



February
2018

"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,

The season of Lent will soon be upon us. This special season of the church year is to be a time for reflection, prayer, and study. The goal of Lent is to build a stronger faith and a deeper commitment to being Christ's disciples in the world. I like to choose a particular focus or "theme" for the Lenten season.

This year I have chosen to focus on the Lord's Prayer. This wonderful prayer, given to us by Christ, is the primary example for us to follow in developing our own prayers. It is a source of peace, strength, comfort, encouragement, and hope in many of the circumstances of our lives. It is humbling, yet grand; God-centered, yet personally oriented. It is heart-filled, and yet thought-filled.

The Lenten focus on the Lord's prayer will involve a sermon series, special music, and will be the focus of the Adult Sunday School class. Throughout the series the Lord's prayer will be sung, or said, in a variety of ways.

May our preparation for Easter will be enhanced through an in-depth look at the Lord's Prayer. May we join together in this special season in ways that deepen our faith, expand our spirits, fill our hearts, and enrich our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John

***** News & Announcements *****

Ash Wednesday Service

The United Churches will observe the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14, with a Worship Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. The service will include an overview of the Lord's Prayer, our focus for Lent, and will conclude with the imposition of ashes for any who wish to receive them.

Inquirers' (Membership) Class

Pastor John will be offering an "Inquirers' Class" for those interested in finding out more about membership in one of the denominations of the United Churches. The class will be held on two Sundays, February 4 and 11, at 8:45 am. Even people who are not sure about joining at this time are welcome to attend.

Report from the Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the United Churches was held on January 21, 2018. The change in bylaws to move the date for our annual meeting to the 4th Sunday in January was approved.

The centennial celebration for our church (2020) WAS briefly discussed and any one with input should contact Gerald Collogan as he is the head of that effort. If you have information about our history or know someone who does please contact Gerald.

Gerald also showed two artifacts from the World War 2 era that he found in the attic and asked for input on what to do with these articles.

Lynn Michelle Mason reported on the pastor search committee and said they are expecting some new candidates to come up in the search process since the raise in salary offered by our church.

In a special meeting of the BOT after the annual meeting, new board member Marci Largent came on in place of Dean Cape who is termed out. New officers are:

President - Jerry Wyatt

Vice President - Gerald Collogan

Secretary/Treasurer - Don DeVries

Also serving on BOT are Sue Trobee and Mary Sewright.

In Him, Jerry Wyatt

Haiti Mission Team is on Their Way

On February 1st, Jerry & Jeanne Wyatt, Carla Richmond, and I will be leaving for Haiti. Dr. William will be getting married so we will be privileged to go to the wedding. We will serve on many projects while in Haiti. One is painting a school. We will also be assembling bags of food for needy families. We will support a school and assist at feeding stations. It is a great time to see all the children being able to eat a good meal at least once a day. Thank you again for all your prayers and support now and through the year. We will return home on February 14th.

Sincerely,

Annie Zwetzig & The UC Mission Team

Our church will be providing soup and bread for the *first* noon Lenten luncheon on Wednesday, February 21st. If you would like to bring a pot of soup or bread, please contact Jeanne Wyatt at 424-2633. Thank You!

P.S.— All five of the Lenten luncheons will be taking place in our Fellowship Hall.

FEBRUARY Birthdays:

1 Will Coffield
9 Shirley Leigh
10 Sarah Hart
14 Karen Bent
20 Max Erwin
22 Mary Sewright
26 Jon Schuchardt
Lynn Mason
27 Aron Buchholz
Sheryl Brost



FEBRUARY Anniversaries:

22 Claude/Karen Bent



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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

This year marks the 69th anniversary of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Over the years, thanks to many generous Christians, this offering has made a tremendous difference in the lives of people experiencing need in many parts of the world.

From the beginning this has been an ecumenical effort. As denominations changed and merged, One Great Hour of Sharing has varied from eight to twenty-nine participating denominations. Currently, the One Great Hour of Sharing committee officially comprises eight Christian denominations: American Baptist Churches USA, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of the Brethren, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, and Church World Service. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) calls the offering Week of Compassion. In various ways, all work in cooperation with Church World Service, the relief, development and refugee assistance arm of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

The purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing has remained the same: to collect special gifts to assist those in need. Today, projects are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. From the 1990s to the early 2000s, receipts have exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, most use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid.

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in the lives of real people. Leaders of impacted communities identify the needs of their people. Priorities for short, medium and long-term solutions are then made for the purpose of improving the quality of life for individuals and the communities. Around the world, One Great Hour of Sharing continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created.

Therefore, we are asking each of you, the members of The United Churches, to seriously consider ways you can support the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

The One Great Hour of Sharing will be promoted throughout Lent, with the offering being received and Dedicated on Easter Sunday.

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