

## 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 **March mission will support upcoming outreach events** including Vacation Bible School in July. You can purchase needed items or donate money and we will shop for you. You can also sign up to volunteer at upcoming events. Check out the display in the lobby for more information about upcoming outreach events.

**We have ordered a few extra Easter flowers**, so if you still want to honor or remember a loved one with a flower, please contact the office. The cost is \$15 each, and you may take your flower after whichever Easter service you attend.

Are you a full-time student in an education program that will lead to a career in healthcare, nursing, or a medical-related field? If so, consider applying for the **Mary & Glen Fiala Scholarship**. The deadline for application is April 15, 2024. Contact the office for the online application link.

## Holy Week Schedule & Other Calendar Items

**March 28:** Maundy Thursday Healing Worship @ 6:30 p.m.

**March 29:** Good Friday @ 6:30 p.m.

**March 30:** Lazarus Saturday @ 5:30 p.m.

**March 31:** Easter Sunday Services

- 6:30 a.m. (SonRise)
- 8:00 a.m. (Bluegrass)
- 9:30 a.m. (Traditional)
- 11 a.m. (Contemporary)

**April 1:** Church Office Closed -- Easter Monday

**April 14:** Camp Sunday @ both worship services

**April 16:** Blood Drive @ CLUMC



For the week of  
**March 17, 2024**

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

## A Parade of Kings

We read history so objectively at times that we forget just how human these stories are. 2 Samuel is filled with stories of the kings, their battles, and their challenges. Just as our leaders today are naturally flawed, so were the leaders millennia ago. This week we come to the end of 2 Samuel and begin 1 Kings. You will now begin to hear stories about Solomon and all those who came after him through the generations. Realize that these were complex times as Israel was powerfully affected by politics, economics, geographic realities, and the power of emotions running rampant in its leadership.

***Bible Reading Tip:*** Create sacred time. Reading the Bible can become its own fun and meaningful ritual. It may be helpful for you to read at the same time each day in the same place each day. Begin with a brief prayer and end with prayer. Make the time sacred!

**Prayer:** Lord, give to us perspective. As we live in our own complex society that changes through the generations, help us to understand Israel's journey. Help us to see our own nation and situation through your eyes. Amen.

**Monday 3.18 "David's Last Words" 2 Samuel 23:1-7**

David ruled Israel for forty years. That's a long time. Four decades. Three generations over what would eventually become two nations who believed in one God. The close of David's reign is filled with more uprising, settling of scores, and a sinful display of arrogance. David was not perfect, but he tried to keep his focus and praise on God (chapters 22 and 23). What can you do to keep your focus on serving and worshiping God?

**Tuesday 3.19 "Solomon Asks for Wisdom" 1 Kings 3:5-9**

The two books of Kings were originally one and were a direct continuation of Samuel and give a continuous history. In today's passage, Solomon prays for a mind of discernment: wisdom. Along with it he wants the ability to "distinguish good from evil." It is a humble, noble request. How do you see this to be either lacking or present in our spiritual and civil leaders today?

**Wednesday 3.20 "Solomon's Slave Trade" 1 King 5:13-18**

Wait a minute. The Hebrew people were in slavery under the Egyptians for four hundred years. When they came out of slavery and eventually established their own nation, they were warned time and again to respect people and practice justice. Yet here is King Solomon as he begins massive building projects. 30,000 men in general forced labor; 70,000 burden-bearers, 80,000 rock cutters. This was whole-sale slavery and blatant hypocrisy. How do you see this type of hypocrisy exercised today? Where? By whom?

**Thursday 3.21 "Solomon's End" 1 Kings 11:1-5, 41-43**

Solomon enslaved people. He over-taxed them to the point of destitution. He was a military arms merchant to the disregard of his own country. He disregarded God. He ruled over a nation that was splitting in two. You could have all the riches, pedigrees, influence, and intellect in the world, but without a moral compass that

is consistent with God's best, it can all be torn to shreds. Again, how do you see this in our own current world and our own history?

**Friday 3.22 "A Line of Kings"**

And so, Solomon's reign came to an end after forty years. And the nation of Israel was a mess. It could not stand the pressure and fractured into two. Thus began a line of kings... almost a parade... that were to rule the divided nations with Israel in the north and Judah in the south. They had various resumes, but shared one common evaluation: Did they do "evil" or "right" in the sight of God? Ultimately, that's the only evaluation that matters. Is there any aspect of your life about which the same thing can be said?

**Saturday 3.23 "God's Still, Small Voice" 1 Kings 19:1-13**

We live in a busy, noisy world. Amazingly, God is usually not found in the big and the bold moments of our lives but rather in the small, quiet moments. We can hear God so much better when we eliminate the competition, when we turn off the surrounding noise and quietly listen for God to speak. It doesn't feel like this makes sense, but it does. When have you experienced such a moment?

**Sermon Notes**

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