



April 2019

"Yucca Breeze"

T H E U N I T E D C H U R C H E S O F
H O T S P R I N G S

P A S T O R ' S P U L P I T :

Dear Friends,

This Lenten season we have been following the theme of "Reflections on the Troubles of Life." We have looked at Disappointments, Regrets, Close Calls and Second Chances, and on April 7, Gaining from Losses. All of these are common troubles all of us experience at some point in life. They change us and challenge us, or sometimes they challenge us to change. They hurt. They remind us of both the fragileness and the preciousness of life.

On April 14, Palm/Passion Sunday, the focus will turn to Holy Week and Easter. This time is both the low point and the high point of our faith. In Holy Week we see the worst of humanity seeking to destroy the best of humanity. We see the depths to which human sin can go as it is threatened by perfect love. We see darkness seeking to overcome the light of God.

Yet with Easter we see how that light still shines. We see how God's love will not be conquered and destroyed, but is resurrected to a new kind of life which gives life and hope to all. The beauty of Easter is seen in the reality of the difference Easter has made in the lives of so many people throughout the centuries. The fact that Christ is still able to inspire and change people is the only "proof" needed of the resurrection. Christ is alive, and living in the hearts of all who profess his love and trust in his grace.

As we wrap up our "Reflections" may we learn to give thanks for a love and faith which gives us the courage, hope, and peace to face the troubles which come our way and know that we are the conquerors and not they. We can sing of how our Redeemer lives and be filled with the joy that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I hope you will join us throughout this Holy Week as we remember the sacrifice of Christ and then celebrate the joy of glorious resurrection – a resurrection giving us new life.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John

**** News & Announcements ****



Holy Week Services

April 17—Noon, Lenten Lunch sponsored by THE UNITED CHURCHES

April 18—Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m. at Prairie View UMC

April 19—Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary at TUC

April 21—Easter Celebration 10:00 a.m.

Christian Education (CE) Team Happenings:

Camp season is fast approaching! The congregation is invited to enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixin's at the luncheon prepared by our church camp kids to raise funds for summer camp. Lunch will be held in the fellowship Hall immediately following the morning church service on Sunday, April 28th.

—Sharon Kalvels



CHURCH CLEAN-UP WORK DAY

The Property Management Team has scheduled a church work day for Saturday, April 13th, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. We will be trying something different this year, and are asking the various groups or committees to be responsible for leading volunteers to clean or "spruce up" their common areas.

The Fellowship, Chancel, Music, CE, Missions, and Properties teams have already been contacted. Any other group who would like to "adopt" an area are welcome to do so. Please contact a Properties Team member for an available area.

Anyone is welcome to just show up and participate! You can join up with a group or pick your own task. This would be a great opportunity for newer members of our congregation to meet and work with others, or to just come and explore our church complex to see what we have and what it's all about!



**WORKDAY AT THE
CHURCH**

A Few Chuckles

Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came today.

Sometimes I think I understand everything, but then I regain consciousness.

Time may be a great healer, but it is also a lousy beautician.

It is frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions!

You don't stop laughing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop laughing.

APRIL Birthdays:

6 Steve Keller
7 Shelby McDill
8 Sheila DeVries
12 Darlene Jackson
Angela Puffer
16 Ed Coates
21 Darlene Hayden
24 Chad Olstad



APRIL Anniversaries:

22 Richard/Margaret Bershon



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.

Here is something the kids in our Children's Church really enjoyed!



They all had the opportunity to help with making the communion bread for last month's Communion Sunday on March 3rd. "Chef" Pastor John Pehrson is seen here explaining the process and it appears he has everyone's undivided attention.

We received several nice comments on the Special Choir Program "Statements of Faith" which was presented here on Sunday, March 24th

"Lynn Michelle, I am still marveling at the program you put together. Please extend my thanks to the participants and helpers. I felt as if I were at a family reunion, wrapped in acceptance and generations of history. Happy and safe. The music was superb. You have indeed gathered up talent. And every family reunion needs wonderful food, right? Thank you to Shirley Leigh, too!"
—Mary Sue

Others also mentioned how much the program was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to Lynn Mason and all the singers, musicians, and narrators on a very wonderful presentation!!!

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