

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!

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).

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. Save these dates:

January 11 & 12, 2025: Pastor Kent Millard preaching

May 17 & 18, 2025: Pastor Bob Ruedebusch preaching

September 20, 2025: Dinner and music celebration

September 21, 2025: Bishop Lanette Plambeck preaching

Poinsettias will decorate our sanctuary on Christmas Eve. If you purchased a poinsettia, please take one home with you after whichever Christmas Eve service you attend. **Poinsettias not picked up by December 29 will be donated.**

Calendar at a Glance

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.

January 1: Church office closed for New Year's Day Holiday

January 11 & 12: Pastor Kent Millard preaching

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 22, 2024

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

Fully Divine: Peace through Christ

In the past month, we have been working through Magrey DeVega's study *The Christmas Letters*. His writing has guided us into Christmas by examining not the Christmas story of the gospels but rather the earliest letters and writings of the New Testament Letters. We have explored God's love becoming incarnate (in the flesh). We have explored Jesus being fully human. This week we explore Jesus being fully divine as we search for peace in our lives and world through Christ.

Prayer: This is the Prayer of St. Francis. Written in the 13th century, it could have been written yesterday: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. And where there is sadness, joy. O Diving Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Monday 12.23 "Peace through Christ" Colossians 1:15-20

The Bible Year: Jude 1

The Christmas Letters pp. 101-105

We all whisper the words "Peace on earth" during these days of Christmas. We long for and imagine what our world would be like if only there could be peace. There can be peace. We understand this as we focus on Jesus the Christ. It seems impossible, but it begins inside each of us. How can you help bring peace in your little corner of the world?

Tuesday 12.24 "The Image of the Invisible" Colossians 1:15

The Bible Year: Revelation 1:1-3, 2:9-11

The Christmas Letters pp. 105-110

"The Son is the image of the invisible God." In the middle of winter, we walk out into the bitter cold of December and see our breaths. Clouds of vapor go with us as we simply breathe the winter air making what is normally invisible visible. It's like that with Christ. Through Jesus we are able to see what God looks like in our world.

Wednesday 12.25 "Changing the World" Luke 2:1-20

The Bible Year: Revelation 3:14-22

The Christmas Letters pp. 110-117

The coming of Jesus as a tiny child into a truly difficult time changed the world. Jesus continues to change our world. When you consider Jesus, what do you come to know about God? How will you make Jesus the center of your life so that you and the world around you can be changed?

Thursday 12.26 "Remembering the Lyrics"

The Bible Year: Revelation 10:1-11

The Christmas Letters pp. 117-120

Welcome to Christmas! Take a moment to think of one of your favorite Christmas songs. Most likely this is a song that you have known for years, if not decades. Just to yourself, sing a verse of the song. You may not remember all the lyrics, but most of them you do. Those lyrics over the years have helped to shape you and your faith. Welcome to Christmas. Know today that the love of God is in the lyrics you remember.

Friday 12.27

"Don't Miss It!"

The Bible Year: Revelation 12:1-17

The Christmas Letters pp. 120-127

Sometimes there is just so much happening during this season of the year that it can be incredibly easy to miss the important details. On page 123, DeVega quotes the author Anne Lamott as she gives us advice about missing out on life: 1) Don't miss a chance to look up into the sky. 2) Don't miss the chance to forgive; that includes forgiving yourself. 3) Don't miss the chance to say I love you, I'm sorry, and thank you. 4). Don't miss the chance to sing. 5) Don't miss the chance to see Jesus.

Saturday 12.28

"The Christmas Letters"

The Bible Year: Revelation 16:1-8

The Christmas Letters pp. 127-131

God has sent us love letters through the Christmas story and the coming of Jesus. How will you make this Christmas story more than something you remember, but instead something you live out?

Sermon Notes
