



# Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

## **Pastor's Pulpit:**

It's a brand-new Year . . .  
... and . . . we have a brand-new church slogan:

**"Come Alive in `25 with 105"**

We also have some new people coming on to serve our Board and our committees and our teams. What's more, for only the second time in our history, we have a president who will be serving two non-consecutive terms. I think I will just wait and see how things go. Speaking of do-overs, isn't that what the beginning of a new year is really all about? Just taking time to look back over the past 12 months to ponder, reflect and question how things went. Some things went well and others went very well. Yet, there were several things that I wish I could have as do-overs. So here are **5** items that I'm going to try, and I mean try, to react differently when they come up and hopefully this time will get it right.

### **Number 1:**

I am really going to try to major on the majors, and not fall into the trap of majoring on the minors and minoring on the majors! Some things tend to get blown out of proportion and when it gets down to it, they really shouldn't. Other things I may overlook and it's those items that needed my attention. I do want to get this right! Major on the majors and yes, minor on the minors. Not the other way around!

### **Number 2:**

Not judging people just on their personality and not taking the time to consider God's purpose for them being in my life. As a child of the King myself, I am called to love all folks. God puts all sorts of people in our lives for the sole intent of shaping us and honing us to be more like His Son, our Savior and spiritual Brother, Jesus Christ. Purpose over personality. It's a toughie, but I just need to accept the fact that God is working out a specific plan for all of His kids, and we just need to accept the fact that we need each other, maybe not want, but need. Yep, purpose over personality.

### **Number 3:**

Along that same vein, try to remember not only who people are but ... **Whose** people are. Even unsaved people can be chosen ones of God. It just hasn't happened yet. They are not at that place yet where God is going to draw them to Himself and change their lives, hearts and destinies. In reality they are His, they just don't know it! And neither do I. So, I think I'll just assume that everyone I meet is God's kid, whether now or later. At the same time, there are those who are true kids of the Most High but have let themselves become distant from God because of health, or worry, or immaturity, or struggles with temptation, or bitterness or disappointment and so on. They are living well below their true calling and not acting near their level of privilege ... but "**Whose**" they are, never really changes. Who they are at this point may not resemble their true identity, but for me I want to always keep in mind, that it's the "**Whose**" that's the most important.

### **Number 4:**

This is one of the challenging ones. I really do want to become more of a learner, than simply a listener. I deal with so many facts and texts when I research that I can gain only a superficial knowledge of whatever subject I'm trying to understand. I'm in such a hurry to get things put together that I often miss the deeper lessons. I need to go more for substance and *learn* what I am trying to investigate. If I don't, then it will be like people who only hear what they want to hear and basically tune out and settle more for the subjective superficial than the true truth of the matter. Lord, give me a hunger to learn not just listen. Help me to be a student who puts into practice what I take the time to know.

### **Number 5:**

Make decisions based on what I know and not simply on how I feel. You know I think it's OK to react to something in such a way as to not have the reaction be the end of the story. In other words, whenever something comes up that someone may point out, I may not like it and initially react poorly. But then I usually have, given some time, think about the issues based more on the truths the person may have been sharing. Bitterness about things will literally eat you alive. And to be quite frank I refuse to let bitterness dig its deadly roots into my heart. Think David, think. Think through situations. Search for truth based on scripture, and have a Christian mind and heart-set. Allow yourself to do as you preach and consider everything but asking W.W.J.D. (Wha Would Jesus Do).

So, there you have it. 5 do-overs I'm going to be seeking to improve on. How about you? Does anything need to be addressed? Any action need to be taken. Any attitude need to be challenged and changed? Any one need to be reconciled with. Most of life is all about stumbling then getting back up and trying again. Do-overs are more of a sign of strength than a reason to feel defeated. Pray for me that I'll do better in my areas, and I'll pray for you for God to lead you and help you as you deal with yours.

**Blessings, *Pastor David***

## Thank You

To my Church Family/Prayer warriors. As most of you know I have been on a medical journey for a few years. I would get through one major medical concern then on to the next one. It got to be I'd automatically say "What's next"? I questioned God often, asking Him what am I suppose to be learning from these setbacks, Patience? I'm telling you all this because this is not really all about me but what God has done for me every step of the way. I always knew God was walking with me through this whole process BUT I was not really listening to Him. I was visiting with my dear friend Susan one day and told her I was holding on to Jesus' hand. She said *no*, HE is holding your hand and He will never ever let you go. I thought about that statement a lot. The night before my scheduled heart surgery on the next day, I could not sleep. I talked and prayed to God for quite a while that early morning. Then it hit me, I could hear God saying loud and clear, "I am in charge, I will not forsake you. Be calm and know I am near." Why I ever thought I was in charge is beyond me, I have been told I am quite stubborn though. My message is Trust and Obey. God Loves you; you are His. I finally felt at peace and I am Trusting in our Lord and Savior.

God Bless all of you,

*Jean Meadows*

What a blessed Christmas Season we have had this year at our church! We are grateful for the cards and gifts and well-wishes we have received, but mostly we are grateful for the sweet church family we have here.

May God bless you abundantly, each one, this coming year!

With God's Blessings and Our Love,

**Pastor David and Bernice**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH**  
**AT THE UNITED CHURCHES**

# chili Feed

**AND CHRISTMAS BELL CONCERT**  
***IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL***

**The songs you can't play in church featuring:  
Santa, Rudolph, the Snowman ... and a special  
appearance by the Wisemen's camels.**

**Featuring Old Bill's award  
winning chili and cornbread!**

**11:00 AM: Chili Feed**  
**11:30 AM: Concert**

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT:**

Call the church office:

605-745-5640

Or Email:

[ucassist@gwtc.net](mailto:ucassist@gwtc.net)



**FOOD ... FUN  
AND FELLOWSHIP!!!**

This event is a fundraiser for Fellowship Hall cameras  
so we can share other events and concerts  
like these on Facebook.



## TIME TO TURN IN YOUR ANNUAL REPORTS!

- Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th, 2025.
- We will have lunch immediately after the Worship Service that day (before the Annual Meeting).
- Our Fellowship Team will provide Fried Chicken (please bring a side/entrée/dessert to share).
- Eat some lunch then stay for the Annual Meeting!



**ANNUAL REPORTS  
DUE IN OFFICE  
NO LATER THAN  
THURSDAY, JAN 2<sup>ND</sup>**

We need to be able to have our Annual Report Booklet available to the congregation on the Sunday *before the meeting* (**January 19th**). As it takes time to assemble all the documents needed for this report, we really need all our committees and teams to get your reports turned in! You may either drop them off to the church office, or email to [uc@gwtc.net](mailto:uc@gwtc.net).

**THANK YOU!**



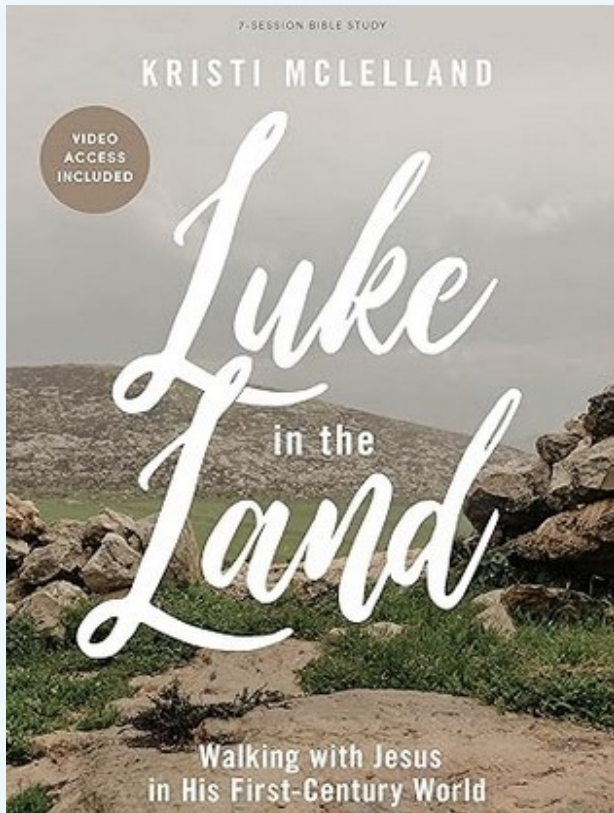
This year we will again be spotlighting of each of our three denominations:

**BAPTIST      METHODIST  
PRESBYTERIAN**

**Who we are ... What we believe  
What we do ... How to join.**

If you are not a **already a member** of our church, we would like you to become one, but we want you to make an informed decision. ***In the upcoming weeks, information on each denomination will be available as handouts in the Sunday bulletins.***

## NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY!!



### NEW MONDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**BEGINS JANUARY 6th / 9:00 AM IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM**

In our Bibles, we have four Gospels describing Jesus's time on earth: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The land of Israel--the place Jesus walked and taught during His earthly ministry--is often referred to as the "fifth Gospel."

Follow Kristi McLelland through Israel as we study snapshots from the Gospel of Luke to see where the stories of the Bible took place. Over 7 sessions, challenge the way you read the accounts of Jesus through teaching videos that take you to locations in Israel like Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, and the road to Emmaus. Along the way, you'll see how Jesus, the Messiah, brought His kingdom to earth for everybody.

***For more information, please contact Delores Hickman, 605-745-5338***



### **D2D-2 CLASS ... BEGINS IN JANUARY**

Those who took part in the D2D-1 class are invited to attend D2D-2 which will begin on Monday, January 6th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room.



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

26 Pastor David & Bernice Cook

1 Marley White Face	24 Patricia Coffield
4 Paul Swenson	27 Aiden Swift
20 Kye Kutz	27 Katlyn White Face
22 Jerry Wyatt	31 Jan Speirs
22 Arika Brink	

***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.***



**January  
Mission  
Emphasis**

### ***What Is The Joshua Fund?***

*"Now the LORD said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" (Genesis 12:1-3)*

Founded by best-selling author Joel C. Rosenberg and his wife Lynn in 2006, the Joshua Fund (TJF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to "blessing Israel and her neighbors in the name of Jesus, according to Genesis 12:1-3."

"Our unique 'both/and' approach to ministry is focused on sharing God's love with Jews, Arabs and Palestinians living in Israel, the West Bank and neighboring nations (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & Iraq). Building relationships, coming alongside pastors and ministry leaders on the ground and working primarily through the local church, The Joshua Fund seeks to: Care for the Needy; Equip and Encourage the Body of Believers; Preach the Gospel; Educate and Mobilize the Global Church to learn to Pray, Give and Go."

Our January "Loose Change Offering" for missions will go to this vital ministry. If using an offering envelope, please write "Joshua Fund" on the line designated for missions.

For more information, visit The Joshua Fund Website at: <https://www.joshuafund.com>.