

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.

Mission for April: The mission for April is camp scholarships. Canyon Lake UMC pays half of each of our camper's registration fees. Because camp costs range from \$200 to almost \$600, Canyon Lake's support provides meaningful financial assistance to our campers. Please help support this important mission.

Blood Drive: Canyon Lake UMC will host a blood drive this Tuesday, April 16, from 2:30 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. To schedule your appointment, look for the posters around the church (scan the QR code) or call Kent at (605) 347-1629.

Now Hiring: Canyon Lake UMC is hiring a part-time custodian. Applications are available in the office and will be accepted through April 24.

Ready to help? There are many places you can serve Canyon Lake UMC. Are you interested in greeting? Joining the Tech Team? Being a scripture reader? Something else? Contact one of the pastors or the office to see how you can help.

Register for Camp! The Early Bird deadline to register for camp is April 30. You can find the registration link at www.dakcamps.org. Canyon Lake UMC provides scholarships that pay 50% of the cost for each of our campers, **so remember to use our church code (580181CA)** when you register in order to activate your discount. If you need help signing up, please let Erin or Matthew know.

Are you a full-time student in an education program that will lead to a career in healthcare, nursing, or a medical-related field? If so, consider applying for the **Mary & Glen Fiala Scholarship**. The deadline for application is April 15, 2024. Contact the office for the online application link.

Calendar Items & Events

April 14: Camp Sunday @ both worship services

April 16: Blood Drive @ CLUMC

April 28: Youth Breakfast Fundraiser

May 4: UWF Salad Luncheon

THE PATH

For the week of
April 14, 2024

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

Ezra and Nehemiah

Originally, Ezra and Nehemiah were one book. Today we see them standing as two separate writings, although both of them are telling the same story, just from different angles. This story is one of hope and rebuilding. In the year 587 BCE, Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians who razed the city, burning it to the ground, and carried all of the surviving Jewish leaders into captivity. For 60 years, the city and the nation lived in the devastation of exile. And then a new king began to rule in Babylon. He gave the Jewish people permission to return to Jerusalem and rebuild both the city and their religion. Two of the Jewish leaders were Ezra and Nehemiah, who led the people back and worked to restore a broken people.

Prayer: Lord, in those moments when we seem to be broken, walk with us. Guide us through the maze of chaos and confusion, through the puzzle of devastation and loss. Teach us again and again that there is a tomorrow in which you are already present, looking back and waiting for us to enter. Amen.

Monday 4.15 “A New Day” Ezra 1:1-4

The Book of Ezra opens with the joyous return of the exiles and the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. Paul said that our bodies are the “temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19). In what ways is God wanting to do a rebuilding project on your life?

Tuesday 4.16 “Opposition” Ezra 5:9-13

Any work of building the kingdom of God will attract opposition. When those barriers arise, we need to be steadfast in our resolve, to boldly say, “We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth.” (vs 11) How is it that God is strengthening you to face opposition to the work you are doing for God’s kingdom?

Wednesday 4.17 “Deep Prayer” Ezra 9:7-15

Ezra was a priest. He was charged with bringing the people back to God. This meant that he himself had to be right with God. And so he prayed. His prayer not only offered confessions for disobedience. It also motivated the people to remember who God is. Living by faith is not just getting our behaviors right. It is about being more attentive to what God is doing. What strikes you in Ezra’s prayer?

Thursday 4.18 “Nehemiah’s Prayer” Nehemiah 1:1-11

Nehemiah prayed, then God called him to be the answer to his own prayer! He saw the devastation of Jerusalem, and God called him to be the agent of restoration. That’s sometimes what happens when we pray: God summons us to be the answer to our own prayers. How might you be the answer to your prayers for our world?

Friday 4.19 “Building the Wall and...” Nehemiah 5:1-8

Nehemiah’s task was to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem, which he would accomplish in record

time. But he was also tasked with rebuilding a people, teaching them how to live with each other again. He had to rebuild economic justice between the rich and the poor, all while maintaining his own integrity and humility and overcoming threats from his enemies. He is one of the Old Testament’s greatest leaders. What can you learn from his example? (You may want to read more of the surrounding chapters to learn more about him!)

Saturday 4.20 “Consecrating a People” Nehemiah 8:1-8

Returning from exile did not just involve rebuilding a wall. It meant building a consecrated people. Ezra’s reforms rooted the people in the law and anchored them in confession, remembrance, commitment, and covenant renewal. How can you incorporate those four elements in your own spiritual journey?

Sermon Notes
