



July 2016

"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 C O R N E R :

EACH ONE, REACH ONE

I consider it an honor to be called by God as a pastor, and to serve congregations in his name. To pray for people as they grieve, to preach each Sunday, to lead our church in reaching out to our community, and to support my family while doing so is a unique privilege. I love teaching the Word and calling on people. And, I love the many ways that one can craft one's ministry work to one's skills, abilities, and gifts. There is a lot of joy to be found in ministry.

There are things about being a pastor that challenge me as well. One of those things that I find difficult is the "scoreboard". By the scoreboard I mean the weekly tally of worship attendance and income that shows up in each bulletin, and that goes out in denominational reports. (I say this before the end of June, when we have had 7 of 8 months of increased attendance in morning worship, and while our income/expense ratio is good). Often when I visit with people who cannot make it to worship, the nickels (income) and noses (attendance) issues are one of the first things they ask about.

There are several reasons I struggle with these conversations. Part of the reason I dislike this so much, is because attendance and income is how my value as a pastor is judged by many, and I don't like feeling judged, especially when things are not on the upswing. I also believe encouraging people to come to worship and to invite them to be involved in church is not just a pastor's work, but an entire congregation's ministry and responsibility. Finally, I believe that the church is about loving and reaching individual folks with the love of Christ, and that we can often have huge impact through loving individuals without focusing on abstractions like numbers and crowds.

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Having said that, I do think that we as a church need to remember, from the pastor to each member, that we are to be inviting unchurched people to join us on the journey of becoming followers of Jesus. One way to approach this goal of reaching out while at the same time loving individual people is to ask God in prayer each day to lead you to one person, or one family, that is not a believer, or not a part of a church family, and then ask God to help you find the strength to both invite them to follow Jesus and become a part of our church fellowship. As you do this, truly reach out to the people God has led you to, truly love them, invite them into your life and the life of United Churches. If each person did this, our church attendance would double in a year. If only one in four of you took on this challenge and were successful in reaching out to just one person, our church would nearly double in three years.

Value one person. Value your relationship with Jesus. Value the family and ministry of United Churches. Bring all those things together, and see what happens.

God Bless,
Pastor Clint

"ANNOUNCEMENTS"



Worship Location in July: We will be moving our Morning Worship Service to the church Fellowship Hall during the month of July. This will provide at least two things:

1. savings on the utility bills during the hottest month of the year, and
2. new opportunities for creative worship, using the projection screen

Invitation to the Congregation:

Lynn Michelle Mason and Frank Mason cordially invite our church family to the wedding of Emily Mason & Joseph Stiegel on Saturday, July 23rd at 4:00 pm—United Churches. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.



"THANK YOU!"

A Huge Thank You to the "Willing Hands" crew that showed up in response to a last-minute emergency call for help to unload and unpack the new chairs in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, June 23rd. The company was supposed to give us 24-hour notice, and we only had 2 hours notice, and on the day before we were expecting them! You all did an amazing job.

JULY Birthdays:

8 Chris Kutz
 9 Pat Cerney
 11 Kristin DeVries
 Frackowiak
 13 Joyce Harper
 14 Alex Mason
 17 Lois Emery
 18 Kallen Kutz
 24 Anna Swift



JULY Anniversaries:

6 Dennis/Sherry Mower
 23 Owen/Jean Meadows



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.

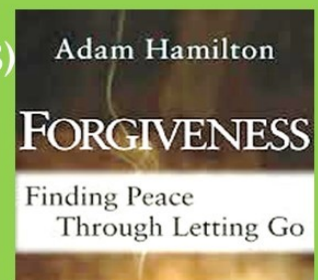


MORNING SERVICE: A CHURCH ON THE MOVE

JULY 3 JESUS SENDS OUT HIS DISCIPLES (Luke 10: 1-20)
JULY 10 ON THE ROAD TO JERICHO (Luke 10: 21-37)
JULY 17 STOP AND SET PRIORITIES (Luke 10: 38-end)
JULY 24 MOVING FORWARD IN PRAYER (Genesis 18)
JULY 31 SEEKING THINGS ABOVE (Colossians 3: 1-11)

EVENING SERVICE: FORGIVENESS-- FINDING PEACE LETTING GO

JULY 10 THE DIVINE ANSWER
JULY 17 FOR BETTER OR WORSE
JULY 24 SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN (MATT.18)
JULY 31 THE DREAMCOAT



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