

## 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 this afternoon (Sunday, February 4) for **Game Day from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Christian Life Center**. Bring your favorite games, bring your friends, and bring a snack to share.

Our wrap-up **celebration for the Forward in Faith Capital Campaign will be held next weekend (February 10-11)**. We will welcome a special guest, Rev. Rebecca Trefz, at worship services that weekend, and we will celebrate the campaign's success and the vitality of Canyon Lake UMC.

**Diaper Drive Totals:** We collected 4,332 diapers, 8,464 wipes, 50 blankets, and 4 containers of formula PLUS baby laundry detergent, nursing pads, and monetary donations in support of Mommy's Closet! Thanks to all who participated!

**Our February Mission is a food drive.** Let's fill our grocery cart every week in February. *Give from the heart...Let's fill the cart.* More details coming soon!

If you would like to join the Children's Ministry of CLUMC in making Valentines for area seniors through "My Golden Valentine," please bring your cards to the church by Wednesday, February 7, and Erin will be certain they are all delivered.

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.

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.

### Mark Your Calendars

**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  
February 4, 2024**

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

## A Pastor's Journey

The fourth book of the Old Testament we as Christians know as "Numbers." It is called this because the beginning verses refer to numbering the people as a census is taken. In the original Hebrew language, the book is called "In the Wilderness." This book is the story and documenting of those years after the people left Egypt but before they arrived in Canaan. It is the story of a people beginning to become a nation.

**Bible Tip for the week:** Reading through the Bible is a lot about ATTITUDE. If this is something you are forcing yourself to do and is just exhausting for you, it will be super difficult to make it through to Revelation. So, think of a daily Bible reading as a joy and a reward. If it is possible, treat yourself to really comfortable place to be, perhaps with your favorite drink. Let it be the ONLY thing you are doing - no TV, no multi-tasking, no distractions. Just you and God and a wonderful quiet, relaxed moment. Let it become something you look forward to as a gift to yourself!

**Prayer: Lord, as I learn about the beginning of the Hebrew people, help me to remember that you are there in all of my beginnings. As I fail and as I succeed, let me know your loving presence in all that life has to throw at me today. Amen.**

**Monday 2.5 "The Aaronic Benediction" Numbers 6:24-26**

This passage actually has a name. It is called the Aaronic benediction. Moses' brother Aaron was serving as the head priest of the people. If you look back at the rest of Chapter 6, you will see specific instructions for those who are called "Nazirites." These were men who were intentionally set apart to function as faith leaders. In effect, this blessing is for those who consider themselves to be servants of God. Might this be you today? What do these verses mean to you?

**Tuesday 2.6 "Wah! Wah! Wah!" Numbers 11:1-9, 31-32**

Oh, how quickly people forget! For four hundred years the Hebrews had been slaves in Egypt, much of that was under a cruel whip. Moses led them out and into freedom, but not everything was perfect. They needed food, so God sent manna. (The word "manna" literally means "what is it?") They got tired of manna and whined to Moses about it. God sent quails as a source of meat. Wah! Wah! Wah! It's always something. So, you wanna go back to Egypt, where it's warm and secure? We all have moments when we complain, even when God is providing all that we need. How have you seen this?

**Wednesday 2.7 "Rebellion in the Ranks" Numbers 16:1-7**

Sometimes we think that all the people just blindly followed Moses and meekly agreed with all that he said and did. Not so. The people complained, and the people rebelled. There was actually a force that rose up against Moses (and against God's directions). This was a truth then, and it has been a recurring truth throughout the millennia since then. People turn away from God. What are some examples of this you can think of in our human history? Why do you think people then and now do this?

**Thursday 2.8 "Aaron Dies" Numbers 20:22-29**

No one lives forever. Nothing lasts forever. There are beginnings, and there are endings, and there are beginnings once again. Both Moses and Aaron were told they would not live to see the Promised Land. And Aaron the priest of God died. Eleazar took his place, and new directions began to be

imagined. When have you been a part of transitions in your life? How is life different because of these transitions?

**Friday 2.9 "Balaam and His Donkey" Numbers 22:21-35**

This is just a marvelous story, and one which many of us have never heard! The wise (yet disobedient) man could not see God blocking his way. The dumb (yet obedient) donkey plainly saw God blocking the way... and did something about it. As the donkey followed God's guiding, Balaam beat and punished him for it. And the donkey replied, "Hey! What did I ever do to you? You have trusted me all these years, and yet now you just hit me. Do you think maybe... just maybe... there might be a reason for what I'm doing?" This is a story about obedience. How and where are there parallels that you see in every day life? Where and how do you see modern-day Balaams and donkeys?

**Saturday 2.10 "Joshua Is Chosen" Numbers 27:12-19**

It was indeed ironic that Moses was not allowed to enter the new land with his people. But this is often how change and transition work. Change is an actual event. Transition is the process of people adjusting to that change. Often times, those who lead us through change are not equipped to lead us through the transition. And so, Joshua was chosen to lead the people into this transition out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land. Who have you witnessed as leaders of change, and who do you recognize as leaders of transition?

**Sermon Notes**

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