



April 2020

“Yucca Breeze”

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS

PASTOR'S PULPIT:

Philippians 4: 6-7 (KJV)

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The above is one of my absolute “turn-to” verses when facing tough situations. And believe me, Bernice and myself have faced more than a few in our lifetimes. As such, I want to share with you a few thoughts concerning these verses that do seem appropriate and applicable in the midst of our current global and national calamity that has, at present, its grip on us. First, let me share with you the Amplified Version of this great persicope: *⁶ Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].*

Let's do a little exegesis:

⁶ Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God.

Spurgeon noted: Have no care, but much prayer. Prayer is the cure for care. If you are in trouble, “*Let your requests be made known,*” not to your neighbors, but “*unto God.*”

Wellman adds: Anxiety is a problem for most Christians but Paul is giving a command to “*not be anxious for anything [instead] in everything by prayer and supplication (prayer requests) with thanksgiving*” we are to “*let our [prayer] requests be made known to God*” so being anxious is not being thankful for what we do have because we simply have to ask and trust God to supply our every need, but not our every want.

Thought:

I guess our faith life is going to constantly be challenged. And let's face it—sometimes our faith wavers. Sometimes we want to just to throw up our hands and give God a good piece of our mind. Yet, through it all, there is the ever patient, ever graceful and grace-filled Invisible Hand that allows us to drift and dodge, cry and complain, and yet, never really lets us go. I found a long time ago, that my own faith is too feeble to hold onto God. As such, I've learned and come to know that all along it is God who has held onto me and to us. He is faithful. He made just as big commitment, and so much greater, to us when “we” made the life changing decision to commit our lives to Him. Will and does anxiety come—even to children of the Living God? Yes. Will it last? For a while. Will it endure forever No. So, what can we say and do in response?

Continued on next page

First, Trust in God. Believe it or not, this particular situation and hard time did not surprise or catch our Lord unawares. Trust in Him, not just for the sweet by and by—but trust ever more in the sweet here and now. Pray. Ask. Be specific. Lift to God not only the necessities of the situation, but the feelings that you may be experiencing because of them. And please don't worry—you are not, nor have you ever been, superman or super woman. God helps and extends grace to the humble, the weak, the dependent. Shove your pride aside to make room for the sufficiency of Grace. Remember beloved, He has, and continues to have, a wonderful plan for each of our lives. He believes in us and has chosen, claimed, called and converted us for a reason!

And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].

We are His and He is ours. When anxious thoughts knock on the door---send Jesus to answer.

David Guzik tackles this last verse when He points out:

- ◆ **And the peace of God:** The Bible describes three great aspects of **peace** that relate to God.
 1. Peace from God: Paul continually used this as an introduction to his letters; it reminds us that our peace comes to us as a gift from God.
 2. Peace with God: This describes a relationship that we enter into with God through the finished work of Jesus Christ.
 3. The Peace of God: This is the peace spoken of in Philippians 4:7. It is beyond “all mind”; that is, beyond our power of thinking.
 4. *“What is God’s peace? The unruffled serenity of the infinitely-happy God, the eternal composure of the absolutely well-contented God.”* (Spurgeon)
- ◆ **Which surpasses all understanding:** It isn't that it is senseless and therefore impossible to understand, but that it is beyond our ability to understand and to explain – therefore it must be *experienced*.
 1. This peace doesn't just surpass the understanding of the worldly man; it surpasses **all understanding**. Even the godly man cannot comprehend this peace.
- ◆ **Guard your hearts and minds:**
The word **guard** speaks of a military action. This is something that the peace of God does for us; it is a peace that is on **guard** over our heart and mind.

Thought:

Peace. Isn't that really what we all really want in any and every situation where we are seemingly powerless or lacking control? And yet, it's this very state of mind and heart that God promises and can be certain and found. The key again is trust. Can I let you in on a little secret? I have found that the more we are able to see another person see or understand or get ahold of a situation, the more peace and purpose I myself gain. In other words, as we help others struggle with and in faith, we get the greatest benefits. Try encouraging another—it'll come back on you. Try displaying a positive faith—it too will come back to rest in your own heart. Try...and God will bless. Are we brothers and keepers? Why yes, we are.

Let's read this little passage one more time:

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Good Words for the weary. Angel whispers for the anxious?

I love you and am praying for each of you during these times,

Pastor David

THIS AND THAT:

CHURCH OFFICE: As you may have noticed, the Church Office is temporarily closed to “Walk-Ins” during the week, but you can call the Church for an appointment at any time. Feel free to call ahead if you have business at the Church and do not have a key. We will meet you at the door. Please bear with us through this ongoing coronavirus inconvenience.

AED CARDIAC TRAINING SESSION: The Automated External Defibrillators (AED) training session, originally scheduled for March 29, has been postponed. This important educational opportunity—intended for all individuals interested in learning the basics of cardiac emergencies and use of our new AED—will be rescheduled and announced at some future date.

PASTOR’S SERMONS: Pastor David’s sermons will be available on the Church’s Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/unitedchurcheshotsprings) after 10:30 am on Sundays. The videos will show up under “Posts” (you may have to scroll down a bit) *You do not need to have a Facebook account to “log in” or do this.* Sermons will be on the website as soon as possible afterward.

HOME OUTREACH TO OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES: Like our Sunday morning worship services, the Children’s Church classroom has been impacted by the current COVID-19 health concerns. In order to provide encouragement and vital ministry, Stefanie Nelson and Pat Cerney will be putting educational materials together. These will be distributed to the homes of our young disciples during this challenging time, Please help cover our youngsters and their families in prayer, *Your Christian Education Team*

“SANCTUARY” — A CANTATA OF HOPE AND PEACE: To be rescheduled.

CANCELLATIONS:

- **Spaghetti Suppers** have been cancelled for the rest of this season.
- **Basic Needs Boutique and Bearly Used Boutique** have been cancelled for the rest of this season. They are not accepting donations until Fall. If you have needs, call the Church Office at 745-5640 weekday mornings.
- **Tuesday Women’s Bible Study** has been cancelled until further notice

EASTER LILLIES: The *Changing Seasons Floral* shop will be available if you are interested in ordering Easter Lilies for our church. You may contact them at 745-4836 or go into the shop. Prices are \$25 for



CHURCH GIVING

Just as a reminder that in his time of not gathering at the church for services, you can still mail in your tithes and gifts to the church at the following address:

THE UNITED CHURCHES
 342 N Garden Street, Hot Springs, SD 57747

If you wish to include a gift toward the Windows Project, please make a note on your check to specify the amount you want directed for “Windows.”

Mission—One Great Hour of Sharing —April Loose Change Offering
“You shall be called repairer of the broken walls” — Isaiah 58:12

“Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we become the household of God. We extend shelter to those who have no place to stay, offer compassion to those who have pain — be it physical, emotional or spiritual — and we set a feast, with God, for those who lack access to enough food to eat. God’s household is filled with love and everyone is welcome. Let’s use our compassion!” (PCUSA.ORG)

April Birthdays:

- 6 Steve Keller
- 8 Sheila De Vries
- 12 Darlene Jackson
Angela Puffer
- 16 Rev. Ed Coates
- 18 Bernice Cook



April Anniversaries:

22 Richard & Margaret Bershon



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.



Centennial Celebration
Saturday, September 5th, 5PM-7PM
Fellowship! Memorabilia Display! Brisket Dinner!

If you know people who would like to receive information about our Centennial Celebration, please get their names and addresses to:

Nevetta Seig (phone 605-745-4443)

We would like to have the majority of the invitations mailed by the end of March, so please turn this information in as soon as possible. Thank You — Your Centennial Committee

The cornerstone for the church was laid in 1951. For the next year and a half, the building fund was out of money so the new building sat with little work happening. Cost of materials and labor had continued to rise, and the church was in need of more money. It appeared that it might be necessary to postpone the building project. “Building Fund Notes” were sold to members of the congregation to raise needed funds. A twelve-year-old boy wanted to help “build the new church.” He gave \$400 of Hot Springs paper route money he had saved. Various groups in the church hosted banquets, and 3 plays were put on at the city auditorium to raise enough money to rehire the contractor to finish the building. The church building was dedicated in 1956.

April Calendar Notes

Wednesday, April 1st: 12:30 pm—final Lenten message live-stream
Sunday, April 5th is “PALM SUNDAY” — There will be palms!

Tuesday, April 7th:

- 1:00 pm—Worship Team meeting
- 5:30-7:00 pm—D2D meets on line via “Zoom”

Thursday, April 9th is “Maundy Thursday” service to be announced
Friday, April 10th is “Good Friday” service to be announced

Sunday, April 12th is “EASTER SUNDAY” *Alleluia, the Lord is Risen!* There will be a very special Easter service presented, if only in “Live Stream” version.

The April “**Loose Change**” offering received will go to “One Great Hour of Sharing”. *(Please note on your check an amount you want to go toward this Mission ministry.)*

Tuesday, April 14th:

- 5:30-7:00 pm—D2D meets on line via “Zoom”
- 7:00 pm—BOT Meeting

Sunday, April 19th: 5-7:00 pm—the final D2D meeting via “Zoom”

Monday, April 27th: 1:00 pm—Mission Team meeting

Currently On-Going:

10:30 am Sunday Mornings: Pastor David “Live!” on Facebook with his special sermon for the week *(with special thanks to our Tech Guru Pat De Smet, and others who will be joining to make this possible!)*

10 am Thursday Mornings: “Mary-Martha Coffee Group” Bible Study led by Pastor David, a study of the Book of Revelation

“Every hand that we don’t shake
 Must become a
 Phone call that we place.
 Every embrace that we avoid
 must become
 A verbal expression
 Of warmth and concern.
 Every inch and every foot that
 we physically
 Place between ourselves and
 another
 Must become a thought as to
 how we
 Might be of help to that other,
 Should the need arise . . .
 Let’s stay safe,
 And
 Let’s draw one another
 Closer
 In a way that
 We’ve never done before.”

Rabbi Yosef Kanefsky

HYMN HISTORY – ROCK OF AGES**Augustus M. Toplady (1740-1778)**

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea....they all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them and that rock was Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:1,3,4)

This fervent plea for Christ our eternal rock to grant salvation through His sacrifice and to be a place of refuge for the believer is one of the most popular hymns ever written. With strong emotional impact, it proclaims Christ's atonement on the cross to be the only means of salvation, making man's tears and efforts to justify himself of no avail. Also it urges us to find consolation and security in Christ our rock – even at the time of death.

Augustus Toplady's strong and passionate lines were actually written to refute some of the teachings of John and Charles Wesley during a bitter controversy with them concerning Arminianism (which stresses man's free will) versus John Calvin's doctrine of election. "Rock of Ages" was the climax to an article that Toplady wrote in The Gospel Magazine in 1776, in which he supported the doctrine of election by arguing that just as England could never pay her national debt, so man through his own efforts could never satisfy the eternal justice of a holy God. Despite the belligerent intent of this text, God has preserved this hymn for more than 200 years to bring blessing to both Arminian and Calvinistic believers around the world.

At the age of 16, as he sat in a barn and listened to the preaching of an uneducated man, Toplady was dramatically converted. While he was the busy pastor of several churches in England, Augustus Toplady wrote many hymn texts, but few have survived. "Rock of Ages" is the one for which he is known today.

Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee; let the water and the blood, from Thy wounded side which flowed, be of sin and double cure, save from wrath and make me pure.

Could my tears forever flow, could my zeal no languor know, these for sin could not atone – Thou must save and Thou alone: In my hand no price I bring simply to Thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyes shall close on death, when I rise to worlds unknown and behold Thee on Thy throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

Reference: Exodus 17:1-6; 33:17-23; Psalm 78:35; Acts 4:12

Give sincere praise to Christ our "Rock of Ages" for His great gift of salvation and for His provision of a place of refuge for us, even unto death.

February — Missions & Ministry

Basic Needs Boutique	130 (Needs)
Bearly Used Boutique	132 (clothing)
Spaghetti Supper	544 Meals
Food Pantry	253 served
Electricity (Needy)	409.00
Gasoline (Needy)	94.00
Motel (Needy)	432.00
Rent	26.00
Food (Needy)	<u>119.00</u>

Creeds and Confession Corner**The Second Helvetic Confession *The word****"Helvetic" is Latin for "Swiss."**The setting of the Second Helvetic Confession is Swiss-German Reformed Protestantism.*

After the great Reformer Ulrich Zwingli died in battle in 1531, Heinrich Bullinger succeeded him as minister of the church in Zurich. Bullinger was a model Reformed minister. A preacher, he expounded Scripture at least twice a week. A scholar, he wrote Latin commentaries on many books of the Old Testament and on every book of the New Testament except Revelation. An educator, he initiated a system of schools for Zurich and was rector of the Carolinum, a theological academy. A person with ecumenical and political concerns, he was in correspondence with leaders of the Reformation and with rulers throughout Europe. A pastor, he welcomed religious refugees into his own home. When the plague swept through Zurich in 1564, he insisted upon ministering to the afflicted, even though he knew he might become infected and die.

In 1561, Bullinger composed the document that later became known as the Second Helvetic Confession. He intended to attach it to his last will and testament to the Zurich church, but events in Germany soon brought it into the public arena.

The publication of the Heidelberg Catechism created trouble for the man who had ordered its preparation. Lutherans considered it too Reformed in spirit, and they demanded that Frederick the Elector, governor of the Palatinate, be brought to trial for heresy. Not a theologian himself, Frederick turned to Bullinger, who offered Frederick this confession as the basis for his defense. When the Imperial Diet, the ruling body of Germany, met for trial in 1566, Frederick was exonerated.

Meanwhile, the churches of Switzerland adopted Bullinger's confession as their new confession of faith. Soon finding wide acceptance throughout Europe and beyond, it was translated into French, English, Dutch, Polish, Hungarian, Italian, Arabic, and Turkish.

The United Churches
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