

Upcoming Events/Announcements

If someone you know has become homebound or 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 July mission will support our Vacation Bible School's mission which is to support Storm Mountain. Storm Mountain is a non-profit entity that runs on the registrations of campers and other outside groups. We are raising money to help buy things on Storm Mountain's wish list. Items we could purchase with the funds include playground balls, large inner tubes for the swimming hole, or life jackets. Kitchen and cleaning items are also needed. What we purchase will depend on how much we raise. If you have questions, talk to Erin Woods.

Mid-Summer Meet & Eat: Join us July 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center for a potluck, a time of fellowship, and a time for meeting Hannah O'Donnell, our new Youth Coordinator.

We are looking for volunteers to help with our youth ministry program this fall. If you are interested in being part of this volunteer team, please contact Hannah O'Donnell (Hannah.Odonnell@clumc.com) or the office (office@clumc.com).

Mitchell Congregational UCC has been the target of multiple severe vandalism events. The pastor is Matt Richards who was raised in our congregation. An anonymous Canyon Lake UMC donor has offered a \$500 matching grant. If you would like to donate, checks may be mailed to Mitchell Congregational UCC, 301 E. 4th Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301. You may also give online at <https://www.givelify.com/donate/MzU0Mjk=/selection>

Calendar Items & Events

July 23-25: Vacation Bible School @ CLUMC
July 29: Mid-Summer Meet and Eat (Potluck!)

THE PATH



For the week of
July 21, 2024

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

Jeremiah

What if you were a prophet? What if you had a passion deep in your soul to share criticisms with others in order to strengthen their faith and stabilize their lives? What if you were working as hard as you could in one direction to make positive things happen while others were pushing back in the opposite way just as hard as they could? In a nutshell, this is the book of Jeremiah. The prophet Jeremiah was not a fortune teller. He could not foresee the future. He did use common sense. "If you keep doing this, here's what will happen." "If you refuse to pay attention to that, this is where it will lead." It was a difficult path to follow, but it was his calling. This week we finish the reading and study of the prophet Jeremiah.

Prayer: God of heaven and Lord of earth, guide our hearts. Open our minds. Allow us to move and work in our world listening for your guidance. Help us to hear and understand your word. Amen.

Monday 7.22 "Judgment and Comfort" Jeremiah 25:1-7, 29:4-9

Today's reading offers God's judgments and comfort. In the first passage comes the warning. In the second, a word from God that tells the people that even though they may be in trouble that life goes on; they are invited to marry and have children even when they are in exile. Life is going to go on for the Jewish people. Now, think of a time in your life when you were in trouble (perhaps deep trouble). How did that trouble resolve? How did you experience comfort even in the midst of this?

Tuesday 7.23 "Change and Joy" Jeremiah 31:2-6, 10-14

Change is just so difficult for all of us, especially when it involves loss and grief. But God promises through Jeremiah that "the people who survived the sword / found grace in the wilderness" (31:2). And God turns "mourning into laughter / and their sadness into joy" (31:13). How have you seen sadness turn into joy? It doesn't happen all the time, but it does happen!

Wednesday 7.24 "Sharing and Ignoring" Jeremiah 36:1-3, 20-23

Jeremiah spoke words of warning from God, wrote them on a scroll, and passed them on through Baruch (a messenger). As the king heard the words, he took a knife and cutting the written words off the scroll, threw them in the fire. The message from God was shared, then promptly ignored. When someone reveals to us the truth of our sins, we tend to ignore the message and denounce the messenger, just like the king did. Instead, we are asked to confess our sins and acknowledge the consequences. Fighting only makes it worse. Does this scenario sound familiar to you in any part of your life?

Thursday 7.25 "Going and Staying" Jeremiah 42:7-12

When Jeremiah warned the people about the disaster that would be coming, some of them just ignored him. Others heard him and fled, but there was a third group. God gave a clear word to the remnant in Judea: Stay. Don't look for greener grass elsewhere. Bloom where you are planted (42:10). The invitation was given. They should have listened,

but the majority did not. Sometimes the best (and hardest) thing to do is sit, watch, and wait for God.

Friday 7.26 "This Nation and That" Jeremiah 46:1-6

Beginning in chapter 46, the prophet casts God's judgment against nine earthly empires over five chapters. No worldly power is stronger than God. It proves that we can't trust earthly systems to prove a sense of security, hope, and prosperity that only God provides.

Saturday 7.27 "Judah and Babylon" Jeremiah 50:1-5

Jeremiah saves his most powerful condemnation for the last: Babylon. Soon the whole Jewish nation that had been Judah and Jerusalem would be crushed by the invading Babylon army. God's most forceful judgments are against the proud and the powerful, who do not use their resources for God's purposes of love and justice. How might you see our world in light of Jeremiah's world?

Sermon Notes
