



August 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 :

“Hey Pastor David, why do Presbyterian ministers wear a robe and stole on Sunday? Why do you personally wear black all the time?” I don’t mind telling you many folks have asked me those questions and so let me try to give a couple of brief answers. First dealing with Robes:

We take for granted that judges, policemen, doctors, nurses, EMTs, the military, mailmen, etc., all wear distinctive uniforms. They do so because they do not act or speak for themselves. You could say they are under orders. They represent the law and government of the county, city, state, or nation in which they serve. In the same way, a minister represents the law and government of another kingdom, the kingdom of Christ. The clothing he wears should make this evident. The pastor is likewise a man under orders. He doesn’t act or speak for himself, but for Jesus Christ. The pastor’s authority does not come from his financial or social status. It does not arise from his education. It does not derive from his personality. On the contrary, the pastor has no authority outside of his connection by ordination to Christ and His apostles.

It is this understanding of the minister’s office that made it the virtually unbroken practice of the Christian Church to robe her ministers while conducting the worship of the church. Reformed and Presbyterian churches have shared in this conviction, expecting that their pastors would be clothed in the pastoral robe while leading worship. They understood that by ordination a minister is authorized to do and say something distinctive and authoritative in the organized body of Christ, especially as the Church is assembled for corporate worship. He is called to speak and act for the Lord in an official capacity. He is the means through which Christ becomes present to His people in the preaching of the Word and the administration of the sacraments. To reinforce this truth, ministers have been traditionally placed in robes. By doing so the man is hidden or covered and the God-ordained office is accented. Instead of highlighting his personality, social status, economic standing, style of dress (nice suit!), etc., the robe covers up these things and calls attention instead to his role as an authorized minister of Word and sacrament. The man is eclipsed, and the ordained office is in full view. The pastoral robe then is a reminder to both the minister and the people that God is present through the Christian ministry to bless and serve the congregation. Wearing it doesn’t set him above the congregation, but visibly sets him apart from them because of his unique function during the Lord’s Day worship service.

The addition of three bars called **chevrons** to the sleeve signifies the doctoral degree. A **stole** is a long band of cloth, generally color-coordinated with the liturgical season. Its practical origin was as a scarf, though it has come to be associated with ordained ministry and (like the chasuble) the yoke of service to Christ.

[https://pulpitandpen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Why\\_a\\_Geneva\\_Gown.pdf](https://pulpitandpen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Why_a_Geneva_Gown.pdf)

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“But why do you wear black? “ I wish I could give as eloquent a response to that question as to the one above. But I can't. It's not really that I look good in black—Ha! It's not that I look slimmer in black...OH, (Which is a good reason...) No it's from a time early in my ministry when I heard a song by, you guessed it—Johnny Cash: *The Man In Black*. Consider the Lyrics:

Well, you wonder why I always dress in black,  
 Why you never see bright colors on my back,  
 And why does my appearance seem to have a somber tone.  
 Well, there's a reason for the things that I have on.

I wear the black for the poor and the beaten down,  
 Livin' in the hopeless, hungry side of town,  
 I wear it for the prisoner who has long paid for his crime,  
 But is there because he's a victim of the times.

I wear the black for those who never read,  
 Or listened to the words that Jesus said,  
 About the road to happiness through love and charity,  
 Why, you'd think He's talking straight to you and me.

Well, we're doin' mighty fine, I do suppose,  
 In our streak of lightnin' cars and fancy clothes,  
 But just so we're reminded of the ones who are held back,  
 Up front there ought 'a be a Man In Black.

I wear it for the sick and lonely old,  
 For the reckless ones whose bad trip left them cold,  
 I wear the black in mournin' for the lives that could have been,  
 Each week we lose a hundred fine young men.

And, I wear it for the thousands who have died,  
 Believen' that the Lord was on their side,  
 I wear it for another hundred thousand who have died,  
 Believen' that we all were on their side.

Well, there's things that never will be right I know,  
 And things need changin' everywhere you go,  
 But 'til we start to make a move to make a few things right,  
 You'll never see me wear a suit of white.

Ah, I'd love to wear a rainbow every day,  
 And tell the world that everything's OK,  
 But I'll try to carry off a little darkness on my back,  
 'Till things are brighter, I'm the Man In Black.

Hopefully, you can understand why that Robe is donned, and why Black is my color of choice!

Blessings and Grace,

*Pastor David*

## **AUGUST Birthdays:**

3 Maggie May (102 in 2019)  
6 Mary McDill  
10 Ralph Sieg  
14 Richard Bershon  
19 Lydia Emery  
21 Judy Hansen  
23 Nevetta Sieg  
24 Robin Wynia  
29 Matt Strauser  
Wayne Hageman



## **AUGUST Anniversaries:**

3 Dick & Mary Sewright  
5 Todd & Robin Wynia  
13 Jerry & Pat Collogan  
15 Jim & Anne Zwetzig  
21 Gordon & 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: [uc@gwtc.net](mailto:uc@gwtc.net) or call 745-5640.*

## **\*\* News & Announcements \*\***

### **COMMUNITY PROJECT COMING IN SEPTEMBER**

The 2019 United Churches Community Project is scheduled for mid-September. The committee is currently making plans for the event but needs church members to help by nominating individuals who need assistance in projects.

If you know someone who would benefit from a work team coming to help them with a specific project please submit your nomination of them to the church office. Please give the name of who needs the help, contact information, a brief description of the project and your name and contact information. Project nominations will close September 10.

Committees and teams will be forming in August. If you could be a work team member, or on one of the support committees (i.e. food, photography, etc.)' contact the church office and share your contact information and how you wish to help.

Specific dates and committee information will be coming out in August. Contact Wayne Hageman (745-3802) or Jerry Wyatt (424-2633) if you have questions or ideas for this project. **THANK YOU!**

### ***Interested in Becoming a Member??***

Are you interested in becoming a member of our church family? Got questions first? Curious but not quite sure what will be expected of me? Our next membership class will be at 11:30 A.M, on September 1, 2019, immediately following our Worship Service. Lunch will be provided and a brief explanation of church membership will be presented. There will also be a time for questions and answers. If you're interested please pray first then mark the Welcome card that you can find in the pew in front of you. We'll get in touch!

### **Notes of Thanks**



"Thank you so much for collecting the yarn for our group. I'm sure those who knit or crochet caps for needy kids will put it to good use. Thank those who donated for us." Love, —Pat & "The Group"

"To all our friends at United Churches who remembered us on our Combined Birthday Celebration—It was great to hear from you. Thank you so much." Love & God's Blessings! — Bob & Pat Holwell

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