



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES, HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Pastor's Pulpit:

Ah ...May! Spring is in the air. Trees are blooming. Snow is nearly gone. It's time to plant flowers and such that will adorn our homes with beauty and fragrance. I've learned the hard way that you don't plant anything until after Mother's Day ... at least here in South Dakota. Speaking of Mothers, I'd like to take a few minutes and share with you some thoughts about my own mother's life. She's been with the Lord now going on three years, and I still miss her.

- "A mother's love liberates." – Maya Angelou
- "The truth is that no matter how old we are, as long as our mothers are alive, we want our mother." – Goldie Hawn
- "Mothers and their children are in a category all their own. There's no bond so strong in the entire world, no love so instantaneous and forgiving." – Gail Tsukiyama

My mom's young life was a pretty normal one in Berwick, Pennsylvania. Hers was a home shared with an older brother, a mother who suffered from agoraphobia, and a father whose life was marked by constant job changes due to his alcoholism. Still, she was perky and fun and independent. So much so that when the family moved to San Diego when she was 15, she immediately found herself in a high school romance with the one who would eventually become her first husband, mainly due to her pregnancy at age 16. They did marry, and she gave birth to two more boys. At 21, she was the mother of three, all under five! Her adolescence was never really given a normal course. And the transition to adulthood was something that she continued to struggle with all her life. Still, she did manage to graduate from high school and provided a loving atmosphere in our home, and for the boys she truly loved. However, being a child of an alcoholic, she was attracted to men who needed to be "fixed."

At 28 she was divorced, with three children, and no real job skills, so she was dependent on her folks to help out financially. By this time, both of her parents had come into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Her dad stopped drinking. Her mom had a new freedom to be outside for long periods of time. My mom being an independent person, applied for and then pursued a Nursing degree from Scripps Hospital in San Diego. Nursing was a great fit for her—caring for and helping others.

- “My mother has always been my emotional barometer and my guidance. I was lucky enough to get to have one woman who truly helped me through everything.” – Emma Stone
- “There is no velvet so soft as a mother’s lap, no rose as lovely as her smile, no path so flowery as that imprinted with her footsteps.” – Archibald Thompson
- “When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child.” – Sophia Loren

My mom's middle years were marked by another marriage to a man who had "issues" with physical and alcohol abuse, and my mother bore the brunt of that behavior. Her second husband spent time in Vietnam, which did not help an already difficult situation. But mom remained ever devoted to her Nursing profession and providing for her boys. There were ups and downs and moves to different cities.

Her first real heartbreak came during her second marriage when it was decided to send her oldest son to live with his dad in San Diego. It was felt that at 13 the son was too much to handle. She later regretted this decision (she and this son did not speak together for nearly 20 years). But her insecurity and her innate dedication to being there for her husband outweighed her maternal inclinations. She and her second husband eventually settled in Mississippi where they began a small company.

During this time, her husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer from his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. He died at the age of 43. During his illness, he and mom made a trip to visit her parents in San Diego. Mom had not seen her parents for 14 years. Later, the parents made a trip to Mississippi to visit and help with a dying husband. My mother and her husband were both led to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. He spent the final months of his life, sharing every Sunday, in a myriad of churches, about the truth of the Gospel.

After his passing, Bernice and I were asked to move to Mississippi to help my mother run the small family business, which we did. For a precious 7 years, Mom helped, and was helped, by two of her three sons. A mother's love is oftentimes stronger than life decisions on everyone's part. I knew my mother loved and believed in me. We were all given the privilege of being a family, in spite of the challenges of dysfunctional marriages and numerous familial challenges. It was during these, my mother's middle years, that Bernice and I started our path to seminary and ministry. My mother married again (her third husband) as we left for Seminary, and my brother and his family moved to San Diego.

- “A mother’s arms are more comforting than anyone else’s.” – Princess Diana
- “No language can express the power and beauty and heroism of a mother’s love.” – Edwin Chapin
- “A mother’s hug lasts long after she lets go.” – Leonardo DiCaprio
- “A mother’s love is everything. It is what brings a child into this world. It is what molds their entire being. When a mother sees her child in danger, she is literally capable of anything. Mothers have lifted cars off of their children and destroyed entire dynasties. A mother’s love is the strongest energy known to man.” – Jamie McGuire

My mom's elder years were spent living out her faith in Jesus. I watched as my mother slowly became a spitting image of her mother as far as faith was concerned. She would wear her Jesus badges on her blouses and take notes in church every week. Her third husband was a challenge, but he did give my mother a simpler lifestyle out in the country, one that she probably related to her own childhood back in the foothills of Pennsylvania. When her third husband passed away, my mom slowly started down the road of debilitating dementia. Hers had been a hard life: a challenging childhood; a missed adolescence; and abusive spouses. Still, Mom was ever faithful in loving and doing the best she could for her boys. Would she have done things differently if given another chance? Who knows. But her life-changing faith in Jesus Christ is a shared faith with not only her parents and two of her three husbands, but also with two of her three boys. Jesus in His sovereignty has allowed life to unfold for her and us in such a way that we really are in the family ... the bigger family of God. For that, I remain ever thankful for all the events that did make for a challenging childhood for us three boys. But mom is our mom. And I am amazed and grateful for His choice for her to play that role in my life.

My mom's last days were spent in silence. Bernice and I had moved my mother from Mississippi to Missouri as her dementia progressed, and she was the one who now needed to be cared for—ironically, she had lived a life of caring for others. Over the years, she lost her ability to speak, thus as I knelt beside her bed for the last time, it was me who did all the talking. I told her that I loved her and more ... no regrets. No regrets for a life we shared. No regrets for any of our collective decisions. No regrets for her being and doing the best she could. Hers was a life that I was privileged to share with the one I called mom. This one who I know is in heaven and waiting. Happy Mother's Day to you, Mom. I will see you again someday. Happy Mother's Day to all who read this article. May you take the time to think through the life of one whom God put in your life to be your mom. Ah, May, time to start thinking about what to plant.

Blessings,
Pastor David

May Mission of the Month

Hot Springs Food Pantry

The Hot Springs Food Pantry began in 1990 when local churches joined forces to address hunger in our community. Today an all-volunteer team works tirelessly to support the pantry and continues the fight against hunger in our area.

HOURS OPEN

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:00 am — 3:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am — 12:00 pm

ADDRESS

107 North Chicago Street

Hot Springs, SD

PHONE

605-745-4034

A donation bin is located on the Mission Table in the Bethany Room. Our May loose change offering will be gathered on Sunday, May 11th and will go to this mission. If you are writing a check, please use one of our giving envelopes and write FOOD PANTRY on the line designated for missions.

**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**



Come Join Us

Thursday, May 1st

Centennial Park / 12:00 Noon

Bring a chair and share in the fellowship. Soup and Bread will be provided following the service. Conducted by the Hot Springs Ministerial Association.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the U. S. Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

In case of inclement weather, we will move to the United Churches Fellowship Hall.

Please note: The church office will close at 11:45 that day.

**I was regretting the past
and fearing the future.
Suddenly, my Lord was
speaking:**

"My name is I AM"

The voice paused.

I waited.

The voice continued:

**"When you live in the past,
with its mistakes and
regrets,**

it is hard.

I am not there.

My name is not-

I WAS.

**When you live in the
future,**

**with its problems and
fears,**

it is hard.

I am not there.

My name is not - I WILL BE.

When you live in this moment,

It is not hard.

I am here.

My name is I AM."



~Helen Mallicoat



BEARLY USED BOUTIQUE NEWS

→ We will be open every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:00 am to Noon.

→ Beginning Saturday, May 10th.

→ Open dates are:

May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th and September 13th (the last Saturday one until Spaghetti Supper begins in October).

Basic Needs Boutique News

Beginning in June 2025, the Hot Springs Food Pantry will begin continuing this ministry, maintaining a supply of personal care products that will be available every other month.

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE CAMP JUDSON / MAY 30, 31, JUNE 1, 2025



Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us; than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our GOD, to help us and to fight our battles.

II Chronicles 32:7-8

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

My name is Donna Bunkers. I have three sons, ten grandchildren and twenty-four great grandchildren. I am a retired English teacher. Though I am a widow, I have plenty of family close by. I enjoy reading and writing. I have been published in the Daily Devotional, The Secret Place, and had a poem in Christian Women's Magazine. I kept a blog for several years called "The Light is On."

My joy is to teach students to write, no matter their age. Expressing oneself from the heart is a gift from God.

Donna's Life Verse Ephesians 1:4-5: *Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should BE holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*

Great food

Wonderful fellowship with other women

Great singing

Wonderful bible study

Awesome weekend get away!

Rip roaring fire and singing (smares!!)

**REGISTRATION FORMS
ARE LOCATED IN THE
BETHANY ROOM AND
FIRESIDE ROOM.
REGISTRATION: \$150
DEADLINE: MAY 25TH**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT JEANNE WYATT 719-339-7272

MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Dean Cape	19 Jeanne Wyatt
4 Kolbylee Kutz	20 Sharon Mower
6 Katelin Wynia	20 Taylor Sun Bear
8 Pat Strauser	22 Peg Sperlich
9 Jaime Cantu	22 Jill Evangelista
10 Nancy Nilsen	24 Summer Humbracht
14 Sally Park-Hageman	26 Randy Schur
14 Calla Hanson	28 Leon Melstad
15 Julianna White Face	28 Tom Hofer
15 Myrna Wilson	30 Alicia Evangelista (Anderson)
16 Ginny Coates	

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

14 Mark & Carol Posthumus
23 Ryan & Sandra Nichols

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.

THIS AND THAT

SUNDAY SERMON SERIES:

May 4	"The Enduring Word"	1 Peter 1:22-25
May 11	"Living Stones"	1 Peter 2:1-8a
May 18	"Royalty"	1 Peter 2:8b-10
May 25	"Hour"	1 Peter 2:11-17

UNITED WOMEN:

Will meet on Tuesday, May 20th at 1:30 pm in the Fireside Room. We are continuing our study of "The Great Disappearance" by Dr. David Jeremiah.

FOOD PANTRY:

Number of active clients (visited the pantry in 2025) **248**; Single: **128**; Family: **120**; Veterans (included in sgl/fam count): **51**; New Sign Ups (since Jan 1, 2025): **46**; Average days open each month: **16**; Feeding SD Total: HS=250 / Custer=167.

A Joy From the Hageman Family

"Wayne's cancer is officially in remission. Thank you to our church family and friends who have supported Wayne and family in prayers, well wishes and being so helpful as we travel this journey. Prayers have been a big part of this healing process."

Wayne & Sally