



Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS, SD

Pastor's Pulpit:

LESSONS FROM A TRAVELING CARNIVAL

September brings with it such a collection of good things. The weather is cool but not yet cold. The leaves are turning yet not yet fallen. Christmas is looming yet not yet on the forefront of our minds and hearts.

What I have noticed in many places is that September also brings traveling carnivals. These little, somewhat bizarre, bands of people bring with them the wares of their trade as they move from town-to-town, selling the commodity of distraction. They are pretty much friendly gypsies who provide a respite from the humdrum of life and, like the summers in South Dakota, their stay is brief and they are gone before you know it.

But think with me a minute about this traveling show. You always have the crowds who come. People who are curious; people who want to experience something new; bored people; and fun-seeking people. These curious people are looking for .. well they just really don't know, but they enjoy being with fellow curiosity seekers.

Then there are the "carnies." These include the "barkers" ... who will basically say anything to get people to put down a few dollars (along with their common sense) to see some side show that promises amazement and entertainment. Barkers will also "dog" you to toss a few rings or throw a few balls. Then there are the carnival clowns ... crafty, cunning, trying to make people laugh, but for the most part, just creepy. I think they're creepy because they are just not real, not right, seemingly absorbed in their role and pretty much oblivious to what people really think about them. Ah yes, pretty much a "unique" group.

Then of course you have the rides: rotating tea cups; ferris wheels; merry-go-rounds, roller coasters, and lots of others. All are intended to provide a momentary thrill.

But let's sit back and just for a few minutes compare carnival life with real life. Everyone is looking for something. People by and large are curious, bored, fun-seeking and love being with others of like mind. People don't mind trying something new. This is pretty much how God uses His people and His places (Church) to draw people to Himself. We are not to be a carnival, but we're also not to be a cemetery.

Think about the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. All these things describe a life marked by security, happiness, purpose and well ... life! Jesus said I came that you might have life and have it ABUNDANTLY! Therefore, coming to His place (Church) should be a joy, not just a duty. Why go to church if you can't enjoy it? If God's people aren't excited and eager to go to church why in the world would anyone else, especially people that we know and know us, ever darken the door? Even in a crowd at a traveling carnival, people like being with fellow curiosity seekers and isn't that what we're doing at church services ... seeking God?

Continued on next page

If others saw that our attitude was truly that we **GET** to come to church instead of we **HAVE** to go to church, they would be wondering what it is all about ... and maybe I'll go see for myself. And even though God is actually "dog" spelled backwards, we certainly don't need preachers acting like barkers "selling" the Gospel. People simply need to hear the truth of God's Word and let Him work in them more than we try to work on them. And of course on top of all this, we need church members who are honest and earnest and sincere. That's what I love about our congregation! All of you are just a joy to be around. We certainly don't need church clowns; folks who aren't real or right, trying to be something they are not, and absorbed with the role of playing a Christian instead of just being the best Christian they can be. Ah yes, lessons from the carnival.

But more than that, I really want to compare the "rides" with our own realities. If you could pick one ride that would or could best describe the life of a Christian what would it be? Would it be the Ferris Wheel? Slow but steady? Ups and downs are just part of the ride. Nothing really exciting except the view? How about the Merry-Go-Round? Tedious and pretty tame. Full of ups and downs but never really moving forward ... just a life going in circles. Or, and here is my choice, a Roller Coaster? Fast, thrilling. The ups and downs are just part of the built in thrill of the ride. How incredibly fast the ride goes. Just like life, the ride seems to have just started and lo and behold, we can sense that the ride is almost over. But I was so busy hanging on and having fun I didn't realize just how fast time really goes.

That's my kind of life. Lots of ups and downs, but it's all part of the journey. Lots of curves and unexpected turns, but early on I realized that all roller coaster rides have seats that fit two people. So it's not just my ride that I've considered, it's the Person who I have asked to ride with me. And believe you me, that has made all the difference in the world. And **He** has.

Jesus has been there all along. He has been my riding companion through the ups and curves and turns and downs. And, and even though the ride has been scary at times, His place beside me was and is secure. Funny thing though ... I've often wondered if it's really Jesus just riding with me or is it He chose me to ride with Him. September, cool days, leaves changing, Christmas coming, lessons from the traveling carnival.

Blessings,
Pastor David



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SEPTEMBER MISSION EMPHASIS **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** **SHOEBOXES**

Our Mission Emphasis for September is **Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Shoeboxes**. The **Mission Loose Change Offering will be gathered on Sunday, September 11th**. Offering envelopes will also have a line designated for this mission. The funds collected will be used for the starter kit and packing additional shoeboxes. The starter kit contains basic items of: crayons (24 count box), markers or colored pencils, eraser, sharpener, pencils, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, and a notebook. If there is any money left after the purchase of the starter kits, it will be used to purchase items for additional shoeboxes. During September, a short video will be run during announcements, talking more about the mission of Operation Christmas Child that is about spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ and the gift of salvation.



September Anniversaries

1 Garry & Pat Strauser
16 John & Carla Johnson



3 Sandy Swenson	24 Jerry Collogan
4 Ezekiel Cantu	26 Casen Humbracht
10 Mary Puffer	29 Garry Strauser
13 Judy Hofer	29 Jean Brooks

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: ucassist@gwtc.net or call 745-5640.

THIS AND THAT

UNITED WOMEN'S GATHERING GROUP:

Our next "gathering" will be held on **Tuesday, September 20th at 1:30 pm**. We are continuing our study in the Book of Psalms. **If you have a book and have missed some meetings ... no worries! At our next meeting we will be looking at Psalms 81-90 in our books.** Join us for a time of spiritual nourishment, prayer, encouragement, fellowship and sharing!

BASIC NEEDS & BEARLY USED BOUTIQUES:

On **Saturday, September 10th**, our Basic Needs and Bearly Used Boutiques will be open from 10:00 am-12:00 Noon. The Bearly Used Boutique will host a special **Back to School for Kids** event that day at The United Churches from 10:00 am—12 noon.

SERMON SERIES / SEPTEMBER:

September 4	"Master Sin"	Romans 3:9-20
September 11	"The Grand Reveal"	Romans 3:21-26
September 18	"Faith and/or Works?"	Romans 4:1-8
September 25	"Hey Buddy, Got Blessing?"	Romans 4:5-12

FOOD PANTRY CLIENT PROFILE:

Number of Active Clients (visited the pantry in 2022): **334**; Single: **161**; Family: **173**; Veterans: **67**; New Sign-Ups: **76 (6 additions in July)**; Average Days Open Each Month: **16**.

IT IS ALMOST THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!!!

No ... not Christmas. It is time for our church committees and teams to start thinking about annual reports. We are hoping that posting this reminder early will help in the Annual Report process for 2022. **All annual reports for 2022 will be due in the church office by January 1st, 2023.** We will continue to post updates on this process. Our Nominating Team will also begin gearing up to fill positions for the upcoming year. Workbooks for the Nominating Team members will be distributed in mid-September. *A heartfelt thank you to everyone who serves on committees and teams in our church!*



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

"THANKS to everyone that made my birthday so special with hugs, cards, gifts, and flowers. Also, for all the cards received by mail. God bless you. Lydia Emery"

COMING SOON ... SPAGHETTI SUPPER RETURNS!

- ◆ We are hoping to restart our Spaghetti Suppers soon. The suppers will be held on Thursday evenings from 4:30—6:00 pm in the downstairs church fellowship hall. Stay tuned for more details!
- ◆ **We are seeking volunteers!!!** If you would like to help with this ministry to the community in any way, please contact Jan Speirs at 605-745-5467 or via email at jspeirs@gwtc.net.



CHASING VINES

**Monday Women's Bible Study
Beginning Monday
September 12th
9:00 am
In the Fireside Room
at The United Churches**

In Chasing Vines, **Beth Moore** gives us fresh hope, revealing the abundant secrets of a fruitful, God-delighting life. Tracing the images of vine, branch, and fruit through Scripture, and sharing stories from her own journey, Beth shows us that nothing in our lives is wasted.

Finding Your Way to an
Immensely *Fruitful* Life

Women are invited to join the weekly Bible study resuming this September (originally began just prior to Covid). Our meeting on **Monday, September 12th** will be an informal gathering to

share events happening since our hiatus in 2020! Our session on **Monday, September 19th**, will be a short session as we view the introductory lesson by Beth Moore on the study Chasing Vines, focusing on John 15! Beth recommends having her hard cover book along with the study guide. These can be purchased at Amazon, Lifeway Press, Christianbook, etc. Looking forward to fellowship and Bible Study! *Delores Hickman* (891-9146)



A NOTE FROM YOUR FELLOWSHIP TEAM

- We are excited to have added a few much needed new members to our Fellowship Team. Thank you to those who have volunteered!
- **GOODIES NEEDED:** On Sundays after church, we serve coffee, juice and **GOODIES** in our Fellowship Hall after Worship Service. We currently have several dates that we still need to fill through the end this year. Dates available are: **September** 18; 25. **October:** 16; 23. **November** 13; 20. **December** 4; 11; 18; 25. If anyone is able to host and provide some sweet sweets on these dates, please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship hall, or email ucassist@gwtc.net.
- **Please note!!!** *If you are available to provide goodies but not able to be hostess for the fellowship time, please let Jeanne Wyatt or Bernice Cook know. Sweets may be homemade or store bought. We do have someone who can host the fellowship time if someone can provide the GOODIES for a Sunday.*

American Baptist Churches of the Dakotas Church of Hope's Quilt Raffle 2022

The Church of Hope's quilt raffle helps to cover the Pastor's salary, Bible studies, Bibles, prisoner exit bags and other expenses. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. The winner will be drawn on 12/11/2022. If you would like to help with this vital American Baptist Churches ministry, please see Jeanne Wyatt or Bernice Cook for tickets. Please make checks payable to **Church of Hope**.

CHURCH OF HOPE — SD WOMEN'S PRISON — PIERRE, SD

The Church of Hope is an American Baptist Church gathering within the SD Women's Prison in Pierre, SD. The ecumenical church family is currently served by Rev. Sharon Ball, Pastor, and Laurel Wempe, Care Pastor. Financial support is provided by member churches of ABC Dakotas, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, and many other churches and individuals.



*Botanica Park
107" x 107"
2022 Quilt
Made by
Nance Orsbon*



D2D Organizational Meeting
Sunday, September 4, 2022
11:15 am—12 Noon
In the Fireside Room

Course Description:

"Disciple to Disciple" is a 33-week course (3x11 weekly classes) spread throughout a year, that has always been on my heart as more than a few Christians feel they:

- ◆ Have not had the opportunity to really develop the primary and solid Christian habits that can be life changing and fruitful for the Kingdom of God;
- ◆ Don't really know how to share with someone about how Jesus Christ became real to them;
- ◆ Don't know what to say when talking to someone about Christ and the offer of salvation;
- ◆ Are feeling guilty because of all the above! and
- ◆ Have always wanted to grow deeper in their own faith but haven't found the means, material or mentor(s) that could guide them through the process.

More detailed information will be provided at this meeting, or you can go to the church website and click on the "D2D" button on the bottom of the Home page.

Dear Friends,

I am happy to report about the clinic you built and named after me in Haiti!

Our (United Churches) Clinic is free to see the Doctor for: high blood pressure medicines, diabetes medicines, birth control project, nutrition for babies, and of course, non-profit. They do have to pay for the building. It costs about \$640 a month to pay for the bills. Right now they are behind. They have a Doctor, nurse, lab, secretary and cleaner.

For those of you who have indicated an interest in supporting Dr. William, we now have a way to send money directly to Dr. William, to use at his discretion.

The Haitian government has provided an ambulance to Anse-à-Galets (name of village where the clinic is located). Now they use the pick up we sent to them as a mobile clinic. They do a mobile clinic 2 to 3 times a month.

I will be keeping you updated every month now. I am the "point person" for the Clinic and Dr. William. This is totally separate from La Gonave.

If you have any questions, please call me at 605-890-0108 (leave a message or send me a text).

Blessings,
Annie Zwetzig

The United Churches

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