



January
2018

“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,

January means the start of a new year and with it often comes the setting of new goals and the development of new plans. Churches need to engage in this process as much as any other organization, perhaps even more so because we have a mission and purpose of eternal proportions.

In his book, *Healthy Congregations*, Pastor Peter Steinke writes about the importance of vision. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). He writes, “Vision offers meaning, instills hope, and directs energy.” (p.105) Vision gives people something beyond themselves to focus on. Vision gives a unity and goal bringing people together in a common purpose and mission. Vision encourages creativity and creativity promotes growth. What new visions do you have for the ongoing ministry of The United Churches?

New visions will enable The United Churches to consider new options of what its ministry can be in the Hot Springs area. You are doing many great and wonderful things – the spaghetti dinner, Bearly Used Boutique, Good Neighbor Project, Christmas gifts for children, and so much more. This is good news! That said, are there other ways the church can reach out into the community with the message of God’s grace and love? All churches are being challenged these days to find new ways to share the never-changing Word in an ever-changing world. Nothing ever stays the same, and as things change healthy churches find ways to adapt to carry on effective ministry.

Sometime in this new year you will call a new pastor. He or she will be a person with new ideas, different styles, and fresh approaches. It will be a time of adjustment as you grow in love for one another. With faith and hope The United Churches will move forward in its vital and faithful ministry for years to come.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS ***

Interested in Joining The United Churches?

While likely not until February, Pastor John will be offering a class for people interested in becoming a member of one of The United Churches denominational bodies. In the class each denomination will be explored, as well as the meaning of church membership. Those who join will be encouraged to make their own decision on whether to be an American Baptist, United Methodist, or Presbyterian (USA). More details as the time draws closer.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the United Churches will be held at 11:00 am on Sunday, January 21st, immediately following our morning worship service. Please plan to attend. Your presence is important and very much appreciated.

Pastor John to Attend Winter Pastors' School

From February 5-8 Pastor John will be attending a "Winter Pastors' School" at Calvin Crest Camp Conference and Retreat Center near Fremont, NE. Attending this School will be particularly helpful for his work as Moderator of the Congregational and Pastoral Care Committee of the Presbytery.

Many "Thanks"

Dear Church Family: The Bud Jenniges family would like to thank you for your prayers, which gave us comfort and strength throughout the long difficult summer. Thank you to Pastor John for his prayers and visits with Bud and me, almost every week all summer whether he was in Rapid City Regional, Fall River Hospital or at home. We appreciated the calls and cards over his long struggle and on his passing. May God Bless you all.

—Donna Jenniges and Family

The Christian Education Team is thankful for all of the volunteers who teach in the ministry programs, children's church and sermon, youth group, and all of the adult bible study groups. The team looks forward to continuing our Christian education ministries in the new year with you all. Many thanks to Stefanie Nelson and Paula Cape, who served on the team for several years. Welcome to Lynn Buchholz and Calvin Larive who join Garry Strauser, Sharon Kalvels, and Pastor Pehrson on the 2018 team!

Felicitations! Congratulations on an outstanding performance of "I Hear The Prophet Callin'"!!! It was a wonderful experience to stand in front of you and hear you sing and watch your joyful, expectant faces. Marvelous work! Thank you, Sharon, for your excellent accompanying. Thank you, John, for the clear expressive readings.... Some of the comments to me: "It was so beautiful and meaningful it made me cry." "There was so much variety in the music—I like the stomping song and the familiar carols." There was something for everyone in this cantata." Way to go! Thank you!

— Lynn~Michelle Mason

JANUARY Birthdays:

3 Winnie Hofer
4 Paul Swenson
5 Ruth Spicer
10 Judy Pehrson
11 Aubrey Padgett
22 Jerry Wyatt
24 Pat Coffield
27 Aiden Swift
31 Jan Speirs



JANUARY Anniversaries:

28 John & Judy Pehrson



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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.



Photo courtesy of Gerald Collogan

Church groundbreaking...

This photo, dated Dec. 3, 1950, shows a large number of people attending the groundbreaking for the United Churches in Hot Springs. If you



In 2020 the United Churches will celebrate it's 100th anniversary. We are looking for ideas on how to celebrate this milestone. If you have any ideas, please contact Gerald Collogan at 745-3684 or drop him a note at 1038 Evanston Ave., Hot Springs, SD 57747.

Special Thanks... Fifty years ago this month I was awarded the Eagle rank in the Church sponsored Boy Scout Troop 23. I think of and thank the many Church and community members that kept the troop active. The quality advancement program with great merit badge counselors and troop adult leadership helped build future community leaders with the Scout Oath and Law as their guidelines for life. We had fun and exciting times on campouts, hikes, and Jamborees. Some of the good turns we did are still alive today. Thanks again to the Church leaders of yesteryear. —*Gerald Collogan*

GOD'S LOVE IS METEORIC, HIS LOYALTY ASTRONOMIC,
HIS PURPOSE TITANIC, HIS VERDICTS OCEANIC.
YET IN HIS LARGENESS NOTHING GETS LOST; NOT A
MAN, NOT A MOUSE, SLIPS THROUGH THE CRACKS.
HOW EXQUISITE YOUR LOVE, O GOD!

Psalms 36:5-7, The Message



A Request from the Prayer Team:

If you have requested prayer for anyone in the last 3 to 6 months, please contact the church with updates. We want to keep these people and situations on the Prayer Requests list as long as needed, and we also want to give thanks and praises for prayers answered.

Thank you!

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