



# Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS SOUTH DAKOTA SPRINGS

## Pastor's Pulpit:

*"July is the seventh month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. Its length is 31 days. It was named by the Roman Senate in honor of Roman general Julius Caesar in 44 B.C., being the month of his birth. Before then it was called Quintilis, being the fifth month of the calendar that started with March. It is on average the warmest month in most of the Northern Hemisphere, where it is the second month of summer, and the coldest month in much of the Southern Hemisphere, where it is the second month of winter. The second half of the year commences in July. In the Southern Hemisphere, July is the seasonal equivalent of January in the Northern hemisphere. "Dog Days" are considered to begin in early July in the Northern Hemisphere, when the hot sultry weather of summer usually starts. Spring lambs born in late winter or early spring are usually sold before 1 July. July's birthstone is the ruby, which symbolizes contentment."* (Wikipedia)

I love this definition of the month of July! The year is going by fast! Last month we considered the implication of the half way point of June. Now what about July? We get so used to the fact, and the experience that, for us July represents a time of heat, humidity, growth and needed precipitation! If we lived in the Southern hemisphere, July would represent a time of cold, chill, hibernation, and snow ... just the opposite of what we know and are used to!

This reminds me of the Biblical reality that in many cases and times, our view of what is happening in our lives just doesn't make sense. We are often stuck asking ... why? Why now? Why me? Why this? Yet from God's point of view, He is working out plans and details that we are fairly oblivious of and to. Scripture reminds us to often consider the reality of Romans 8:28: *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.* In other words, don't lose hope!

How we feel at any given time, or what we perceive in any given situation, might seem to indicate one thing to us, but from God's point of view it is really the opposite. We look at things one way, but God sees the same things completely different! What's bad in our view is good in God's great plan. What's seemingly hurtful may in fact be a part of a greater healing! As Christians, He really does have a plan for our lives. He really does know the beginning from the end. And yes, He really can be trusted with everything and every day in our lives. If we could just really learn to think this way, to trust this way and to act this way, our lives may be what I would classify as a Birthstone Beacon! In this case, July's birthstone is a ruby, a dark red stone that symbolizes what many of us have been chasing for years: contentment! What would most of us do just to be content with our lives? For the Christian, real and lasting contentment, comes from another "**Rock**" ... one stained dark red by the Blood that was shed to provide God's peace, purpose, clarity and contentment.

You see, the "dog days" usually associated with July in the Northern hemisphere are not always days of drudgery and endurance. If we look at the word *DOG* from a different point of view and from a different perspective, we can see that spelled backwards, we find not *DOG* but *GOD*! In other words, God takes our dog days and reassures us that from His perspective, they really are ... good days ... great day ... **God** days. How can they not be? If our God is ultimately in control of our lives and is the unquestionable key to our being blessed with contentment, if God is really working out all things for our good, then *Dog* days are always *God* Days. Ah yes, the month of July can remind us and teach us that although time is going by faster and our lives are pretty much more in the second half than the first, God still is on His Throne and we are bound for His glory.

Blessings, *Pastor David*



God  
Bless  
America

# Our Church Steeple



**STEEPLE  
TRIM  
FRESHLY  
PAINTED  
2024**

**Our painter noted that the cross on our steeple was inscribed and took a picture for us!**



**MADE AND DONATED BY GEORGE W. ANDERSEN  
A.E. TUCHOLKE  
JAN. 29, 1953**

# WHAT MESS!



**Monday - Thursday**

**July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**9:00 am to 12 Noon**

**At The United Churches of Hot Springs**

**Special VBS PARENTS NIGHT program**  
**Friday, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5:00-8:00 pm**

This VBS is going to be a week full of ...  
Messy messages,  
messy snacks, messy  
crafts and messy  
games!

Free registration  
Open to kids 5-18 years old  
Pick-up registration forms at The United Churches office.  
Monday-Friday  
8:30 am-12:30 pm  
For more information call:  
Maris Smith (605-431-5480)

Who made this Mess??? This world is a mess because of sin. The world's problems will last until Jesus returns. But be of good cheer! No matter how messy you are, Jesus loves you. God's grace covers all our mess and helps us forgive others for their messes too. Therefore, let us not be weary of doing good. Only in God's strength can we continue.

## **INFORMATIONAL MEETING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Last Sunday, (6/23/2024) our local United Methodist church members at United Churches met to hear about my recent trip to the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church, held in Bismarck, ND.

I brought back many ideas/resources/grants available from the conference which could help United Churches grow. I will be getting the information to the different areas of our church so they are aware of these sources. I encourage you to consider helping in an area of the church which you have an interest.

As many of you know, on May 3, 2024, at the end of the United Methodist Church General Conference in Charlotte, NC, changes were made. According to the UMC website, (UMC.org) three key points were addressed:

- Delegates to The United Methodist Church approved four changes to church law intended to remove the last remnants of restrictions aimed specifically at LGBTQ people.
- This comes after a week of slowly removing bans and enforcement measures against gay clergy and same-sex weddings.

The delegates also passed a measure that explicitly allows clergy to choose which weddings they perform or don't perform. I encourage you to consider how you can share your experiential gifts with our church.

Marce Largent, Lay-Leader for United Methodist members at United Churches.

### **ITEMS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024**

**We are asking for help with supplies needed for our upcoming VBS!**

**Items needed are:**

- Craft Paints
- Poster Boards
- Roll of white packaging or butcher paper
- Clothespins
- Bright nylon yarn for bracelets
- Mason jars
- Lego blocks (games)
- Hula hoops (games)
- Old white bedsheets or tablecloths
- Fabrics (Christmas/Harvest design)

# *July Mission Emphasis*

## *Ethnos 360*

### *Walter & Cheryl Spicer*

Ethnos360 is a missionary organization that supports many missionaries working in various capacities. The United Churches' support of **Ethnos 360** goes specifically to **Walter and Cheryl Spicer**, who serve in the **Republic of the Philippines**.

The Spicer's have been missionaries with Ethnos360 (formerly called New Tribes Mission) for 31 years, teaching MK's (Missionary Kids) in the Philippines. They serve at Faith Academy (FA) where Cheryl is a school nurse and Walter has had several different ministries, including math teacher, NILD therapist (teaching children with learning differences), middle school counselor, vice-principal, and middle school principal. Their ministry is a vital part in advancing God's Kingdom in Southeast Asia. They have recently been here in the States on their home assignment, and we were blessed by their visit with here with us at The United Churches. The importance of those who serve MK kids sometimes is overlooked. A close family friend of mine developed recognition in the field of MK kids through her thesis and book, when she worked with MKs in the college setting.

It is fantastic that we support Walter & Cheryl Spicer in their work on the mission field. Walter is the nephew of Pearl Risinger a member of United Churches who passed away a few years ago.

***Our Loose Change Offering for July will be received on Mission Emphasis Sunday (July 14th) and will be designated for this mission. If using one of our giving envelopes, please write ETHNOS 360 on the line designated for missions.***



Faith Academy is recognized as an international leader in providing a well-rounded educational experience for third-culture kids, located just outside Manila, Philippines.

# *A Note from Walter & Spicer*

**JUNE 19, 2024**

“The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand.” Psalm 37:23-24 NLT

These verses continue to encourage me as we go about our lives and make plans. So many times we have seen that God planned things for us ahead of time; things that we would not have thought of. God’s plans always prevail and all His promises prove true.

Thank you for your prayers for us and our travels. April was packed with visits, but we thoroughly enjoyed each visit. We had safe travels and even enjoyed some fun sightseeing. It was good to see people we haven’t seen in a very long time and met some new ones as well. Continue to pray for us as we look to God for increased financial support. We have made some new contacts and pray that God will work His perfect will.

We also had some special time with family in Florida. Almost all of Walter’s siblings and in-laws were able to join us, so each family was represented. It was especially nice since we found out that Walter’s mom has cancer. We do not know all of the details, but we were glad to have some time together. She is 94 and slowing down but still doing well and not in pain.

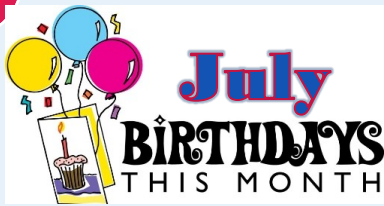
Walter and I have had to do some work for Faith Academy, especially as we prepare for the new school year. We have mostly been able to do it by email, but Walter has had a few video calls during the year.

We are getting close to our departure back to the Philippines. For the last few weeks we have left here in the US, we will have a Burnham family reunion, visit some of our children, and then up to Walter’s old hometown in North Dakota for a town anniversary. Walter will be the speaker at the community worship service. Pray for our final road trip and that God will use us to plant seeds. We will end up in Atlanta where we will drop off our son’s van and get on the plane for the Philippines.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for us and our ministry,

*Walter and Cheryl Spicer*





## JULY ANNIVERSARIES



23 Owen & Jean Meadows

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 3 Linda Heath   | 18 Darren Diggs      |
| 8 Chris Kutz    | 18 Kallen Kutz       |
| 9 Terry Blume   | 20 Junibelle Gilbert |
| 9 Pat Cerney    | 24 Anna Swift        |
| 13 Miguel Cantu | 26 Molly Cape        |
|                 | 29 Markus White Face |

*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](mailto:uc@gwtc.net) or call 745-5640.*

### THIS AND THAT

#### UNITED WOMEN:

The United Women will meet on **Tuesday, July 16th at 1:30 pm** in the Fireside Room. We are continuing our study of The Great Disappearance by Dr. David Jeremiah.

#### BASIC NEEDS & BEARLY USED BOUTIQUES CHANGE OF DATE!!!

Our Basic Needs & Bearly Used Boutiques will be open on **SATURDAY, JULY 20TH FROM 10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON**. This will be on the third Saturday instead of the second Saturday just for July.

#### A NOTE ON THE AUGUST YUCCA BREEZE:

Articles and items for the August Yucca Breeze are due in the office by **MONDAY, JULY 8TH**. Bernice will be on vacation from Monday, July 22 through Thursday, August 1st and will be completing the August Breeze before she travels.

### NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

#### Twelve Ordinary Women of the Bible



**TWELVE  
EXTRAORDINARY  
WOMEN**

By: John McArthur

**Beginning**  
**Monday, July 8th — 9:00 am**  
**In the Fireside Room**  
**In you would like to attend,**  
**Please contact:**  
**Susan Van Vleet (763) 242-5245**  
**(by June 30th)**  
**So she can order a book for you.**  
**Cost of workbook: \$10**