

Upcoming Events/Announcements

If someone you know has become homebound or 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 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.

Bring your unopened **travel-size** lotions, shampoos, and conditioners to the church. We can use them in hygiene kits!

This year's Advent sermon series is based on Magrey DeVega's book, *The Christmas Letters*. There are still books available for purchase for a suggested \$12. **Pastor Scott's Tuesday Table Talk will be meet at 6 p.m.** through December 17 and will be sharing in Bishop Lanette's video leadership of *The Christmas Letters*.

The deadline to order poinsettias is December 15. 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 and complete them today.

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).

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.

We are celebrating **Canyon Lake UMC's 75th Anniversary** all throughout 2025. We'll share memories, look to the future, and have many opportunities to celebrate. Our first special event will be held on January 11 & 12 when we welcome Pastor Kent Millard back as a guest preacher. Watch for more details.

Calendar at a Glance

December 21: Longest Night Service @ 5:30 p.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship: 2pm, 4 pm, 6 pm, and 10 pm

December 25 & 26: Church office closed for Christmas holiday

December 29: ONE COMBINED Sunday Worship @ 9 a.m.

In the midst of the holiday season, we pray for safe travels and for love, joy, peace, patience, and unity among family and friends as they gather.

THE PATH



For the week of
December 15, 2024

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

Fully Human: Joy in Humility

We continue to explore the idea that Christ-followers celebrated Christmas and the coming of Jesus into this world even before the gospel birth stories were written. If there were no Matthew and no Luke, no story of wisemen following a star or shepherds coming to the stable, how did they understand Christ coming to this world. The earliest New Testament letters of our Christian faith, all of them written before the gospels were written, help us to understand and guide us in our own celebrations.

A Prayer written by Laurence Hull Stookey: Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

Monday 12.16 "Misfit Toys and Joy" Phil. 2:1-5

The Bible Year: 2 Peter 1-2

The Christmas Letters pp. 71-77

The poem at the beginning of Philippians 2 may very well be the earliest hymn that we have in our Christian writings. It just flows so beautifully and fits so wonderfully into our faith. On page 73, Magrey DeVega reminds us of the scenes in Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer where he encounters the land of the misfit toys. This resonates so powerfully with us because in some way, shape, or form, we can all see our own selves as misfit toys in this world. So, today look at yourself in all your complexity with all of your flaws and then look again through the words of Philippians 2. How does this passage fit you?

Tuesday 12.17 "Though vs. Because" Phil. 2:6-11

The Bible Year: 2 Peter 3

The Christmas Letters pp. 77-80

In verse 6 in most of our Bible translations, the sentence begins with the word "though." A better translation might use the word "because." Read verse 6 multiple times. Each time switch from "though" to "because." Do you see a difference? How does that word change make a difference? Either way, how do these words in verses 6-11 bring you comfort and encouragement?

Wednesday 12.18 "Empathy, Curiosity, Humility" Phil. 2:1-5

The Bible Year: 1 John 1-3

The Christmas Letters pp. 80-86

We are spending a lot of time this week on this same passage. Of these three words, empathy, curiosity, and humility, which do you find to be the easiest to have and use? Which one is the most difficult? Why do you think this might be?

Thursday 12.19 "Philippians: The Book of Joy!" Phil. 4:1-13

The Bible Year: 1 John 4-5

The Christmas Letters pp. 87-89

It is often a difficult concept to explain: Joy is something that you can possess and be filled with even when things are not

going well in your life. It is possible to have joy in the face of disaster, illness, death, and just plain old bad luck. Joy goes deep into your soul. Philippians 4:1-13 helps give us guidance with how to claim this. Can you find moments of this in your own life?

Friday 12.20 "Mary: From Fear to Joy" Luke 1:46-55

The Bible Year: 2 John 1

The Christmas Letters pp. 90-95

This passage is known as The Magnificat. It is Mary's song after being in the presence of the angel. Mary would have been a teenager. The news she received could have been terrifying for her. Instead, she was able to move away from fear and into joy. Where have you seen this happen out there in our big, wide world throughout history?

Saturday 12.21 "A Letter from God" Phil. 2:1-11

The Bible Year: 3 John 1

The Christmas Letters pp. 95-98

Once again, reread this passage, except this time think of this a letter from God being sent directly to you. What is God trying to say to you? How do you think this could change how you see both yourself and the world around you?

Sermon Notes
