

### 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 **March mission will support upcoming outreach events** including the Easter EGG-stravaganza in March and Vacation Bible School in July. You can purchase needed items or donate money and we will shop for you. You can also sign up to volunteer at upcoming events. Check out the display in the lobby for more information.

**March 3 is the last day to order Easter flowers** 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 in the office or lobby.

**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. (Sunrise), 8:00 a.m. (Bluegrass), 9:30 a.m. (Traditional), and 11 a.m. (Contemporary).

**Adopt-a-Spot:** Thanks to everyone who has adopted a spot! If you see a spot that you would still like to adopt, contact Sandra at (605) 415-0414.

**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.

### Mark Your Calendars

**March 8-9:** Men’s Retreat @ Storm Mountain

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

**April 14:** Camp Sunday @ both worship services

**April 16:** Blood Drive @ CLUMC



**For the week of  
March 3, 2024**

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

### 1 Samuel: Part 1

**Bible Reading Hints:** Consider walking while you read or listen (only if this would be a safe activity for you!) Activities that utilize both sides of our brain help us to process and learn better! Don’t ask me for details, I wasn’t walking when I was reading that info!

1 Samuel is actually part one of what was originally one text. 1 and 2 Samuel were together, and in some manuscripts, they were also combined with 1 and 2 Kings. These four books were written down when Israel was in exile, and they work together to tell Israel’s history and try to understand how their story in the promised land came to an end in destruction and exile (spoilers, sorry).

**Prayer:** *Lord, as we read of Saul and the role you intended for him, we recognize that we as people do not always live up to your plan for us. We, like Israel, look back and see the destruction and harm we cause. Help us to learn not only from their history, but our own as well, so we may better move into your plans for us. Amen.*

**Monday 3.4 "Samuel as God's Prophet" 1 Samuel 1:1-3:21**

We may not be able to relate to Samuel's childhood, but we can all relate to not understanding what we've heard at some point or another. Maybe you've had to ask for someone to repeat their words five times before you got it finally, as I have often done. As you look at your life, are there times you now realize you took a while to understand God was calling you, or what God was saying to you?

**Tuesday 3.5 "The Philistines" 1 Samuel 4:1-7:17**

The Philistines are a major enemy in the books of Samuel. They were strong, well-armed, and organized under a king with professional military forces. They defeated the Israelites in their first encounter. After that, the people decided bringing the Ark of the Covenant would help them. But were they placing their hope in the item or in the God the item was supposed to represent for them? It is easy to place our trust and hope wrongly or to forget the real purpose behind the words and rituals of our faith. When that happens, what do you do help refocus yourself on God and God's plan for you?

**Wednesday 3.6 "Saul as King" 1 Samuel 8:1-12:25**

The power of the Philistines was a major reason the Israelites wanted a king. Even though God had wanted them to be different than their neighbors, Israel wanted to be similar, thinking a king would make them stronger. God had Samuel anoint Saul to be that king. God still worked through Saul and the kingship even though it was not God's desire. They say hindsight is always 20/20. Looking at your life, are there times you can clearly see you did something you shouldn't have, took a path you weren't meant to, and yet God still worked in that situation?

**Thursday 3.7 "Saul's Downfall Begins" 1 Samuel 13:1-15:35**

You would think at some point everyone would just understand that following God's instructions is the way to go. But just like us, everyone in Israel was human, and as humans, we fail miserably sometimes. Twice, Saul disobeys God's instructions given through Samuel and

does what he thinks is best instead. In the end, he's told he won't retain the kingship. God blessed humanity with choice. Our choices are sometimes detrimental to ourselves and others. Saul spends much of his life fighting the consequences of his actions. How do you deal with the consequences of your choices? How do you involve God in the hard times?

**Friday 3.8 "David Anointed" 1 Samuel 16:1-17:58**

Anointed but not yet king is how we see David here. Unlike Saul's actions previously, David is explicit in stating that his successes come from God and that it will be God working through him that will bring victory to Israel. It can be easy to dwell on our failures, but our strengths are just as important. When have you found yourself placing your trust and the credit for success in God? Have you voiced it aloud? Thanked God?

**Saturday 3.9 "David in Saul's Court" 1 Samuel 18:1-20:42**

David knew he was to be the next king. He also knew Saul was no longer listening to God or acting in the best interest of the people. Yet he still called Saul "king" and refused to hurt him despite Saul's repeated attempts to kill him. In today's world it seems so many allow hatred to rule them and overflow into violence, like Saul did. How can we practice being more like David, remembering God's love for each of us, even those whose won't do the same for us?

**Sermon Notes**

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