



# Yucca Breeze

THE UNITED CHURCHES OF HOT SPRINGS SOUTH DAKOTA

## Pastor's Pulpit:

July is the seventh month of the year and has 31 days. Named in honor of Julius Caesar, it marks summer continuation in the North, and winter in the South. This period brings prolonged daylight in the Northern Hemisphere, and longer darkness in the Southern Hemisphere.

The main days you should know about for July are:

Disability Pride Month — July 1  
Minority Mental Health Awareness Month — July 1  
Plastic Free July — July 1  
Shark Week — Week-long event  
Malala Day — July 12  
Be Love Day — July 16  
International Self-Care Day — July 24  
World Heart Day — July 29  
International Tiger Day — July 29

As well, there are *Awareness Weeks*: **Birth Trauma Awareness Week** (week-long event in July); **Latino Conservation Week** (week-long event in July); **Shark Week** (week-long event in July); **National Clean Beaches Week** (July 1 to 7); **Coral Reef Awareness Week** (3rd week of July); **National Zoo Keeper Week** (3rd week of July); **National Moth Week** (last week of July).

**And if that is not enough**, there are *Awareness Days* such as: **July 1**: Canada Day, American Zoo Day; **July 4**: Independence Day (United States); Independence from Meat Day; **July 7**: National Koi Day; **July 10**: Panic Attack Awareness Day, National Kitten Day, Chronic Disease Day; **July 11**: World Population Day, Cheer Up the Lonely Day; **July 12**: Malala Day; **July 13**: GIST Awareness Day; **July 14**: Shark Awareness Day, World Chimpanzee Day, World Orca Day;

**July 15:** National Leiomyosarcoma Day, Celebration of the Horse Day;  
**July 16:** Guinea Pig Appreciation Day, Be Love Day (King Center); **July 17:** World Day for International Justice; **July 18:** Mandala Day; **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of July:** Glioblastoma Awareness Day; **July 19:** Anniversary of the First Women's Rights Convention, National Urban Beekeeping Day; **July 23:** World Sjogren's Day; **July 24:** National Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Day, International Self-Care Day, Samaritans Awareness Day; **July 26:** Americans with Disabilities Act Anniversary, International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystems; **July 28:** World Hepatitis Day, World Nature Conservation Day, World Rabies Day; **July 29:** World Heart Day, International Tiger Day, **July 30:** International Day of Friendship, Gastroschisis Awareness Day; **July 31:** World Ranger Day. (Goodgoodgood.co/articles)

Wow! As you can see there are lot of causes that folks have bought into, lots of plans to help us as a society to *remember* and to keep their cause before us. Each one represents a true passion that people don't ever want to forget! I kind of like the idea ... but from a different perspective. To me, July represents the second half of the year. June was the middle but July is moving now into the second half of the year. Time is going, and has gone by, so very fast.

As we get on in years, I think there are a number of definite things we need to remember and keep before us as individuals, as we each move into the second half of our life here on earth. It has been said that you can tell you're getting older when you spend more time looking back and less time looking forward. And for most folks, that is probably true. Even as Christians we have a tendency to consider our earthly lives and dwell on the past more and more.

But ... we can rejoice in the fact that as a Believer in Jesus Christ, we do have a glorious future in store!! Jesus stated in John 14: *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."* And as such, it really does behoove us to take time, lots of time, to remember and keep before us the great passions that have directed and filled our lives.

As a believer, we should ponder questions such as: what did we do with all those years? Who were they really for? I know we had families to raise and careers to pursue and homes to make, but in the second half those things are mere shadows of joys in comparison to the Great Passion of our life which is and should always be, *Jesus*. When properly evaluated our lives really have been shaped by our love of, and for, Christ. After all, It was His great passion for us that drew us to Himself.

**Maybe we should  
make July  
our own  
Awareness  
Month!**

We could fill it with:

**Awareness Weeks**

**Worship: a Week of Praising**

**Evangelism: a Week of Sharing**

**Church: a Week of Thanking**

**Prayer: a Week of Remembering**

We could then, have a plethora of **Awareness Days!**

**July 1: Celebrating Love Day! July 2: Enjoying Joy Day!**

**July 3: Secure in Peace Day! July 4: Ice Cream Day**

**July 5: Pausing for Kindness Day! July 6: Rocking in Patience Day!**

**July 7: Sharing Goodness Day! July 8: Hoping in Faithfulness Day!**

**July 9: Alive in Gentleness Day! July 10: Glorifying in Self-control Day!**

**July 11: Retention of the Bible Day! July 12: Thanking an Angel Day!**

**July 13: Praising the Holy Spirit Day! July 14: Heavenly Father Day!**

**July 15: Day of Salvation! July 16: Praise for the Blood Day!**

**July 17: Celebrating our Pastor Day! July 18: North American Christian Day!**

**July 19: Praying for Friends Day! July 20: Considering Heaven Day!**

**July 21: Honoring Our Loved Ones Day! July 22: Letters to Missionaries Day!**

**July 23: Victory in Jesus Day! July 24: Cross Day! July 25: Surrender Day!**

**July 26: Reading the New Testament Day! July 27: Reading the Old Testament Day!**

**July 28: Faith Day! July 29: Day of Hope! July 30: Remembering My Life Day!**

**July 31: Thanking Jesus Day!**

It is good to take time to remember and to celebrate and to live out our Great calling. After all, why be a Christian if you can't be passionately devoted? Let's just remember in July our Passion for and from Christ. Let's make it an Awareness Month filled with Awareness Weeks, full of Awareness Days. As we move further along in the second half of our lives, let's determine to never forget and to be ever growing in commitment to our great cause of living out our faith in Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

*Pastor David*



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES



23 Owen & Jean Meadows

- |                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 3 Linda Heath   | 18 Darren Diggs      |
| 8 Chris Kutz    | 18 Kallen Kutz       |
| 9 Terry Blume   | 20 Junibelle Gilbert |
| 9 Pat Cerney    | 24 Anna Swift        |
| 13 Miguel Cantu | 26 Molly Cape        |
| 13 Joyce Harper | 29 Markus White Face |

*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.*

## THIS AND THAT

### BOUTIQUES OPEN:

Our **Basic Needs** and **Bearly Used** boutiques will be open on **Saturday, July 8th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon.**

### UNITED WOMEN:

The United Women will *not* be meeting in July. Their next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15th.

### MONDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

The Monday Women's Bible Study group will be meeting once a month during the summer. Their next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 10th at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room.**

### NEW THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY (MARY/MARTHA GROUP):

The Thursday Mary/Mary Group will be studying ***Twelve Ordinary Men*** by John MacArthur — ***"How the Master shaped His Disciples for Greatness and what He wants to do with you"***.

This study, written by one of today's most trusted Bible teachers, brings you face to face with the disciples as you've never seen them before. You'll walk in their shoes. You'll understand their doubts and hopes. And you'll hear the power of Jesus' words in a whole new way.

This group meets every **Thursday at 10:00 am (Bible study begins at 10:30)** in the Fireside Room, and will be facilitated by Mark Sullivan.

### FOOD PANTRY COUNTS:

Number of Active Clients (visited the pantry in 2023): **298**; Single: **134**; Family: **164**; Veterans (included in sgl/family count): **81**; New Sign Ups (since June 1, 2023): **60**; Average Days Open Each Month: **16**



# The United Churches of Hot Springs Good News Club



Monday, July 31st — Friday, August 4th  
9:00 am—12:00 pm

**FREE REGISTRATION ... CLASS IS LIMITED ... SO REGISTER EARLY!**

Registration — 8:30 am  
Bible Lesson — 9:00 am-10:30 am  
Memory Verse Activity  
Scripture Songs  
Crafts & Group Game — 10:30-11:30 am  
**Lunch — 11:30-12:00 pm**  
Dismissed — 12:00 pm  
Contact: **Maris Smith RN (VBS Director)**  
email: [ytsirams@gmail.com](mailto:ytsirams@gmail.com) Phone: 605-431-5480

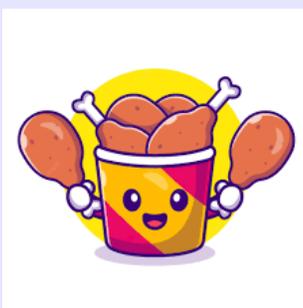
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR NEXT  
**5TH SUNDAY MUSIC CELEBRATION**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 31ST**

**SERVICE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN  
ALL-CHURCH "PICNIC-STYLE" POTLUCK  
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

***Fried Chicken will be provided***

**Bring a side or a dessert!**

**WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS!!!**



# July Mission Emphasis

## Ethnos 360 — Walter & Cheryl Spicer

Ethnos360 is a missionary organization that supports many missionaries working in various capacities. The United Churches' support of **Ethnos 360** goes specifically to **Walter and Cheryl Spicer**, who serve in the **Republic of the Philippines**.

The Spicer's have been missionaries with Ethnos 360 (formerly called New Tribes Mission) for 31 years, teaching MK's (Missionary Kids) in the Philippines. They serve at Faith Academy (FA) where Cheryl is a school nurse and Walter has had several different ministries, including math teacher, NILD therapist (teaching children with learning differences), middle school counselor, vice-principal, and middle school principal. Their ministry is a vital part in advancing God's Kingdom in Southeast Asia. They finished their last home assignment in July 2019 and are presently serving at Faith Academy Cheryl as a school nurse and Walter as the Deputy Head of School (the assistant to the Head of School).

The importance of those who serve MK kids sometimes is overlooked. A close family friend of mine developed recognition in the field of MK kids through her thesis and book, when she worked with MKs in the college setting.

It is fantastic that we support Walter & Cheryl Spicer in their work on the mission field. Walter is the nephew of Pearl Risinger a member of United Churches who passed away a few years ago. Walter and Cheryl were last here in 2019 during their home assignment.

**Our Loose Change Offering for July will be gathered on Sunday, July 9th. If using an offering envelope, please write *Spicers* on the line designated for missions.**



**Please see the next page for our most recent blog update from the Spicers.**

## RENEW, REVIVE, REFRESH

**THE SPICERS  
MAY 2023**

Thank you for praying for us! It has been a fabulous year, though exhausting starting our programs up again. God strengthened us for the task, and we all grew in the process, but most importantly, God was glorified. Our school-wide theme was “Renew, Revive, Refresh,” and we saw God do that in all of us. It was exciting to see how our students grew spiritually this year as evidenced by various activities, ministries, and testimonials.

We have one week left of the school year which is packed with various celebrations, exams, final projects, and graduation. But that means it is a transitional time. Seniors are graduating and moving on to their next chapter in life. Many others are transitioning back to their home countries for good or their home assignment. Transitional times are the hardest part of a missionaries’ life. Please pray for our staff and students during this time.

Then we start the summer running. The very next week is our NTCP Conference (in the Philippines we are known as New Tribes Church Planters) with our fellow missionaries. It will be the first time getting together in over three years, so we are excited! Immediately after the conference, is a Peer Debriefing class that we will both attend.

Pray for the safe delivery of Ashley’s baby in June. Pray that the baby would turn as she is still in a breech position. With the low amniotic fluid level, the doctor is not sure if she will turn. We are excited that Cheryl will return to the US for one month to see this wonderful event. Pray for safe flights and quality time. Cheryl will see most of our adult children, plus Cheryl will spend time with her parents.

Pray for Walter as he remains in the Philippines. He will be busy at school as most of the other Administrators will be gone for the summer. Several of the departments under him will be busily preparing for the new school year.

But it is vacation time for students, so Walter is planning some fun activities with the Butterfly girls. Pray that he and the caregivers will create a memorable/fun break for all of the girls.

As we wind down this school year and prepare for the next school year, pray that we will imitate Mary and NOT Martha—we need to spend time sitting at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:41-42).

Thank you for your continued prayer support.

Blessings,

*Walter and Cheryl Spicer* (Ethnos 360)

**Complete version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" showing spelling and punctuation from Francis Scott Key's manuscript in the Maryland Historical Society collection.**



O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd  
at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd  
were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare,  
the bomb bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night  
that our flag was still there,  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free  
and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,  
'Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion  
A home and a Country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.