



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES, HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Pastor's Pulpit:

If we have faith in Christ, we've been set free from slavery to sin—even our complaining! We've been liberated by a sacrifice: the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross. And we too have set out on a journey, not to Canaan but to heaven. In light of that, God has given us both wonderful promises and necessary warnings. Do not presume upon His provision or grumble about the route He leads you on, but instead be filled with gratitude for all He has provided materially and spiritually. The cross lies behind you, heaven lies before you, and the Spirit dwells within you. There is no need, or excuse, for grumbling. --Allister Begg

I love that quote because it reminds me not to be so nitpicky or overwhelmed when life throws a curveball. What is the secret to keeping a positive attitude and a grateful heart? During Lent, we contemplate the utter sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf to be in a right relationship with the God from whom we were once estranged. Jesus said, *"All things have been entrusted to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (Matthew 11:27-29). He went on to say, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* (John 6:35).

I think one of the most important things to consider during the Lent season is how *do* we come to Him and more, how *can* we draw our spiritual sustenance from this One who refers to himself as our Bread of Life? Let me share with you 5 basic ways we can do both:

Be about the Lord's Business! So many things in life are uncertain but one thing I do know, the Lord wants us to be about the business of personally witnessing about Him and corporately making Disciples for Him. Think about it, the very last thing He told His disciples before His ascension was, *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20).

As we focus more on Him and His purposes, we see our lives from a different perspective. We know that we are privileged to be involved in a work and ministry bigger than us. Of course, to be about His business we need to draw not only close to Him but also to draw courage from Him. Be about the Lord's business! Next —

Read, Read, Read then ... Rely, Rely and Rely ... on the promises found in the Scriptures! Reading the Bible really is like consuming food for our hearts and souls. In them God speaks, directs, comforts, and challenges those who are His true, adopted children. After all, we don't call the Bible the Word of God without reason. David understood this when he said, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* (Psalm 119:105). John records the words of Jesus, *"I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."* (John 17). Finally, Jeremiah the prophet encourages us: *"Your words were found and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart. For I am called by your name, O Lord God of hosts."* (Jeremiah 15:16). Be about the Lord's business! Read, Read, Read then Rely, Rely and Rely on the Promises found in the Scriptures! Then —

Enjoy life's Dilemmas! I know this sounds strange but there really is some truth in it. James records these words in the first chapter of His book: *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* Let's face it. Trials and problems have the ability to either drive us **FROM** God or **TO** God. Sometimes it just takes time for us to get over our FROM issues before making it back to our TO posture. No problem is enjoyable, but almost all problems are doable. Given time, given hope, being about God's business and being saturated in His Word makes us rely more and more on God. *"If you don't fix this Lord is just won't get fixed."* Ever said that? I have! And it does seem that many times the Lord is just waiting for me to get to this point before He takes over. If my problems can drive me TO God, then in a way, I really can enjoy life's dilemmas ... *sorta*. (Still working on this one myself!) Next —

Always try to act and react in a spirit of love! During Lent, we are deliberately more remorseful and contrite as we consider the upcoming Holy Week and all that transpired before Christ was resurrected on Easter morning. This attitude should push us to be more sensitive to the real problems and plight of folks around us. I love the illustration by R. C. Sproul about who we should love:

I know a Christian counselor who once had a man come to see him who wanted to divorce his wife. As his reason, the man said: "My wife wasn't unfaithful. She hasn't left me or anything like that, but I just don't love her anymore." The counselor said to the man: "Well, the Bible says, 'Husbands, love your wives.' So, you don't have an option. This is the command of Almighty God. You have to start loving your wife." The man responded: "You don't get it. I don't even want to be around her. I don't want to live in the same house with her." At this point, the counselor said: "Why don't you do this? Why don't you have a trial separation and move next door for a few weeks?" The man asked, "What good will that do?" (Continued on next page)

The counselor responded, "Well, the Bible says, 'Love your neighbor,' and now she'll be your next-door neighbor." The man was getting more and more exasperated with the counselor. He said: "You don't get it. It's not that I don't want to be near her—I can't stand the sight of her. I have nothing but enmity in my heart towards her." "Oh," said the counselor, "she's your enemy?" After the man answered in the affirmative, the counselor responded, "Well, the Bible says, 'Love your enemies.'" I think that fellow went to a different counselor the next week.

Or in other words, try, at least try, to be as loving and thoughtful as you can during this Lenten season. Trying to love yes ... even your enemies. Jesus did say, *"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."* (Luke 6). Always try to act ... and react in a spirit of love! And finally —

Devote yourself 100% to carrying out God's will for your life! Paul wrote these words in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: *"Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will] ."* (AMPC). We strive to remember this Lenten season:

Christ's awesome sacrifice to bring us to the Father, to be born again, to know and walk with God, to be indwelt by His Holy Spirit, to be able to draw strength from His Word as we ponder and study, to know that we are in the end going to be in heaven with family, friends, angels, and Christ himself. These should be the realities on which we base everything else in our life. Sometimes I feel like I need to give myself permission to be happy! How about you? I need to remember that He is in control and nothing happens that He does not ultimately allow and ordain.

- **Be** about the Lord's Business!
- **Read**, Read, Read then Rely, Rely and Rely on the Promises found in the Scriptures!
- **Enjoy** life's Dilemmas
- **Always** try to act and react in a spirit of love!
- **Devote** yourself 100% to carrying our God's Will for your life!

Blessings, Pastor David



Easter Sunday Potluck Luncheon at the United Churches

**Do you have plans for lunch on Easter Sunday?
If not ... come and join us in the Fellowship
Hall after Worship Service!!!**

**BAKED HAM WILL BE PROVIDED. Just bring a side dish or
salad or dessert to share. And then ... just bring yourself as
we "break bread together" and celebrate
our Savior's Resurrection!**

THE UNITED CHURCHES LENTEN SEASON

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

6:45-7:30 PM / IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

"GUIDED TO THE CROSS"

March 6th - Lent: Week 3 — "Guided to Peace"

March 13th - Lent: Week 4 — "Guided to Trust"

March 20th - Lent: Week 5 — "Guided to Perseverance"

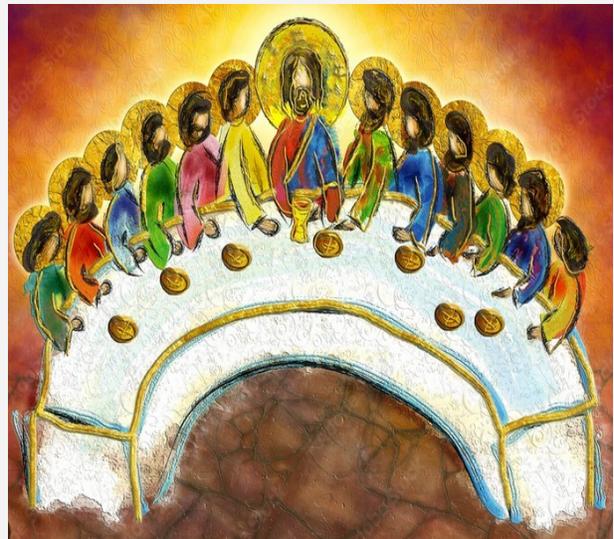


WEDNESDAYS
AT THE UNITED CHURCHES
12:00-1:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall
March 13 / March 20

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH "TWELVE MEN"

March 21st
6:45-7:30 pm

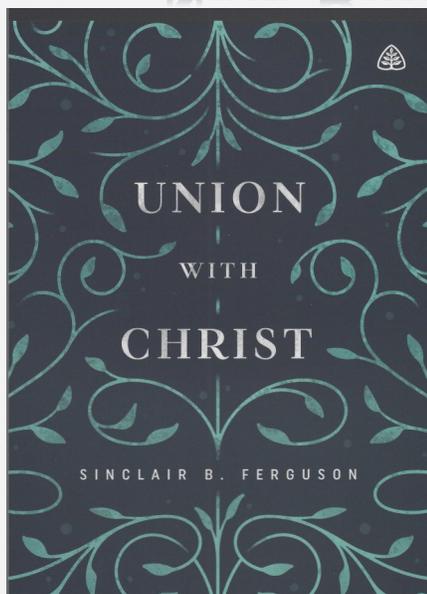
In the Church Sanctuary
*No Spaghetti Supper or Boutiques
that evening.*



GOOD FRIDAY
12:00 PM—3:00 PM

*The United Churches Sanctuary will be open for
those who wish to spend time in prayer and
reflection.*

NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



UNION WITH CHRIST

By

Sinclair B. Ferguson

Beginning

Sunday, March 17th

8:30 am / Fireside Room

Facilitated by:

Sharon Kalvels

What does it mean to be a Christian? Common answers to this question can be contradictory and confusing. Is Christianity simply an ethical system or a set of doctrinal beliefs? In *Union with Christ*, Dr. Sinclair Ferguson surveys one of the Apostle Paul's favorite phrases to describe the essence of the Christian life: being "in Christ." This twelve-part teaching series explores what it means to be "in Christ" and how these two simple words can reshape our entire existence.

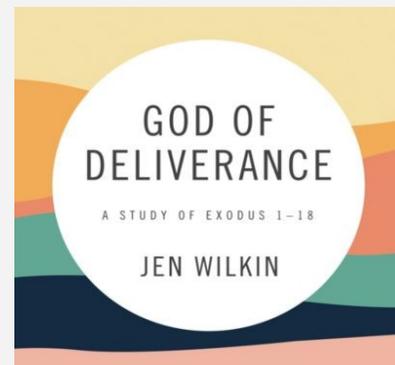
GOD OF DELIVERANCE

A Study of Exodus 1:1-18

MONDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

BEGINNING MARCH 4TH

9:00 AM / IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM



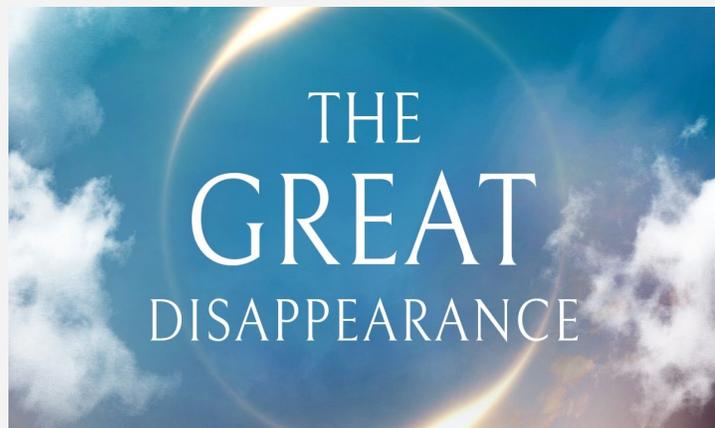
"Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you." — Exodus 18:10

With that introduction, we enter into the story of the Hebrew people in the Book of Exodus. No longer under the protection of their forefather Joseph, the children of Israel became slaves to the Egyptians. But God was raising up a deliverer in Moses, to lead His people from bondage to freedom so they could worship Him.

The exodus of the Israelites shapes our understanding of the whole Bible, its themes reverberating all the way to Revelation. Exodus is the birth narrative of a nation unmistakably guided by the Great Deliverer.

In this 10-session verse-by-verse study of Exodus 1–18, Jen Wilkin shows us that Israel's story is our story: the same God who delivered Israel also delivers all those He loves from slavery to sin and from service to the pharaohs of this world. He lifts our eyes to the promised land He has prepared where we dwell with I AM and worship Him as the one true God.

TUC United Women ... A New Bible Study



By:
Dr. David Jeremiah

The United Women have just begun Dr. David Jeremiah's *The Great Disappearance* (How To Be Rapture Ready). This study includes a video teaching with David Jeremiah and a study guide. Woman can join in anytime! If you are interested and would like to order a study guide, please contact:

Bernice Cook in the church office (study guides are \$12).

The United Women group meets on the third Tuesday of each month for spiritual nourishment, prayer, encouragement, fellowship and sharing. Our next meeting will be on March 19th, 1:30 pm, in the Fireside Room. All women are invited to attend!

MARCH MISSION EMPHASIS HOT SPRINGS MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION NEEDY FUND

This mission emphasis is separate from our Food Pantry emphasis.



The Hot Springs Ministerial Association supports people in need. This fund assists with emergency housing, rent, utilities, transportation and other emergency needs. They are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Our Loose Change offering for March will go toward this mission and will be gathered on **Sunday, March 10th**. If using a giving envelope, please write **NEEDY FUND** on the line designated for mission. *"The Hot Springs Ministerial Association was formed by local churches. Our mission is to partner as Christian ministries in Fall River County to follow Jesus' command to love God and love others through: Helping the needy (food pantry, assistance vouchers); Serving our community (finding ways of supporting our entire community); Meeting together as ministry leaders for mutual support (monthly meeting, prayer times); Announcing the good news of Jesus Christ (occasional combined worship services, other events)."*

For more information see the HSMA Website at:
<https://www.hsministerial.org/>



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

None listed

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Sue Trobee | 25 Jim Zwetzig |
| 5 Nolan Humbracht | 25 Mary Jane Cape |
| 9 Carla Johnson | 27 Thor Swift |
| 12 Sean Cape | 27 Kevin Cape |
| 12 Joann Walker | 30 Carol Posthumus |
| 13 Delores Hickman | |

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.



If you are not 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, we will continue spotlighting our three denominations. Information on each denomination will be available as handouts in the Sunday bulletins. Please explore who each are, what each believe, what each does, and how to join.

When you have decided which denomination the Lord may want you to join, and in light of which one best fits you, let the Pastor know. **After the Worship Service on Palm Sunday, March 24th at 11:15 am, there will be a new member's class in the Fireside Room** where you can come and ask any questions you may have about the differences in each of the denominations, or anything else that may need some final clarification.



Then ... on Easter Sunday, March 31st ... we will receive you into membership!

It's that TIME again!
Time to ... **SPRING FORWARD!**
Be sure to turn you clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9th!!



COMING IN APRIL!!!!
HOEDOWN SHOWDOWN
FELLOWSHIP

Is being planned for
Saturday, April 20th

Enjoy a catered dinner of:
Brisket, Beans and Cole Slaw.

Entertainment provided by . . .
YOU!

We have a church full of
talented people. So if you
have a talent you would like to
showcase, now is the time!
Maybe you have a hidden
talent and you are ready to
display it to the world!

Please let Jeanne or Bernice
know what you would like to
do!



**We also need a few more committee members to help
make this a fun occasion for your enjoyment. Again, let
Jeanne or Bernice know you would like to help!!!**

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!