



January 2019

# "Yucca Breeze"

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS

*(Here is a letter from the family who received our blessings of various gifts in December)*

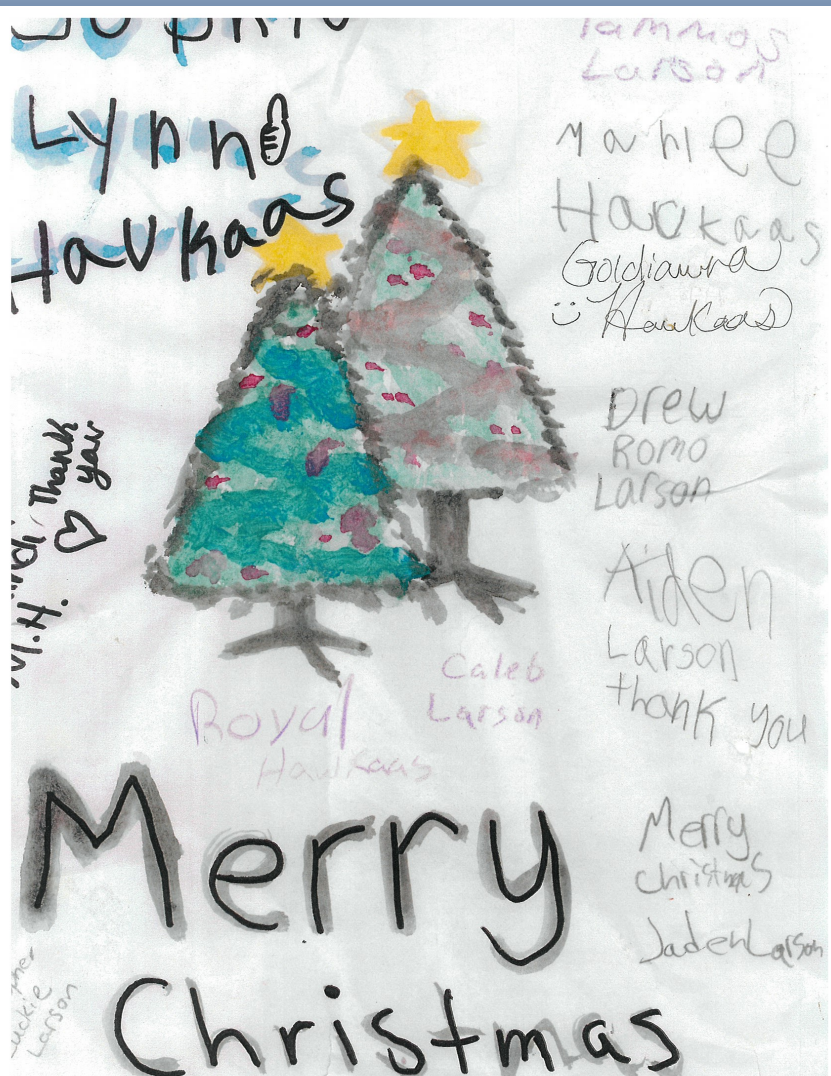
We would like to give a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated to our household. Everything was needed and a blessing to receive. All the blankets and coats, and hats and gloves helps keep everyone warm and toasty. The towels and toothbrushes, and laundry soap and dishes helped out a great deal. Oh, and especially all the food, LOL!

Chris and I would like to give an extra Thank You to the church, for being able to show all our kids that there are good people in this world!

Thank you for helping us out in our time of struggles. It all helped a great deal.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays, with our heart-felt gratitude.

*(This artwork by the kids has been on the church's bulletin board.)*



## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Some Very Special "Thank You" Messages

"Thank-you" to everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree Project from the Staff at the Department of Social Services, Child Protection Services.

It was, once again, a HUGE success! All the children were very excited & appreciative!

♦ *Barb Beery*

"Operation Christmas Child" thanks you all for filling and/or wrapping of shoeboxes. Here are the stats: The United Churches—14 boxes. Southern Hills area sent 430 boxes to Rapid City. Black Hills area sent 6100 shoeboxes.

♦ *Jan Speirs*

*A Christmas-Time thank You!* On behalf of the Christian Education (CE) Team, I want to thank Pastor John McKnight, the congregation, the Bearly Used Boutique, the Bell Choir musicians, and volunteer teachers and congregation members for your generous support of the Children's Church Christmas activities.

All 22 Children's Church attendees enjoyed the Christmas stocking kits, gifts, stocking caps, music, treats, and the caring and compassion shown by the congregation and volunteers who made the Christmas time fellowship a memorable celebration.

The CE Team welcomes the New Year and your continued support of the educational ministry. Happy New Year! —*Sharon Kalvels*

**Our United Churches Mission Team** would like to thank each and every one of you for being part of our team! You have made the family of God "really real"! We have taken so many useful things to our family in need. What a wonderful way to show Jesus' love to others! There were so many donations of blankets, pillows, dishes, food, and more food! It was just fabulous!

We would also like to thank Sharon Kalvels for all her hard work and perseverance with our Children's Church. As you know, we now have about 22 consistent youth attending. This church always steps up to the plate. We are going to need many hands to put these kids in about 3 groups. Pray about this and if you would like our youth to know more about Jesus call Sharon now! We need to remember that "CE" is a Mission Field too!

The "Bell Choir" Director, Carol Posthumus, did an outstanding job with our youth bells, with Carol Giesler playing the flute—Wow! Pastor John donated a craft of Christmas stockings for each of the children; the "Bearly Used" group donated a hat for every single one of the kids. Sharon Kalvels and Pat Strauser made sure each child had a wrapped present to go home with them. Carla made sure each had a snack and a beverage—They loved all of this!! What a party! I could never name all the people who helped. Thank you all.

—*Annie Zwetzig & the Mission Team:*  
*Pat Collogan, Ellen Heafner, Lynn Michelle*  
*Mason, Stefanie Nelson, Carla Richmond*



< This is the **Children's Church Chimes Choir** as they performed on December 16th, playing "Away In A Manger", with Carol Giesler on flute, directed by Carol Posthumus. *Aren't they Beautiful!*

(Photo courtesy of Pat DeSmet)



## **JANUARY Birthdays:**

3 Winnie Hofer  
4 Paul Swenson  
5 Ruth Spicer  
22 Jerry Wyatt  
24 Pat Coffield  
27 Aiden Swift  
31 Jan Speirs



## **JANUARY Anniversaries:**

(None)



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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](mailto:uc@gwtc.net) or call 745-5640.*

Greetings Dear Friends at The United Churches,

I look forward to again serving as your Interim Pastor starting in January! I will be signing a three month (renewable once if needed) covenant with the Board of Trustees. Both Judy and I really enjoy the friendliness of The United Churches, participating in your meaningful worship, and hearing about your mission activities. We have always looked forward to our weekends in Hot Springs.

Beginning a new year is a good time for optimism, to make plans, set goals, and make those famous "New Year's Resolutions." We have hopes and dreams, even as we know the future is uncertain. A good saying regarding the future is, "We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future." Through our faith, we are assured that the presence and love of God will surround us and guide us through whatever comes our way.

Hopefully, in this new year you will also call the right person to serve as pastor to your wonderful congregation. In the meantime, we are called to continue being faithful servants by witnessing to God's love and grace in the world.

Some years ago, I wrote the following poem for the beginning of a new year. I think it says much about the changes and challenges likely to come in a new year.

Happy New Year! The greeting proclaims,  
It's out with the old and in with the new.  
Pictures of old are now in their frames,  
For the year's journeys have been quite a few.

What lies ahead is uncertain we know,  
There's hope in our hearts, surrounded by fear,  
Changes bombard us, forcing us to grow,  
The pace increases with each passing year.

Our lives are filled with pleasure and pain.  
From birth to death flows the gift of living,  
Filled with joy and sorrow and loss and gain,  
Peace is found in the wonder of giving.

Faith's power shines with courage and might.  
Hope's vision sees beauty as always near.  
Love's splendor senses God's amazing light.  
May faith, hope, and love bless you this new year!

Yours with Christ's love,

*Pastor John Pehrson*



**The Presbyterian Women's Group** is still taking a break and will not be meeting the first Tuesday of this month. They are "regrouping" and considering how they can better meet the needs of today's women. ***Please call the church office with your ideas and input.*** (745-5640) ***Thank you!***

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