



November 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

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

What are you thankful for today?

As I was sitting down to write these words to you for this month, the first thought to go through my mind was how can it be nearly November, and in fact by the time you will receive this newsletter it most likely will be the first of the month. Why is it the months seem to be over before we are ready for them to be over?

Anyway, back to the first question, what are you thankful for? As November begins, once you look around and through all the Christmas decorations which have appeared, we might see something which reminds us of the coming celebration of Thanksgiving. While we tend to think of Thanksgiving as a uniquely American holiday, it really isn't. Throughout the scriptures there are accounts of the God's people taking time to stop what they are doing and giving thanks to God for all that God had provided for them. To offer the first fruits of the harvest, was one of the festivals which they had celebrated from their earliest days in the promised land. In the midst of the good times and the hard times God always reminded God's people to be thankful for all they had been blessed with. In the midst of the joy of the harvest God's people were also reminded to care for those whose harvest had not yielded the same abundance.

Today we live in a land of abundance. We have so much more than we really need, often times we take all we have for granted. As we approach Thanksgiving this year and give thanks to God for all we have received it would be easy for us to simply enjoy our families and friends, to eat way too much, watch a football game or two, or perhaps a movie and think all is well. However, we know that is not the case. We know there are families and individuals in our community who will not be having a feast, who will be alone, and for whom Thanksgiving is just a day to struggle to survive. In the midst of our thanksgiving, may we also remember those around us in need and care for them, remembering God's command to care for the broken and downtrodden. What would happen if we were to truly share some of our abundance with those whose tables may be empty, share our embraces with those who have no one to embrace them. What would happen if we were truly bearers of God's love to all. Maybe then Thanksgiving would be a day of blessing to all God's children.

Grace and Peace to you this day,
John McKnight, Jr

United Churches Community Outreach Ministries



“GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT”

On Saturday, October 6th several servants from United Churches went out into the community and performed various types of work to help our “Neighbors” in many ways. The day started early with a wonderful hot breakfast in our Fellowship Hall. Here are a few responses from that special outreach...

A Big “Thank You” to all the people who moved me from the Evans to my new home with Richard Bershon in Hot Brook Canyon. Also thank you to the Good Neighbor project for the yard work this fall. *~~ A Very Grateful Margaret & Richard Bershon*

To Everyone who helped with the “Good Neighbor Project” — You went to 11 different locations and worked wonders! My gutters are clean like “new”. What a great project to help the community. Thanks so much! — *Jan Speirs*

A Special THANK YOU to Gerry Collogan for all his help with Cb’s wood pile! -Sue T.

Spaghetti Supper Has Resumed! — The weekly Spaghetti Suppers began on Thursday, October 18, 2018, from 4:30 - 6:00 pm in the church basement. We greatly appreciate those who have volunteered their time and talents in the past, continue to help. All are invited to come to eat and fellowship with the community attendees. It is a joyful time for all!



If you are interested in helping with preparation and serving, please contact Delores Hickman at 745-5338. We can always use a few more hands, and it’s FUN!



Remember, the **“Bearly Used Boutique”** is also open at the same time, 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

Just for Smiles: A few CHURCH SIGNS

- 1) Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins
- 2) Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- 3) Under same management for over 2000 years
- 4) Real Soul Food served here
- 5) Don’t give up—Moses was once a basket case!
- 6) Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible here this Sunday
- 7) Come in TODAY. Beat the Christmas rush!

REMINDERS:

- 1) If you have an email address (or a NEW one) and you are *not* receiving the weekly “Reminders & News” emails from the church office, please let us know so we can add you to the Contacts list.
- 2) Remember to let the office know whenever your mailing address changes. This is especially important if you are one of our “snow birds” and you have two addresses on file with the United Churches. **THANKS SO MUCH!**

NOVEMBER Birthdays:

- 2 Cathy Olstad
Todd Wynia
10 Jody Olstad
Owen Meadows
11 Rich Olstad
Florence Jost
12 Bob Puffer
13 Tim Strauser
14 Barb Beery
16 Jennifer Campbell-Kutz



NOVEMBER Anniversaries:

- 25 Adam/Anna Swift
25 Bob/Mary Puffer



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.

Upcoming Events

November 4th—Communion Sunday & “Loose Change” Offering for our local Food Pantry

November 6th— “Election Day”

November 20th—The United Churches Choir will be singing at the State Veterans Home for their Annual Thanksgiving Service at 7:00 p.m. This is also an opportunity to support the Hot Springs Ministerial Association.

December 8th—The UC choir will sing at the Episcopal Church “Lessons & Carols” Service at 4:00 p.m.

December 9th—Our Choir’s Christmas Cantata, “Christmas Presence”, will be at 10:00 a.m.

As endless as God’s blessings are,
So should my praises be
For all His daily goodness
That flow unceasingly!

—Adams

Thought: *If you know that God’s hand is in everything, you can leave everything in God’s hand.*



The United Churches
342 N. Garden St.
Hot Springs, SD 57747
605-745-5640
Email: uc@gwtc.net
www.unitedchurcheshotspings.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #84
(Return service requested)

UNITED CHURCHES



HOT SPRINGS, SD