

Upcoming Events/Announcements

If you know of someone who has become homebound or who has moved to a care center, please let us know and we will include them in our caring ministries. We love our whole church family and want to ensure that everyone is included, remembered, and loved.

Our February Mission is a food drive to support Church Response. Please donate non-perishable food items that are “sturdily packaged.” Canned meat is especially needed. Please avoid items like plastic fruit cups that can be easily crushed. ***Give from the heart... Let's fill that cart!***

Purchase an Easter flower to honor or remember a loved one. Flowers will decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, and then you may take your flower home with you following whichever Easter worship you attend. The cost is \$15 per flower. Order forms are available in the office or lobby. Please order by March 3.

Holy Week Schedule: Maundy Thursday (March 28) @ 6:30 p.m.; Good Friday (March 29) @ 6:30 p.m.; Lazarus Saturday (March 30) @ 5:30 p.m.; Easter Sunday Services @ 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m.

Adopt-a-Spot: Thanks to everyone who has adopted a spot! We have a few classrooms left. Contact Sandra at (605) 415-0414 if you are interested in helping.

New member classes this spring. Option 1: A one-day retreat-style class on Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Option 2: A five-week series of one-hour Sunday classes beginning February 25. Talk to Pastor Stephanie for more info or mark “Membership Class” on the friendship pad.

Storm Mountain Camp and CLUMC are teaming up for a workday on **Thursday, February 29 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Contact Dan Robinson at [dj198466@gmail.com](mailto:djr198466@gmail.com) or (952) 688-1134 if you are interested.

Mark Your Calendars

February 29: Workday @ Storm Mountain

March 8-9: Men's Retreat @ Storm Mountain

March 16: Easter EGG-stravaganza/Crazy Craft Day 1-3 p.m.

April 16: Blood Drive @ CLUMC



**For the week of
February 25, 2024**

**Canyon Lake
United Methodist Church
Rapid City, SD**

Judges and Ruth

Bible Reading Hints: Try reading out loud, either to yourself or with others. Later this week we are reading the story of Ruth. This book covers two days of reading and is just a marvelous story. Read it together with someone!

Before there was any kind of national Jewish organization, before there were any kinds of formal government and kings, there were judges. These judges were not elected nor appointed; they rose as those with the calling and courage to guide their people through specific crises. So, this week... Judges and Ruth!

Prayer: *Lord, you called the judges at particular times to help with particular problems. In the same way, help me to step forward in courage knowing there are moments when I can be your hands and feet to bring justice to a situation. Lord, guide me in courage I pray! Amen.*

Monday 2.26 "Fickle!" Judges 2:6-17
The Jewish people followed Joshua, and everything looked so good. As time passed and the next generation came, they began to fall away. This produced crisis after crisis in the years that were to come. Sin is a result of forgetfulness: a forgetfulness of who God is or of what we are called to be. And verse 16 says, "Then the Lord raised up judges..." They were present to help the people remember God and remember themselves. What are ways in which you through your life have forgotten who you are?

Tuesday 2.27 "Gideon" Judges 7:1-8,19-23
Gideon was chosen not because of his strength or competence. He was chosen because of his obedience. Starting with 22,000 volunteers, God said over and over, "Still too many. Still too many." This story reminds us that God doesn't need quantity, number advantages, or power games to make things happen. God just needs obedient hearts willing to struggle and stay faithful for the long haul. What strikes you most in this story today?

Wednesday 2.28 "An Ancient Parable" Judges 9:7-15
Parables were not just told in the New Testament times by Jesus. They were used as ancient tools of teaching and communicating. This ancient parable was told by Jotham, a young man who had basically no standing in the tribes. It speaks of all the good choices that were passed over until the seemingly weakest choice was chosen. If you had to explain this parable to a child, how would you explain it?

Thursday 2.29 "Samson" Judges 16:4-30
The story of Samson as a judge is actually a series of stories. If you can, take the time to read chapters 14-16. The verses for today are the story of his downfall and then revenge. The secret of Samson's strength was his hair. But the test of his strength was his integrity. It

doesn't matter how much charisma one has in public if one is compromised in private. How have you seen this be true?

Friday 3.1 "Ruth - Day 1" Ruth 1-2
Thus begins a beautiful double love story. The first part focuses on setting the stage for the love story of Ruth and her mother-in-law. The devotion they shared was so deep. Sometimes, when times are darkest and you feel most hopeless, the most beautiful words that someone can tell you are, "Wherever you go, I will go." And it's the best thing you can tell someone else. What can the story of Ruth and Naomi teach you about loyalty and fidelity?

Saturday 3.2 "Ruth - Day 2" Ruth 3-4
Ruth was first protected by Boaz and then loved by him. This is a story of God moving through a long story. This story ends with Ruth's genealogy. She was the grandmother of David, ancestor of Jesus. It's a reminder that even in the family tree of Jesus, there is room for foreigners and immigrants. What do you think that means for us today?

Sermon Notes
