

## Upcoming Events/Announcements

If you know of someone who has become homebound or who has moved to a care center, please let us know so that we may include them in our caring ministries. We love our whole church family and want to ensure that everyone is included, remembered, and loved.

**Our October mission project is to "Give of Ourselves."** Let us each search for ways to be in service to others. Volunteer time at your favorite non-profit, share a meal with a lonesome neighbor, take out the trash without being asked, write a note of encouragement to someone who is struggling, pick up litter on your daily walk, pay it forward at the coffee shop ... the possibilities are endless. We are recording our service on fall leaves that are decorating the church.

**We need more shoeboxes for Shoebox Christmas!** Please bring in any spare shoeboxes you have around your home and drop them in the missions closet or at the church office.

**Trunk or Treat moved INDOORS** due to predicted wintry weather! If you have signed up to hand out candy, plan to be in CLC this afternoon (Sunday, Oct. 29) no later than 1:30 p.m. so we are ready for our trick or treaters from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you haven't signed up, but would like to hand out candy, talk to Erin Woods.

**How are you called to serve?** Look for more information on the half-sheet insert about CLUMC's various committees, teams, and volunteer opportunities. There is a ministry for all of us.

**Do you receive our Wednesday eNewsletter?** If you do not receive our emailed Wednesday newsletter and would like to, please note "eNews" on the friendship pad next to your email address. You can also email or call the office and let us know.

**Our Children's Ministry program is looking for a working, used television.** Contact Erin Woods if you have upgraded your television and have a spare to share.

### Mark Your Calendars

**Sunday, October 29:** INDOOR Trunk or Treat @ CLUMC from 2 p.m.- 4 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 14:** CLUMC Charge Conference @ 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 18 and Sunday, November 19:** CLUMC Annual Pie Sale!

**Saturday, December 2:** UWF Christmas Brunch @ 10 a.m.

**Saturday, December 16 and Sunday, December 17:** CLUMC Christmas Cantata (at all services)



## For the week of October 29, 2023

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

### Half Truths: Everything Happens for a Reason

We start a five-week series this week based on the book *Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton. There are some study books available at the church; you can also order one yourself online if you wish. There will be a study group meeting on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the church if you want to go deeper. This series is going to be challenging for many of us, making us think in directions we have never considered before. This week we look at that incredibly common statement: "Everything happens for a reason."

**Our Wesleyan Covenant Prayer: I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will. Rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing. Put me to suffering. Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low by you. Let me be full. Let me be empty. Let me have all things. Let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

**Monday 10.30 “Choice or Imposition?” Deut. 30:19-20**  
When we say, “Everything happens for a reason,” there is a not-so-subtle implication that basically everything is out of our control. We mostly hear this phrase when something happens that we have no control over, especially responding to suffering. We so want an explanation. In this passage, we see the sentence “Choose life...” How is it that you do have choice and control in your life?

**Tuesday 10.31 “Choose This Day” Joshua 24:14-15**  
Sometimes life is based on cause and effect. If you put your hand on a hot stove, then your hand will be burned. If you drive drunk, then the chances of you having a car accident increase dramatically. But this does not apply to all of life. Sometimes stuff just happens. Your favorite baseball team did not win last night's game simply because you wore your lucky socks. People who have never smoked in their whole life may still develop lung cancer. Joshua says, “Choose this day...” Sometimes we say, “It's all part of God's plan” or “It was God's will.” How do you respond to the understanding that painful, tragic, or evil occurrences are a part of God's plan for our world. How is it that we at times get to choose?

**Wednesday 11.1 “God's Whisper” 1 Kings 19:1-13**  
Elijah desperately wanted to know what and why things were going on in his life. He listened for God's whisper. We also need to be attentive to the whisper of God's voice in making us aware of what needs to be done. Can you name a time when you responded to a nudge from God?

**Thursday 11.2 “Personal Responsibility” Ephesians 2:1-10**  
There is an initial problem if we believe that everything happens around us without us being responsible for any of it. “Everything happens for a reason” can be a great excuse to give up on our own personal responsibility in our life events. We do have personal responsibility for much in our life. How do you see this in your own life? What are you responsible for?

**Friday 11.3 “God’s Responsibility” Colossians 2:15-20**  
There is a second problem if we believe that everything that happens around us is strictly caused by God. “Everything happens for a reason” can be a great excuse to simply blame God when the bad happens in our life. God does have power in our lives, but this power is also balanced out by our own choices and abilities. How do you find this to be true?

**Saturday 11.4 “Fatalism and Indifference” Philippians 2:1-11**  
There is a third problem if we simply shrug our shoulders and throw our hands in the air. Fatalism says that what is going to happen is going to happen, no matter what. What's the point of wearing a seat belt if we're going to die in a car accident anyway? Indifference says, “Oh well, there's nothing I can do about stuff anyway.” What's the point of trying to do much of anything if we don't have any control anyway? God has power, and we have power. It's not one or the other; it's both, and we get to have ability in the process. How do you yourself move and work beyond the problem of fatalism and indifference?



## Sermon Notes

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