

### 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.

**Our November mission is Shoebox Christmas.** Gift tags are still available in the lobby. **Gifts will be transported on December 5, so if you want yours included, take them to the church no later than Monday, December 1.** Our goal is at least 200 boxes!

**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.

**Join us today for a BIG dose of holiday cheer!** Our Christmas Potluck and Sing-Along will be held today, Sunday, November 30 at 12 noon. We'll share a meal and our favorite Christmas tunes!

**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

**November 30: Christmas Potluck & Sing-Along**

**December 1: Deadline to return Christmas Shoeboxes**

**December 6 & 7: Christmas Cantata**

**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  
**November 30, 2025**

Canyon Lake  
United Methodist Church  
Rapid City, SD

## Advent 1

### "Setting the Foundation"

Every year in December, we love to hear the words of the Christ-child's birth. Many of us know it by heart. We all know it. Or do we? Inside Advent this year we are exploring the foundations of Jesus' story. Although the story of Jesus' birth is found only in the New Testament, the foundations of his story are found deep within the Old Testament. This week we will be exploring more of the story of the births of Abraham's two sons, Ishmael and Isaac as we set the foundation for our Christmas story.

Prayer: Lord, we hold sacred the birth of Christ. So, help us understand more deeply this week. Help us to open our minds and our curiosity. Help us to ask questions and consider concepts we have not thought of before. Prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ-child once more. Amen.

**Monday 12.1**                      **"Foundations"**                      **Psalm 97:1-5**  
Verse 2 says, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne." Everything that happens in our faith history does not simply appear out of nowhere. Everything has a foundation. Our world, our culture, our faith... Everything has a foundation on which is laid layer after layer, story after story of our history. Our faith today began with setting foundations thousands of years ago.

**Tuesday 12.2**                      **"Hannah's Song"**                      **1 Samuel 2:1-10**  
One of the themes that is set forth time and again throughout our Bible is that children are born to people who before could not bear those children. One of the beautiful examples of this is the story of Hannah giving birth to Samuel. So much joy, so much celebration, so much reliance on God. There are moments in our own lives when we are resigned to the seemingly impossible, and then God's presence appears and the impossible happens. This story is a really important foundation stone that helps build the stage for Jesus' birth millennia later.

**Wednesday 12.3**                      **"Abraham, GO!"**                      **Genesis 12:1-7**  
Abraham thought he was set for life. He was living in community with his extended family. He had everything he needed, and then God said, "GO!" Again, this part of the greater story is a crucial foundation stone for Jesus. You can easily make the argument that much of Abraham's journey as he explored brand new directions in his life has parallels in Jesus' life as he explored brand new directions that changed the world. God also empowered Jesus to GO!

**Thursday 12.4**                      **"The Promise of Children!"**                      **Genesis 15:1-6**  
God cast a covenant with Abraham. "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them. So shall your descendants be." This was a powerful promise to Abraham. In his day and in his culture, if you did not have children, you were simply not complete. You had no one to help you run the family; you had no one to inherit your life. This promise was the most important thing of all to Abraham. And Abraham believed this strangely timed promise!

**Thursday 12.4**                      **Ishmael's Birth"**                      **Genesis 16:1-5, 15-16**  
Abraham and Sarah became impatient. They could not figure out what God was doing. They waited and waited for a pregnancy that seemed to never happen. And so, sixteen years before the birth of Isaac, Ishmael became the first-born son through their servant, Hagar. They thought this would create the promise's fulfillment. But the timing was not right, and the situation was not right. Ishmael was a son given to Abraham but not in the way God's covenant intended. Ishmael is one of the important foundation stones.

**Friday 12.5**                      **"Isaac's Birth"**                      **Genesis 21:1-7**  
And then... finally!... came Isaac. Born of Sarah, this was the child that truly and intentionally fulfilled the covenant. In so many ways, we are like Abraham and Sarah. We are waiting and waiting for God to show up, and when our impatience gets the best of us, we create shortcuts only discover that God never intended for us to take a shortcut. We are called back again and again in our lives to rely on God's timing. This long-awaited birth would prove to be a powerful foundation stone in their and our faith story.

**Saturday 12.6**                      **"Mary's Song"**                      **Luke 1:46-55**  
As we have read the stories of Abraham, Sarah, Ishmael, and Isaac this week, it cannot be spoken too strongly how these ancient birth stories set the stage for Jesus' story. Today we read and remember the joy that Mary had as she gave thanks to God for a pregnancy... a new birth story... that would change our world.



## Sermon Notes

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