

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.

Join us for our **January Youth Breakfast fundraiser today (January 28)** after the 8:30 a.m. service in the Christian Life Center.

After last weekend, **we had raised over \$168,000 of our \$200,000 goal for our Forward in Faith capital campaign.** Our wrap-up celebration will be held the weekend of February 10-11.

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.

You may pick up your **Bible Year** book in the office if you haven't yet done so. If you did not pre-order but would like a book, please talk to any of us or stop by or call the office.

Would you like to be part of our **counting team** who ensure the accuracy of our weekly offering and bank deposit? If so, let the office or Pastor Stephanie know.

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 28: Youth Fundraiser Breakfast in between services

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

February 7: Forgiveness Class w/Chris Heacock @ 4:30 p.m. (Classroom #1)

February 10-11: Forward in Faith Celebration Weekend

February 14: Ash Wednesday worship @ 6 p.m.

February 15: Singles Sharing Meals @ 11:30 a.m.

February 24-25: UWF Weekend @ all services



THE PATH

**For the week of
January 28, 2024**

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

Leviticus: Law and Love

Pastor Scott talked last week about how the rules we have today didn't exist 400 years ago. How the society we know has been created step by step. Our faith is very similar. While the Truth we carry is the same, that God loves all of creation and desires for us to know God fully, how we understand and live that out in our world has changed over time. How do we reconcile some of what we read in the Bible with how we know God and live today? This has always been a source of debates and even anger over the years. Let's take time to read some challenging passages and wrestle with how we interpret them in our lives.

Bible reading tips for this week: "Do not let your hearts be troubled" John 14:1a. The Bible can be hard to read, either because of difficult words and names or because of the content. Remember, God's story is the story of redemption and change, being told through humanity's understanding of who God is. Don't let difficult stories keep you from continuing. Ask questions and bring up your discomfort with others. It is okay to be uncomfortable with what you read.

Prayer: Lord God, we thank You for the relationship You seek to have with us. Help us as we wrestle with the stories and descriptions we read of You and Your people. Help us when we are uncomfortable, confused, and shocked by what is said or done in Your Name. Help us to see that even when humanity has failed to see or hear You clearly, You still work for Your good in the world. Amen.

Monday 1.29

"Boys vs. Girls"

Leviticus 12:5

One *could* take this passage to mean that a boy causes their mother to be less unclean than a girl, somehow showing boys to be better than girls. And most societies have created this gender disparity either claiming women or men stronger, better leaders, or more useful to society. But this idea creates a hierarchy that does not at all reflect the love and care Jesus

showed for His followers regardless of gender. In what ways do we still see gender disparity in our society and world? In what ways are we addressing it?

Tuesday 1.30 "Separation" Leviticus 13:45-46

The practicality of this is unmistakable. You don't want disease spreading through a camp, so of course, you will want to separate those who are sick. We do this today by taking the sick to the hospital, wearing protective equipment for serious illnesses. But to require a person to appear almost to be in mourning (ash and torn clothes) and shout out their unclean state to others as well? Picture yourself in this situation. How would it make you feel to be mostly separated from others, and when you did have contact, to have to do as instructed here?

Wednesday 1.31 "Compassion" Mark 1:40-45

Whether he went to them, or they found him, Jesus was around those with skin diseases. Just as Leviticus said, they were separated from the rest of society because of their disease. Yet, in this passage, and others in Matthew and Luke, Jesus is not only near them, *He touches them!* This should have made *Him* unclean but instead it heals *them*. Jesus went against the laws of the Torah, showing love and compassion. Have you ever felt that the right thing to do has been what others say is wrong or unlawful? When have we corrected problems like this in the past?

Thursday 2.1 "Imperfections" Leviticus 21:18-21

My best friend is a pastor with the ELCA. He was also born with spina bifida. This affected his spine and lower body and means he either uses crutches or a wheelchair to move about. According to this law, he wouldn't be able to serve in the full capacity of a priest of Israel. Ancient people often felt physical deformities were caused as a form of punishment either on that person or their family. Most people today do not take this view. We see the medical and physical causes involved, and we do not disqualify from pastoral roles based on physical appearance. We do disqualify based on moral failure because that reflects a person's own relationship with God and how they may or may not be able to lead others. Do these ideas connect at all? Consider connections between how Israel saw physical disabilities and how we would today talk about moral failures.

Friday 2.2 "Punishment or Forgiveness" Leviticus 20:9

Many of the punishments we read in Leviticus are either separation or death. And in many of these cases, including this passage, it seems incredibly out of proportion. How do we reconcile this with the love and forgiveness we see in Jesus? With His call for us to forgive a seemingly endless amount? Can we find power in this passage to show the importance of respect between persons of all ages while still emphasizing how those relationships grow best with an abundance of grace?

Saturday 2.3 "High Priest" Leviticus 16

This chapter explains some of the major duties of the High Priest, which was first Aaron, on the Day of Atonement. For us it seems to be a long list of rituals and can be rather disgusting to think about in much detail. But if we skim this, we miss out on something very important. Jesus is called our High Priest in the New Testament. If we don't know what a High Priest did, how can we fully understand what it is Jesus is doing for us? Think about how we speak of Jesus. What connections can you see between how we explain what Jesus did and does and Chapter 16's explanation of the High Priest's role on the Day of Atonement?

Sermon Notes
