

Upcoming Events/Announcements

If you know of someone who has become homebound or who 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 mission for the month is a diaper drive to support Mommy's Closet. You can drop off diapers (size 5 or 6), wipes, or formula at the display in the lobby. We surpassed our original 1,000 diaper goal and have increased our goal to 2,000 diapers!

We have a pictorial directory printed for each pew in our sanctuary. All photos have been provided by the individual or families pictured. If you would like to be included or want to update a name or picture, please email the church office at office@clumc.com.

The Bible Year books have arrived. If you pre-ordered a book, you may pick up the copy marked with your name during regular office hours or during worship times. If you did not pre-order but would like a copy, we have some extras, so please check with us. The suggested donation is \$17 or give what you are able.

Thanks to all of you, **our Forward in Faith capital campaign is off to an amazing start.** We are over halfway to our \$200,000 goal. Please continue to pray for the vitality of Canyon Lake UMC.

Winter Weather is upon us. We will follow weekday closures from Rapid City Area Schools (if schools are closed, church activities will be canceled). If we have to cancel weekend worship services, we will send an email, and we will post on our Facebook page. Remember that online worship is always an option if you don't want to venture out.

We are accepting donations of hospitality items used in our Coffee Café including Goldfish crackers, Cheerios, coffee creamers, etc. If you have questions, contact the church office.

Mark Your Calendars

January 26-27: Winter Connection for youth @ CLUMC

January 28: Youth Fundraiser Breakfast in between services

February 4: Fellowship Game Day from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

February 10-11: Forward in Faith Celebration Weekend

February 14: Ash Wednesday

February 24-25: UWF Weekend @ all services

THE PATH

**For the week of
January 21, 2024**

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

Creating a People

Stop and think for a moment about the formation of the society in which we live. What does it take to create a people, to form a nation and society? We are simply used to our nation where there are elections and congresses and presidents, governors, mayors. We count on a court system to help us work toward justice. In our communities there are rules, written and unwritten, about how we live as neighbors. But 400 years ago, none of this existed. Step by step over time our nation created this society. It didn't happen all at once. It took time, and actually is still in process. What you are reading in this week's readings is exactly the same thing. These were the rules and guidance being established for the Hebrew / Jewish people. These guidelines would not have been placed in this book if millennia ago they had not been determined to be important. This week, try imagining yourself living in this time period and realizing why these guidelines were so important. This week's readings are a short version of our "Bible Year" readings.

Bible reading tips for this week: 1) You can do this as an audiobook. Go to "YouVersion.com" and explore all the different options and translations. In this website, you will find the audio option. Listen while you drive, while you walk, while you exercise! 2) Check out "Bible Project" online. This is a huge series of animated explanations in brief, easy-to-understand videos that will help you get the big picture of a Biblical book and thus help you understand the specific passages you are reading. 3) Join (or create) a small group to discuss your questions. You can form a group by yourself with friends, OR... you are also invited to come participate in Tuesday evenings' "Table Talk." We meet at 7:00 p.m. at the church and talk about any and all questions that are brought to the table. It's a fascinating conversation and brings a lot of joyful insight into your Bible reading journey!

Prayer: Lord, help us to remember that our society, our nation, our culture are all works in progress. In the same way you were in the lives of the ancient Hebrews helping and guiding them, so be with us as we seek to make our world a place where your name, your power, and your love are known. Let this begin with me. Amen.

Monday 1.22 "Fair is fair!" Exodus 22:1-6

If you break something, you are the one who should fix it. After all, fair is fair. That is exactly what chapter 22 and 23 are all about. In our nation we have a strict separation of church and state, but we also know that one of the commonalities that should overlap both faith and government is common sense (even though that can be utilized all too little!). These verses are calling for fairness and common sense. Where can you name this as happening in our world today?

Tuesday 1.23 "Creating sacred space" Exodus 25:10-23

For generations the Hebrew people wandered in the wilderness. There came a time when they needed to invent a place that honored God and created a space that was absolutely sacred to them as a nation. In chapters 25-27, they are given specific instructions for how to make the Tabernacle (a portable Temple). These instructions begin with the most important part of the project: the Ark (the box where the Ten Commandment stone tablets would be stored). Where are your sacred spaces? What makes them so sacred to you?

Wednesday 1.24 "Sacred place, sacred priests" Exodus 28:1-4

If you are going to have a sacred Tabernacle, you must have someone to serve as sacred priests. Moses' brother Aaron was chosen to deal with the details. We all have known sacred leaders in our lives. Sacred priests, sacred pastors, sacred church members. Who is that in your life? What made them sacred? Do you see any of those traits in your own life?

Thursday 1.25 "The Golden Calf" Exodus 32:1-10

As Moses was up on the mountain receiving the Ten Commandments, the people down below thought it was taking too long. So, they decided to take faith matters into their own hands. For 400 years they had been living as slaves surrounded by the Egyptian gods. It should come as no surprise that they reverted to a golden calf that was more familiar to them. Although we do not call them "gods," there are lots of things that take higher priority in our lives than worshiping and

following our God. What are some of the greatest "other gods" that you see in our society today?

Friday 1.26 "Building the Tabernacle" Exodus 35:1-10, 40:32

Up to this point, everything was in the planning and gathering stage. The supplies needed to build the Tabernacle formed a huge list. As a community, as a people, the Hebrews worked together to build this sacred space. The common task, but more than that the common faith focus drew them together as a people, as a nation, as a society. Since the founding of our nation, how has faith been part of what binds us together here in our nation?

Saturday 1.27 "Bring your offering!" Leviticus 1:1-4

The book of Leviticus can be seen as a fabulously boring book. It is pre-eminently a book of worship. On the surface we would read through Leviticus and ask the question, "What in heaven's name does this have to do with us?" What you find is that the instructions for worship have something far more important underneath: the call for God's justice. Worship was seen as a way to live God's justice. In what ways do you see this being lived (or not lived) in our own faith, nation, and churches?

Sermon Notes
