

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. We are raising money to help buy things on Storm Mountain's wish list. What we purchase will depend on how much we raise. If you have questions, talk to Erin Woods.

Our August mission is Hygiene Kits. This year, the assembly of the kits will be done by teaming with the newly formed Circle of Friends-West. Here's our shopping list: one-gallon plastic bags, washcloths (clean & in good condition, preferably new), hand towels (clean & in good condition, preferably new), wrapped bars of soap (unopened), shampoo (travel-size shampoo, unopened), conditioner (travel-size conditioner, unopened), toothbrush (new), toothpaste, (travel-size, unopened), dental floss (unopened), and band-aids. You may donate money (mark your gift "hygiene") or donate items listed above. See the display in the lobby for more information.

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 28: Pool Party/Potluck* @ Horace Mann Pool - 6:30-8:30 p.m.)
(*in conjunction with First UMC)

July 29: Mid-Summer Meet and Eat (Potluck!)

THE PATH



For the week of
July 28, 2024

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

Ezekiel

It helps to remember that the fall of Jerusalem came in 587 BCE. The city was obliterated, and a huge percentage of the Jewish people were carried into captivity in Babylon. Ezekiel was a priest whose ministry to his fellow exiles extended from the year 593 BCE all the way to 563 BCE, a thirty-year span. It is written in a very specific style that to us is very difficult to understand, the wording of a prophet speaking in powerful religious style. Hear these words from a man thick in the painful process of moving into exile and learning how to survive.

Prayer: Lord, help us to hear the pain and yet the hope in Ezekiel's words this week. Open our hearts and minds to hear how it applies to us. Guide our hearing and our understanding. Amen.

Monday 7.29 "Ezekiel's Beginning in Captivity" Ezekiel 1:1-14
The Israelites were not hearing God. Jerusalem had been destroyed. The people had been brutally defeated. Their leadership had been carried off into captivity. Everything they knew and cared about had been destroyed. They could not hear God, so God called Ezekiel to be a unique kind of messenger: a performance artist, whose memorable actions would speak as loud as his words. In what ways will your actions convey the truths of God's love to others?

Tuesday 7.30 "Disaster: Now What?" Ezekiel 6:1-10
All the way through the next five chapters, Ezekiel shows how it feels to be in crisis, facing disaster. We feel helpless against pain and harm. We feel like God is against us or absent. We feel like our values have been challenged. But at the end, God can change our hearts. When is a time that you have walked through disaster and found that your heart was altered?

Wednesday 7.31 "Sin Matters" Ezekiel 12:1-16
These chapters remind us that God takes sin seriously. God relentlessly works to remove our sin and make us more like Jesus every day, so that God's love flows freely in and through us. It's our job to work with God to make that happen. Notice in this passage that Ezekiel does not simply speak, he is actually acting out his message as he burrows through a wall and then explains his actions.

Thursday 8.1 "Warning! Warning!" Ezekiel 18:1-13
Ezekiel 18 reminds us that much of the violence and death in the world stems from injustice and the unwillingness of people to treat one another with equity and dignity. God has no pleasure in any death and wants us to have a new heart and spirit.

Friday 8.2 "Faithful???" Ezekiel 22:1-16
As much as we might believe in an all-powerful God, Ezekiel reminds us that there is one important thing that God cannot do: God cannot force us to be faithful.

We have the power to choose to obey God or not. When we don't, we live with the consequences.

Saturday 8.3 "Judgment" Ezekiel 27:1-11, 29:1-9
This section of Ezekiel contains judgments over two other nations which were the greatest economic empires in the ancient Near East: Tyre and Egypt. Their downfall is a reminder that economic and military might do not provide the kind of security that only obedience to God can provide. How do you see this applying in our world today?



Sermon Notes
