



December
2017

"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,

Some years ago I wrote the lyrics for a song to serve as an interlude piece during a scene change in a church's Sunday School Christmas program. I sang this song as special music in worship last summer. The lyrics to this song combine the themes of Advent, Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. They speak of personal salvation and social justice, rejection and new life. I thought I would share the words with all of you this December, as a way for each of us to reflect on the meaning of Christ's life in this special time of the year. The title is, "He's the Christ."

He came to earth at Bethlehem
A tiny little boy.
He came to give us happiness,
Peace, hope, love, and joy.

But the world closed in around him
And hung him on the cross.
It didn't understand he'd come
To seek and save the lost.
He's the Christ. He's the Christ!

Now if we turn to him, my friend,
He'll help us all to see,
That love is what it's all about
And joy should always be.

For he was the living Word of God,
And he came to give us life.
He was call the Prince of Peace
'Cause he came to end our strife.
He's the Christ. He's the Christ!

(continued on page 2)

Then what must be the reason
They hung him up to die?
Could it be because he was the truth,
Who saw right through their lie?

But since he was the Holy One,
Who lived among the poor,
They believed him not the one
To fall down and adore.
He's the Christ. He's the Christ!

O come, my friend, and worship him,
He's forevermore the King,
He came to earth at Bethlehem,
And bids us all to sing.
He's the Christ. He's the Christ!

May each of you have a merry Christmas. May you remember that "Jesus is the reason for the season", and sense the wonder and beauty of God's presence in your life.

With Christ's love,
Pastor John

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS ***

New Adult Study – Reflections on Four Seasonal Hymns for Advent

On Sundays November 26, December 3, 10, and 24 at 8:45, Pastor John will offer a class entitled: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", which will focus on the stories and meaning behind four hymns often sung during Advent. There will be no class on Sunday, December 17, as that is the day of the cantata with an early practice. The class is open to all adults interested in learning more about these four hymns.

5th Sunday Potluck

Our first "Fifth Sunday Potluck" was a tasty and congenial time of fellowship! December 31st is the next "Fifth Sunday Potluck", so please plan to join us for a time to nourish body and soul!

Our "Angel Tree"

OUR "ANGEL TREE" - The Angel Tree near the front entrance of church includes our church family children & area Foster kid, ages 1 to 17. So please be generous this Christmas Season & have the gifts returned to the church or the Dept. of Social Services office by Monday, December 18th. They do not need to be wrapped, but PLEASE be sure that the tag is with the gift so that it gets to the appropriate child.

An invitation to serve...

From the Hot Springs Ministerial Association: Susan at the Evans is looking for interested parties that might like, or consent, to drive round the elderly to see the beautiful Christmas lights of Hot Springs this season. If you would be interested in doing this, contact Susan at 745-6133. *Thanks!!*

DECEMBER Birthdays:

3 Duke Mower
10 Nancy Cuckler
Bill Waxler
13 Pat Collogan
15 John Johnson
16 Lynn Buchholz
17 Jean Meadows
18 Mike Buchholz
24 Don DeVries
26 Claude Bent



DECEMBER Anniversaries:

19 Jerry/Jeanne Wyatt



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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.

*I Hear
the
Prophet
Calling*

Christmas Cantata
December 17th,
2017 at

10 a.m. in

The United Churches
Sanctuary



Presented by The United Churches
Choir and Friends

For information call UC office at 745-5640

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN QUILT RAFFLE –

The Church of Hope in Pierre is offering tickets for the “Blossoms of Hope” 84”x 92” queen size quilt to support this ministry to women released from prison and seeking a better life. The drawing will take place on 12/17/17 and you need not be present to win! See Jeanne Wyatt for your “Winning” raffle ticket(s), \$5 each or 5 for \$20. She’ll be sending tickets in soon. Your support of this ministry is so much appreciated!

The United Churches
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