



Yucca Breeze

October 2020

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS

PASTOR'S PULPIT:

*What's the meaning of the phrase: "The darkest hour is just before the dawn"?
There is hope, even in the worst of circumstances.*

What's the origin of the phrase 'The darkest hour is just before the dawn'?

"This is one of those improving proverbs that are the stock in trade of the contemporary glut of self-help manuals and talking therapies. The darkest hour has long been used figuratively to mean 'the lowest ebb' and there are many such examples of it in print dating from the late 1700's.

The English theologian and historian Thomas Fuller appears to be the first person to commit the notion that 'the darkest hour is just before the dawn' to print. His religious travelogue: 'A Pisgah-Sight Of Palestine And The Confines Thereof' (1650), contains this view:

It is always darkest just before the Day dawneth.

The source of the proverb isn't known. It may be Fuller himself, or he may have been recording a piece of folk wisdom. In 1858, much later than Fuller of course, Samuel Lover attributed the notion to the Irish, in Songs and Ballads:

There is a beautiful saying amongst the Irish peasantry to inspire hope under adverse circumstances: - "Remember," they say, "that the darkest hour of all is the hour before day."

**The
Darkest
Hour Is
Just
Before
Dawn**

We certainly live in a marvelous time, especially if you are a curious person. There is so much information at our fingertips!

The reason I shared the above quote is the ever-increasing sense in my own heart that, as bleak as things seem to be in our Country at the moment, that perhaps in God's timing, there could be a dim light beginning to appear. Perhaps we are on the edge of some really good times. Perhaps we have all traversed the preceding months for a reason or two. Maybe with the New Year, there will finally be a solution to our shared global malady. Perhaps in the Spring we'll see social unrest taking a break. Maybe with the election cycle put to rest for another few years, we'll see politicians behaving civilly once again. OK, that last one may be more in the miracle department!

The word of encouragement for October is simply to keep your chin up (another expression I'll have to research). Yes, we are heading into the season of Winter and the days are getting shorter ... the light is ever decreasing. But, we have seen this pattern before! And just as sure as the seasons come and go, so do hard times and trials in the life of humanity; and more, in our individual lives as well.

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It may get a little darker first. Autumn will give way to Winter. But it has to. The darkest times have to arrive before the dawn finally begins to break. But the dawn will break; the days will once again be warmer. The light will be more present. And because we have spent so much time in dark conditions, maybe we'll finally notice how wondrous the brighter, warmer, less-hectic, less worrisome, "normal" times really are. Yes, the light is breaking through the horizon. The darkest days are still upon us. But, they too, will give way . . . and we'll all have survived another season in life.

Blessings, Pastor David



**THE POWER
of a
SIMPLE
GIFT**

What is Operation Christmas Child?

“The Samaritan’s Purse project [Operation Christmas Child](#) collects shoebox gifts-filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift—filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

“Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world’s largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 178 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 160 countries and territories. In 2020, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebox gifts to reach another 11 million children in countries like Peru, the Philippines, Rwanda and Ukraine. More than 10.5 million shoebox gifts were collected worldwide in 2019, with more than 8.9 million collected in the U.S.”

OUR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES HAVE ARRIVED!!

We have several Shoe Boxes stacked up in the Bethany Room and a few in the Fellowship Hall for you to pick up on a Sunday, or any weekday during office business hours, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. Each colorful box contains information and boy/girl labels to help you pack yours with suggested school supplies, hygiene items, toys, accessories, and a “WOW” item.

Cora Reid has placed in each box a “starter kit” which includes three school/craft items to give you a jump start (*pretty cool, Cora!*). November 15th is our deadline, and **our goal this year is to fill 100 shoe boxes!**

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are staying home these days, and still wish to participate in this good missions project, The United Churches will offer delivery and pick-up service so you can join in this fun activity. Just call the church office to make arrangements.



Greetings to friends at The United Churches of Hot Springs!

“We are sorry we cannot attend your centennial celebration on Sunday, September 6th, 2020. We were part of your congregation from summer, 1997 to March, 1990, and have wonderful, fond memories of the church family . . . You gave us this painting when we left Hot Springs in March 1990. Thank you. We think it needs to reside in your possession.”

— Roy & Carol Mitchell, Sherborn, MA.

(The picture was painted by Edith Roberts Cole, 2-90 and is now hanging in the Fireside Room. A copy of the letter from the Mitchells with family photo is located on the small bulletin board as you enter the church.)

OCTOBER Birthdays:

- 7 Bill Coffield
- 8 Emily (Mason) Stiegel
- 10 Annie Zwetzig
- 12 Frank Mason
- 18 Marcella Sunding
- 18 Cindy Meadows



OCTOBER Anniversaries:

- 1 Steve & Cheryl Kellar



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

THIS AND THAT:

USHERS NEEDED:

With all areas of the church now open for Sunday worship services, Jerry Collogan is in need of a few more Ushers to help out. If you can possibly be available to lend a hand when needed, we ask that you would contact Jerry directly. His cell phone number is: (605) 440-2738. Thank you!

ONLINE GIVING:

Just a reminder: For your convenience, “e-giving” is always available through the link on the church’s website, www.theunitedchurcheshotsprings.org Just look near the bottom on the Home page. It is a pretty user-friendly system, but do let us know if you have any questions.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY?

Copies of our **Church Directory**, **Centennial Program Booklet**, and **Centennial 100th Anniversary Book** are available in the church if you did not get one. These can be picked up anytime during the week during office hours.



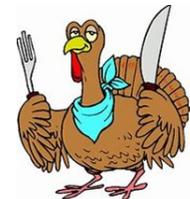
The family of **Leo Kalvels** would like to thank the church family for the compassion extended to us. Thank you to Pastor David for officiating at a lovely funeral service. Thanks to the administrative staff for the beautiful memorial service brochure and continued support. The Fellowship Team served a delicious and nourishing luncheon following the service. The prayers from the Shepherding Team and the Personnel Committee are so appreciated. Thank you to the congregation for your touching thoughts, condolences, and memorial donations.

THE HOT SPRINGS FOOD PANTRY IS PREPARING FOR THANKSGIVING

This year, we are asking you to contribute food items to help make a holiday dinner complete.

Here is a list of items currently needed to prepare Thanksgiving Bags: Stuffing Mix, Turkey Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Instant Mashed Potatoes, French Fried Onions, Canned Pumpkin.

Food items may be dropped off at the church during regular office hours or on Sundays. Collection bin will be located in the Bethany Room. Items may also be dropped off at the Food Pantry (107 N. Chicago Street) during regular business hours (1:00 PM to 3:00 PM—Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday).



Everything but the Bird



It's That Time Again!!
Daylight Savings times ends Sunday Nov. 1st ... don't forget to set your clocks back one hour the Saturday night before

Ed and Pat Cerney updated the seasonal bulletin board located as you enter the church. Check it out ... it looks fantastic!!



HYMN HISTORY
"I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY"

A. Catherine Hankey, 1934-1911

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
and he who wins souls is wise. (Proverbs 11:30)*

Soul-winning should be the normal product of our commitment to discipleship and a daily intimate relationship with the Lord. Soul-winning is not salesmanship, in which we try to manipulate or subdue lost individuals to a decision. It is simply taking a message, the objective historical truths of the gospel, and then speaking with the authority of Jesus Christ in the power and love of the Holy Spirit.

Sharing our personal faith should be a joyful and satisfying experience, just as it was with Kate Hankey, author of this hymn's text. Although she was born into the home of a wealthy English banker and a member of the Anglican church, Kate early in life developed a fervent evangelical concern. She began organizing Sunday school classes for rich and poor throughout London. These classes had a strong influence in the city, with a large number of the young students in turn becoming zealous Christian workers.

When Kate was only 30 years old, however, she experienced a serious illness. During a long period of recovery, she wrote a lengthy poem on the life of Christ. The poem consisted of two main sections, each contained 50 verses. The first section of the poem was titled "The Story Wanted," later adapted for another of Catherine Hankey's familiar hymn text, "Tell Me the Old, Old Story," still widely sung today. Later that same year while recovering from her illness, Kate completed the second part of her poem, titled "The Story Told," which became the basic part of "I Love to Tell the Story."

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true.
It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.*

Chorus:

*I love to tell the story! Twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.*

*I love to tell the story, more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story – It did so much for me,
and that is just the reason I tell it now to thee.*

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.*

Bible References: Daniel 12:3; Matthew 4:19; Acts 4:12; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 4:9, 10.

Reflect seriously on this often quoted description of soul-winning – "It is proclaiming the good news just as one contented beggar tells a starving beggar friend where there is food. Sing this musical testimony.

CREEDS AND CONFESSION CORNER
American Baptist
Focus, Mission & Identity Statements

American Baptist Churches are missional congregations that nurture devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who live their lives in mission and ministry for the healing of the world through the love of God.



American Baptists are a Christ-centered, biblically grounded, ethnically diverse people called to radical personal discipleship in Christ Jesus. Our commitment to Jesus propels us to nurture authentic relationships with one another; build healthy churches; transform our communities, our nations and our world; engage every member in hands-on ministry; and speak the prophetic word in love.

As a people of prayer, purpose, and passion, we are in the forefront of creating a community of faith where people of every race, nationality and culture gather as one in worship, service and work.

The heart of the gospel is God's redemptive love. In our life together, the world will see the power of forgiveness to overcome alienation, the strength of love to transform hate, the power of grace to break the bonds of guilt, the triumph of hope over despair, and the victory of faith over doubt.

Through the cross of Christ we embrace the world as neighbor. Our vision for mission energizes a multitude of servant ministries of evangelism, discipleship, leadership, new church development, social justice, healing, peacemaking, economic development and education. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we work together in mutual submission, humility, love, and giving that the gospel might be preached and lived in all the world."

"We Are American Baptists" is an expression of Christian Faith representative of American Baptists adopted by the covenanting partners of American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., 6/19/98. "We Are American Baptists" can be found in the Standing Rules, under Addendum #1.

Centennial Celebration Remembrances



The United Churches
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Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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(Return service requested)

UNITED CHURCHES



HOT SPRINGS, SD