



October
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,

October is an important month in church life. It starts off with World Communion Sunday, a day with Christians from "east and west and north and south" share the elements from the Lord's Table as people who are "one in the Spirit and one in the Lord." Like Christmas and Easter, I have always thought of World Communion Sunday as one of those "never miss" Sundays.

October is often the month a church starts planning for the next year. Stewardship plans are often put into place and nominating committees start meeting I earnest. Churches often start developing the next year's budget in October as well.

October 19 at United Churches also means the return of the weekly Community Spaghetti Dinners. These dinners are a wonderful community service and I look forward to my first experience of one.

October then closes out with Reformation Sunday, a day to commemorate Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church, which is seen as the start of the Reformation. This year marks the 500th anniversary of this act, making this year a time for a special commemoration. Therefore, Sunday, October 29 will be a special celebration of the Reformation and its impact on all Christians – Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox.

Here are a few notes about the Reformation: Presbyterians and Baptists base much of their theology on the writings of John Calvin, a contemporary of Martin Luther. The theology of Methodism was developed by John Wesley, based on the work of Jacob Arminius, who disagreed with Calvin on several points. Over the centuries, however, those differences have moderated on both sides, and today the three denominations of Presbyterian (USA), United Methodist, and American Baptist agree on more theological points than they disagree. Even many of the differences between some Lutheran denominations and our three denominations have moderated as well. I find these moderations to be the result of healthy growth in our theological understandings of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

On October 29, United Churches will also have a Potluck Dinner following worship. Everyone is invited to bring a dish (or two) to share for a time of great fellowship.

May this October be a time of joyful worship, meaningful growth, wonderful fellowship, and faithful mission at United Churches!

Yours in Christ's service,

Pastor John

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS ***

United Churches Community Outreach Ministries—Spaghetti Supper!

The weekly Spaghetti Suppers are set to begin again on Thursday, October 19, 2017, from 4:30 - 6:00 pm in the church basement. We greatly appreciate those who have volunteered their time and skills in the past. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry on either a weekly or twice-monthly basis, please contact Delores Hickman at 745-5338. All are invited to come to eat and fellowship with the community attendees! Remember, the “**Bearly Used Boutique**” is also open at the same time.

NURSERY ATTENDANT - We are looking for **volunteers** from our congregation to assist Tochi in the nursery on Sunday from 9:30-11:30 AM. A sign-up sheet has been attached to the nursery door. Please give of your love to the children who join us, by signing up for one Sunday. Thank you!



“5th Sunday All-Church Potluck”

October 29th, following morning worship service, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite casserole, meat dish, salad, or dessert and enjoy time with the church family!



Handbell Choir



Attention “Bell Ringers” – Ringers interested in playing bells this year please contact me, Lynn Buchholz at 605-890-1841 to establish practice times. If I do not answer please leave a message as to days and time conducive to your personal schedule. New members welcome! Knowledge in basic rhythm and note duration helpful.

Just a REMINDER: Please remember to let the office know whenever your mailing address changes. This is especially important if you are one of our “snow birds” with two addresses on file with the United Churches. We want to make sure you get your YUCCA BREEZE in a timely manner.



Thank You Note: To the church family at United Churches: Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated. And, thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement you sent for my mother’s memorial service. Following the service Judy and I took the flowers to the memory unit at the Care center where my mother lived the last three years.

—With Christ’s love, *John & Judy and all the family of Thelma Pehrson*

OCTOBER Birthdays:

7 Bill Coffield
8 Emily Mason
9 Pastor John Pehrson
10 Anne Zwetzig
12 Frank Mason
18 Marcella Sunding



OCTOBER 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 or call 745-5640.

From the Christian Education Team: Do you know someone who has drawn apart from Christian ministry? Through all of us, the United Churches provides opportunities for them to re-connect. The CE team met on the National “Back to Church” Sunday in September, and in follow up, encourages everyone to bring a friend, family member(s) and/or neighbor to Sunday Bible study and worship services. The children’s church program welcomes children from age 5 through 5th grade. Please extend an invitation to those around you.

Notice the new “Welcome Visitor” cards in the pews? Please help with recognizing our new attendees and visitors, and ask if they’ve filled out a card yet. Encourage them to do so and place it in the offering plate (or you can turn it in to the church office). *Thanks much!*

The “Good Neighbor” project was successful! There was a highly motivated yard crew at the Bershon rancho grande. They really did a number on the weeds and rogue bushes as well as Beth getting real down and dirty with a tree. Spiders and mold were the enemy taken on by the Nelson's. And Rich and Stephanie prevailed! A new roof covering for the Merrill family happened on Sunday due to rain on Saturday. Thanks Chris and George! The painting project for Max also weathered out but will get done soon. Calvin and Darren did a much appreciated yard job for the Keatings. Last but not least, Jim and Jeanne fed us all very well! Wish we had more pictures to prove all the work that was done, but here are a few that show a sample of the generous efforts of all involved...



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