

## 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.

**Praise Band Fundraiser:** Time to raise for praise!! We are in need of:

Drum kit, Guitar amps, Guitar pedals, Microphones, and Monitors.

To contribute, visit [CLUMC.com/give](https://CLUMC.com/give) and click on the worship band fundraiser! Cash and checks are also accepted, write worship band in memo!! Any amount is greatly appreciated. Our goal is about \$7000.

**Discipleship Retreat/Class:** Pastor Stephanie is excited to announce that there will be a one-day Discipleship Retreat at Canyon Lake UMC this summer. It will be held June 21st from 9 am-2 pm and will include a potluck lunch. What is the Discipleship Retreat/Class, you might ask? This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the United Methodist Church as a whole and about Canyon Lake UMC specifically, as well as learning about what membership in a UM church means. Anyone and everyone are welcome to attend the class. It is wonderful for folks new to Canyon Lake, new to the United Methodist Church, or even for folks who have grown up UM or in Canyon Lake but want to know more or get a refresher.

**Mission U 2025:** "Practicing Hope" by Tabatha Holley. Mission u is a transformative educational program that encompasses both Bible-based curricula and events. Interested in deepening your faith in community? Gaining experience interpreting Scripture? Working toward healing for yourself, your community, and all of creation? Mission u is for you! Registration is due by June 15, 2025, and you need a brochure for registration. Please stop by the office for your brochure. For more information and to purchase the curriculum, with this link <https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/>

## Calendar at a Glance

**May 25: Beginning of Summer Worship Hours – Saturday 5:30 PM, Sunday 8:30 and 10:15 AM**

**May 26: Church Office Closed for Memorial Day**

**May 27: Beginning Summer Office Hours – Monday -Thursday, 9:00 AM – Noon, Closed Friday**

**June 6-8: Dakotas Annual Conference 2025**

**June 7: 2<sup>nd</sup> annual black Hills Pride Parade, downtown Rapid City, 10 – 11 AM**

**June 28: Pride in the Park 2025 "Live Outloud, Love Outloud", Memorial Park in Rapid City, 10 AM – 4 PM**

**June 29: Drop-off for Rummage Sale**

**July 11 – 13: Mission U at Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD**

**July 19 & 20: Canyon Lake UMC Rummage Sale**

**July 28-30 Vacation Bible School**

# THE PATH

For the week of  
**May 25, 2025**

Canyon Lake  
United Methodist Church  
Rapid City, SD

## "Perfectly Imperfect Descriptions"

All throughout the Bible we find people trying desperately to describe things beyond our imaginings and comprehension. Most notably, we see this in Jesus' ministry as he worked to help us understand the infinite concept of God's Kingdom in finite human words. But elsewhere we also read attempts to describe God, God's relationship to us, even God's love. It just never quite gets it perfect. It is impossible for us to perfectly describe any of it while we are still so solidly bound to this imperfect reality. So, we have tried again and again, not just in the Bible, but also in song, in prayer, in private, and in community. And we will keep trying for as long as our descriptions remain imperfect

**Prayer:** Lord God, you are creator, friend, powerful, compassionate. So many words we can use to describe you and they will not get even close to encompassing who and what you are. Keep us always creatively open to finding new descriptions of all that makes up your being, and in turn, all that is part your children who are made in your image. Amen.

**Monday 5.26**                      **"Eternal"**                      Genesis 1:1  
Genesis does not start saying that God came into being, but that God was already existing and began creating. God was there when nothing else was. Isaiah calls God everlasting, Hebrews states God has no beginning or end. So many times, the writers try to help us understand how God is eternal. But nothing else is that way. Everything else we experience has a start and an end. Sit with that. How does God being eternal make you feel? How does your mind try to grasp this?

**Tuesday 5.27**                      **"All-Powerful"**                      Job 38:4-15  
We know power. We see it around us and we feel it when we don't have it. We often watch it be used in self-serving ways. Do we really want a God that has ALL the power? Can we trust a God like that? Yes! Because God's power is nothing like the power we are familiar with. God's power is *never* used to oppress or hurt, but is *always* used to build up and love. Our imperfect understanding of human power does not even hold a candle to God's perfect power.

**Wednesday 5.8**                      **"All-Knowing"** Job 38:16-24  
We have to work to gain knowledge and understanding. God contains all knowledge and understanding. Every bit of information we could put in our heads is already known by God. Everything we have to be taught about history and everything yet to be discovered in our future is already known by God. But it goes farther than that. Everything about *us* is known by God, our thoughts and intentions, our secrets, our fears. Everything about each and every corner and creature of creation is known by God. We cannot even fathom the knowledge God holds.

**Thursday 5.29**                      **"Light"**                      John 8:12  
The last three days have shown concepts that are hard for us to grasp. We don't understand them perfectly. So, the Biblical authors offered other ways for us to understand God. One way was as "light." Light lets us see, guides our way, offers reassurance or comfort in the midst of literal darkness. God does all of this perfectly for us in our lives, illuminating the path, leading us, showing us the way, comforting and reassuring us. How has God been light to you?

**Friday 5.30**                      **"Rock"**                      Psalm 18:2  
In nature, something that seems completely dependable is the strength and stability of rock. A large mountain will seem to never move or come down. It stands against wind and storms through time. We know that it can in fact be shaken by earthquakes, and time changes how it looks, but still, "like a rock" is our metaphor for dependable, immovable, strong. When has God been your rock? When has God been your strength, your immovable foundation, the one you could depend on beyond all else?

**Saturday 5.31 "Shepherd"**                      2 Chronicles 7:14  
A shepherd guides, protects, and nurtures their flock. But we also know that human shepherds might fall asleep, be distracted, or even give up in the face of danger or difficulty. Knowing that God is our perfect shepherd who will not tire, or hunger, who will not grow weary, and who will always care for us no matter what, may feel like a relief when humanity shows its imperfections to us.



### Sermon Notes

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