



MAY 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 :

“A Healthy” Pastor Search Process

It is my honor to report on our pastor search process. The phone calls, emails and meetings continue and we work hard, laugh, and pray, drink coffee, plan, commiserate and empathize and support each other. We do not give up. We do research, read the Bible, depend on each other, listen to others and reflect. There is so much that we are bound to keep confidential. This is to protect everyone involved. We are at this time speaking seriously to several candidates and they are very well educated and would be great leaders of faith. We think we may be closer to the end of the game than the beginning but it will be revealed. The path requires many more “plays” before we get to the goalpost.

In thinking thoughts about a healthy church and a healthy search process, I searched the web for ideas from others. Bill Wilson/Church leader (12/8/11) talks about the search process requiring great patience, spiritual maturity, hard work and encouragement. I believe these are attributes of both our committee and our church congregation. It is my hope that this time of searching, leads to a season of hope and good health for our church and its pastor. It is not surprising that there is a consensus among church leaders, that the main attribute of a healthy church is one that focuses on Christ. The people are poised and willing “to serve”. I am proud to believe that The United Churches members embody a willingness to be the “hands and feet” of Jesus. This is illustrated by the spirit and action of those who have helped with two fantastic concerts for the community plus weekly spaghetti meals and boutique shopping and many other church activities, programs, committees and total involvement with the details of weekly church services.

Well-known pastor, author, speaker and blogger, Rev. Dr. Mark D. Roberts, shares some key ideas for us to keep in mind during this search process time:

1. Seek First the Kingdom of God
2. Pray Without Ceasing
3. Nurture Openness And Avoid Exhaustion
4. Be Open To God’s Surprises
5. Represent Your Church Accurately
6. Get The True Downside On Candidates
7. Realize That You Can’t Have It All
8. Don’t Swing Too Far On The Pendulum

If you would like more explanation on his key points, please read more at

www.markroberts.com Thank You.

Pastor Search Chair, *Lynn~M Mason*

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's CAMP TIME! Camp information is available for each of the denominations, Dakotas United Methodist Camps at Storm Mountain and Lake Poinsett, Pioneer and Rimrock Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center at Thunderhead Falls, and the Baptist Camp Judson. The Directors of each of the Camps are doing presentations on their camp through the end of May. Please contact a Christian Education Team member or the church office for additional information.

Special Note: The Mission Team's "Loose Change" offering for May is for "Camps".

Bell Choir Practice has begun. The time that has been decided for practice is 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions please contact Carol Posthumus at 605-484-4117.

The Food Pantry has the following needs: A "substitute" to hand out food; donations of egg noodles and dry beans. Also, there will be a food drive on May 12th hosted by the US Post Office. They need volunteers to meet at 4:00 pm that day to help carry the donated food (in blue grocery sacks) from the Post Office to the Pantry. They usually get a LOT of food, so the more help the better. *Thanks!*

The 100th Anniversary of the forming of the United Churches will be coming up soon. We are seeking your ideas on how we can celebrate this occasion. A memento of this event, a historical booklet, the invitation of past pastors of the church, pictorial booklet, banquet, etc. Also, a decision on a date for the event. Ground breakings and cornerstone layings were held in the winter time historically.

The combining of the congregations actually began almost two years earlier, in 1918. The Baptists were invited to join the Presbyterians to conserve both fuel and ministers. The pastor of the church at this time was the Reverend Oliver Johnson. In June of 1920, the two churches were invited to join with the Methodist church. The three churches decided to continue to worship together and chose to meet in the sandstone Presbyterian church building on Happy Hollow Street.

Maybe we could get each denomination to gather local information for a booklet. Our library has some great information in the Helen McGee Room.

If you have any suggestions, please call Gerald Colloghan at 745-3684. Thank you.

Church Finances at a Glance—1st Quarter: See the back of your May Calendar!

"Thankfulness"

Dear Members & Friends at The United Churches: The way you radiate God's love is something very special. Thanks for being such a bright spot in my life. Serving as Interim Pastor was a great joy. Thank you for the wonderful "Good-Pie" good-bye and the parting gifts. May God continue to bless your ministry and witness. Both Judy and I look forward to seeing you again.

With Christ's Love, *John & Judy Pehrson. (enclosed was a generous check for the Haiti Mission)*

People of the United Churches: Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents in worship. Our combined worship during Holy Week is always a special Blessing. We Honor God when we worship together!

With Love from Prairie View United Methodist Church, Smithwick



I just want to say how much I appreciate Sandy Swenson's volunteer help covering the church office while I have needed time off for foot surgery and the follow-up doctor appointments in Sioux Falls. Sandy, you are a Blessing to so many! Thank you. — Peg

MAY Birthdays:



3	Dean Cape	21	Jean Donnell
6	Katelin Wynia	22	Peg Sperlich
8	Pat Strauser	30	Alicia Evangelista-Anderson
9	Barb Wilson		
10	Derrelle Wynia		
14	Sally Hageman		
18	Reta Bristol		
	Ginny Coates		
19	Ellen Heafner		
	Jeanne Wyatt		
20	Sherry Mower		

MAY Anniversaries:

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21 Lee/Reta Bristol



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.



ODE TO PASTOR JOHN
& JUDY PEHRSON
April 8, 2018



WEDDING DAY FOR MARGARET & RICHARD BERSHON, 4-22-18

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