

Upcoming Events/Announcements

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

SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS UPDATE: We have surpassed our goal of 234 boxes for our Shoebox Christmas mission! Boxes delivered on December 5. **Thank you** for continuing to keep this wonderful CLUMC tradition alive!

Our December mission is MUSH – Mittens, Underwear, Socks & Hats. We are collecting WARM mittens, socks, and hats for ADULT men and women. And everyone needs (clean) underwear, too. Thank you for providing some of the "essentials" needed for cold winter days and nights.

This year's Advent sermon series will be based on Amy-Jill Levine's book, ***A Child is Born***. Check out [Cokesbury](#) to learn more about the study and purchase books if you would like to follow along.

Order your poinsettias today to remember or honor your loved ones. They will decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, and you can take a poinsettia home afterward. The cost is \$17. Find poinsettia forms in the office and lobby or call the office to order. The deadline to order poinsettias is December 14. CLUMC will be holding a **Longest Night service at 5:30 p.m.** on Saturday, December 21. This service is for those who need a quiet moment away from all the hurry and hype of Christmas.

Christmas Eve services will be held on December 24 at 2 p.m. (Family Focused), 4 p.m. (Contemporary), 6 p.m. (Traditional), and 10 p.m. (Candlelight/Acapella).

Calendar at a Glance

December 6 & 7: Christmas Cantata

December 13: UWF Christmas Brunch Bunch

December 14: Children's Christmas Program

December 21: Longest Night Service @ 5:30 PM

December 24: Christmas Eve Services @ 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM, and 10 PM

December 28: One combined Sunday Service @ 9 AM

THE PATH

For the week of
December 7, 2025
Canyon Lake
United Methodist Church
Rapid City, SD

Advent 2

"Hope in God"

These words come from Bishop Ruben Job in his book "A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk with God" on page 28: "What I have come to see is that there is nothing more important to human beings than hope. Certainly, on our own day, many people live without explicit religious faith. And evidence of loveless lives is tragically abundant. But people usually do not survive long without hope. They cannot, because hope is the very heart of a human being..." This week let's talk about our need for hope.

Prayer: Lord, you brought all things into being and know the secrets of the furthest galaxies as well as those within the hidden universe of the human heart. May we always hope for your faithful love, which surrounds us all our days. Amen.

Monday 12.8 "Abram becomes Abraham" Genesis 17:1-8

The name "Abram" means "exalted father." Abram was told by God to move to a new land taking everything with him. He walked in covenant with God who promised that he would become the father of a nation. This move was a huge challenge and adventure for him and his whole family. They had hope for a new beginning, but in order to get to that new place, they had to let go of everything else. They gave up their home, their extended family, their place in community, and much of their history. When we seek hope, it is important to realize that there are times when this hope often comes with a price tag. If we want something new, we have to let go of the old. Abram would become "Abraham", which means "father of a multitude". He walked in hope! What are you hoping for?

Tuesday 12.9 "When Life is Tough" Psalm 119:159-170

Life is not easy. We all know this. As much as we want life to be avoiding difficulty, that's just not the way it works. Notice in this part of Psalm 119 that the expectation is not that there is either trouble OR hope. The author expects there to be trouble AND hope. You cannot erase trouble, but you can rely on God's hope each and every day. It is the hope that carries us THROUGH the trouble. How can you see this being true in your life?

Wednesday 12.10 "The King on a Donkey" Zechariah 9:9-12

This passage is actually quite famous: It is the prophecy of Jesus riding into Jerusalem that happened on Palm Sunday. As Christians, we see this as a word of hope. As we look backward in time, we view this passage as a prediction of what is to come. We see this as a sign of hope that God has plans for us, plans that were created thousands of years ago that bear fruit in God's good time. How have you seen God walking with you over time?

Thursday 12.11 "In His Name Will Be Hope" Matthew 12:1-23

Verse 21: "In his name, the Gentiles will hope." Part of the power of the gospels lies in the fact that hope is shared. Our faith in Christ is not just something promised for the Jews, but available as well for all of us who are Gentile. Reread this passage. It is a passage of Jesus in typical ministry. He was just doing what he normally did, but his normal is incredibly special in our eyes. As you read, what does Jesus do that you yourself can relate to / understand that shows God's hope?

Friday 12.12 "Christ in our Sufferings" Romans 8:19-29

Again, we are invited to see that in life's troubles, Christ is most fully present. This chapter of Romans focuses on the suffering that we are walking through. When it feels like we are alone; when it feels like the world is crashing in on us. When it seems like all is lost, THAT is often when we can most powerfully see Christ at work in our lives. This is the power of hope. When have been some of the dark times in your life when you have seen Christ most powerfully at work?

Saturday 12.13 "Christ's Power Over Death" 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

We believe that Christ holds power even over death. Paul's first letter to the people of Corinth is aimed at a small, new group of Christians who were diverse in their backgrounds. And they did not get along all that well together. Part of the reason for this is that they needed to be taught very basic beliefs that Christians hold together. One of the areas of belief that they needed help with was in the area of dying, death, and resurrection. By the way Paul has written this, you can tell that many within this early congregation did not believe in resurrection. So Paul explained to them "If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, then your faith is futile..." (vs 16). Instead of futility, Paul was teaching hope... God's hope! We are given this hope that is so much more powerful than our futility. Look back over the readings for this week. Take the time in prayer today to realize this hope is for you.



Sermon Notes

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. / Friday 9 a.m.- 12 noon