and sharing!

SERMON SERIES / OCTOBER:

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| October 2 | "The Rightness of Faith" | Romans 4:13-23 |
| October 9 | "Just As If I'd" | Romans 4:23-25 |
| October 16 | "Peace and Hope: Part 1" | Romans 5:1-5 |
| October 23 | "Peace and Hope: Part 2" | Romans 5:1-5 |

FOOD PANTRY CLIENT PROFILE:

Number of Active Clients (visited the pantry in 2022): **350**; Single: **166**; Family: **184**; Veterans (included in single/family count): **68**; New Sign-Ups: **85 (9 additions in August)**; Average Days Open Each Month: **16**.

ATTENTION CHURCH COMMITTEE & TEAM LEADERS:



Annual Reports from church committees and teams are due in the office by January 1st, 2023 ... don't let this sneak up on you!

NOMINATING TEAM:

Our Nominating Team will begin meeting soon. Please pray where God would have you serve next year!

OCTOBER MISSION EMPHASIS — HOT SPRINGS FOOD PANTRY:

Our Mission emphasis for October is our local Food Pantry. A food donation container is located in the Bethany Room outside the Sanctuary for food donations. This is a great opportunity to help the Food Pantry "stock up" in anticipation of the upcoming holidays. The **Loose Change Offering** for this mission will be gathered during the Worship Service on **Sunday, October 9th**.

FYI FROM THE HOT SPRINGS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

*"Good morning, The Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce is hosting an informal Brainstorm Session **October 6th from 5pm to 6:30pm at the Mueller Civic Center**. The Session will be focusing on the road reconstruction and redevelopment that will take place on North River Street. Initially, the work was to begin on North River Street in 2023, but we have now been notified that plans have since changed. They will begin some pre-emptive work on River Street starting sometime this year, making the driving conditions and access to River Street businesses difficult. We are inviting anyone who is interested in brainstorming ideas on how to navigate the construction once it begins. Please let me know if you would like to attend. Thank you, **Zoë Pattiani Media Coordinator**"*



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

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

**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE DAKOTAS
CHURCH OF HOPE'S QUILT RAFFLE 2022**

The Church of Hope's quilt raffle helps to cover the Pastor's salary, Bible studies, Bibles, prisoner exit bags and other expenses. This year's quilt was made by Nancy Orsbon, and the picture does not do justice to how **beautiful** this quilt is. Rev. Ball recently spoke at our ABW Women's Retreat in Lake Poinsett. It was a true blessing to hear her speak, as well as share about the ministry of the Church of Hope. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The **winner will be drawn on 12/11/2022**. If you would like to help with this vital ministry, see **Jeanne Wyatt or Bernice Cook** for tickets. (Please make checks payable to **Church of Hope**.)



**2ND ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF — SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH
SPONSORED BY OUR FELLOWSHIP TEAM**

Mark your calendars for our **2nd Annual Chili Cookoff** to be held in our Fellowship Hall following our **Fifth Sunday Music Celebration service on October 30th**.

A FEW IMPORTANT NOTES:

This year's Chili Cookoff will feature a panel of **RENOWNED JUDGES** (our Board of Trustees) who will be tasting and voting on each of our chili submissions. Those wishing to enter their own special chili in the contest will need to fill out an entry form (available soon and to be located on the table in the Bethany Room or in the church office). We will need to limit the number of "official" chili entries to 8 ... and each "pot" of chili needs to be able to feed 12 to 15 people. **Baked potatoes (with trimming's) will be provided**. We will have a sign-up sheet for salads, desserts and "trimmings" for the baked potatoes. Prizes will be awarded!



IT'S A KICKOFF!

**Thursdays— Beginning October 13th
5:00—6:30 pm**

At The United Churches (in our Church Basement)

Community Spaghetti Supper

Basic Needs Boutique

Bearly Used Boutique

(Spread the word!!)

The United Churches

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HOT SPRINGS, SD