

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.

The **mission for April is camp scholarships**. Canyon Lake UMC pays 50% 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.

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

We Need You! There are so many places that you can serve Canyon Lake UMC. Are you interested in greeting? Joining the Tech Team? Being a scripture reader? Cleaning an area of the church? Something else? Contact one of the pastors or the office and let us know where you are interested in serving.

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.

A special Charge Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. We will be discussing a modification to the church budget because of a change to Pastor Stephanie's insurance package. We anticipate this meeting will be brief.

Blood Drive Results: Thank you to everyone who donated blood. Twelve units were collected! Mark your calendars for our next blood drive in August.

Calendar Items & Events

April 24: Special Charge Conference @ 7:30 p.m.

April 28: Youth Breakfast Fundraiser

April 30: Mountain Men Workday (Storm Mtn) @ 9 a.m.

May 4: UWF Salad Luncheon

May 19: Fellowship Event at Storm Mountain -Time TBD

THE PATH

For the week of
April 21, 2024

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

The Power of Story

One of the most powerful roles the Bible plays in our lives over the generations is the telling of story. This week we explore the story of Esther and then turn the page into the book of wisdom known as Job (pronounced Jōbe). Esther is a story of the Jewish people in a time of deep danger and the courage of one young woman. Job is one of the oldest... if not THE oldest... stories in the Bible, older even than the Genesis stories. It wrestles with the question of bad things happening to good people asking about God's presence and role in our lives. Enjoy exploring the stories!

Prayer: Lord, you meet us in the middle of our disasters. We know that you don't prevent and stop the chaos of our lives, but instead you give us the strength to meet each and every difficulty. So, give us that strength today. Help us to grow in your love. Help us to meet each challenge. Amen.

Monday 4.22 “Meet Esther” Esther chapters 1-4

Interestingly, God is not named in Esther, but God is powerfully active. God’s work toward justice will not be stopped, whether we choose to participate in it or not. 4:14 says, “Who knows whether you haven’t come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” How can you participate in God’s work today?

Tuesday 4.23 “Evil Revealed” Esther chapters 5-10

Now the story really gets serious and complicated. Haman is bound and determined to annihilate the Jewish people. It is only through Esther’s courage that disaster is averted. Haman is killed by the very device with which he intended to kill Mordecai. It’s a plot twist that is a commentary on sin. We are undone by how we would undo others. It’s a corollary of the Golden Rule that highlights “just desserts”: You will have done to you what you would do unto others. What really jumps out at you in this story?

Wednesday 4.24 “Have You Seen my Servant Job?” Job 1:1-22

This story of Job needs much of what the Bible has said so far about rewarding only the faithful and punishing only the wicked. It allows us to ask, “Why, God?” The permission to ask that question is itself liberating. In what ways might you be asking that question of God today?

Thursday 4.25 “With Friends Like That...” Job 4:1-6 & 6:1-7

You know the old saying: “With friends like that, who needs enemies?” Job is confronted by his “best” friends. They confront him and try to talk him into just giving up. Job’s prayer to God is raw, honest, and real. It gives us permission to do the same when we are struggling with the faith and with God. Can you believe that God can handle your lament, impatience, doubt, and fear?

Friday 4.26 “Deep Pain” Job 16:18-17:2

Job is crying out. He has lost everything and everybody. He is broken. And yet... and yet he still falls back on God. Even Job’s friends are against him, speaking more than listening, telling him it’s his fault, and getting him to shake off that pain. They are unhelpful... to say the least! Job feels alone. Job 17 is as honest a look at the human condition as there is in the whole Bible. How might you befriend someone in need in a more helpful way than Job’s friends do?

Saturday 4.27 “Where Is God?” Job 29:1-10

Job asserts his integrity with those around him as well as with God. Everything was going wrong in his life, but he could still know that he was obeying God’s laws the best he could. Our integrity might be all we have left, but that is enough. It’s often the one thing we can control. When have you found this to be true?

Sermon Notes
