

## Upcoming Events/Announcements

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

**January's Mission Project:** Mommy's Closet aids families with children under five and provides them with diapers, wipes, formula, and other hygiene products. One in four parents/caregivers' reports missing nearly 5 days of work per month because of unmet diaper needs. Donate diapers, wipes and formula. Monetary gifts can be checks or cash (denote 'January Mission Project') or given through the CLUMC website at: [clumc.com](http://clumc.com).

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated cereal for the Open-Heart UMC Food Pantry. It has been a huge blessing to the many neighbors in the area. 128 boxes of cereal will be shared from CLUMC.

Beloved Women's Conference, February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. You're invited to Downtown Mitchell First United Methodist Church for their first EVER Women's Conference! Simulcast from the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, this two-day women's conference experience features worship, encouragement and connection. All women are welcome! Bring a friend as we gather together to be reminded that we are deeply loved! Sign up online  
<https://forms.gle/dpnjGReJCrk6VGJe6>

### Calendar at a Glance

**January 19:** Office Closed (Martin Luther King Day Holiday)

**January 25:** Dinner for 8, Soup Lunch & White Elephant  
February 6-7: Beloved Women's Conference

# THE PATH



For the week of  
**January 18, 2025**

Canyon Lake  
United Methodist Church  
Rapid City, SD

## "The Abundance of God's Mercy"

We believe in a God who chooses to be merciful. This week, let us look at passages that remind us of God's abundant mercy.

Mercy: compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm.

Prayer: Merciful God, were it not for your mercy, I would remain lost in sin and confusion. Thank you for your extravagant grace and your mercy without limit. In this hour hold me in love. Amen.

No matter our struggles, no matter our transgressions, God's mercy will not end. In the place of our deserved judgement, God makes a way for restoration. When have you felt beyond God's mercy? How has God shown you unending mercy?

Even when we are not ready, or even refuse, to follow God, God's mercy for us is shown in still waiting there for us with grace. In the United Methodist Church we call this prevenient grace, grace that is already there, waiting for us to accept it, even before we are ready or willing to accept it.

God waits to show us kindness and mercy. God waits? That sounds odd. Couldn't God just do whatever whenever? Well, yes. But instead, God waits. What does God wait for? For us to say "Yes, Lord." For us to choose to be in relationship.

We do not deserve what God has offered to us! It is nothing of our doing or earning. Our relationship with God is whole because of God's mercy.

We are saved because of God's mercy, and we are transformed by God's mercy. That we can learn to be more and more like Christ is because of God's mercy.

This image is one I love. Draw near. While there is nothing we could ever do to *earn* God's grace and mercy, there is something we have to do. Remember God waiting? God waits for us to choose to accept the mercy and grace that is offered. God wants us to desire to be in the relationship. How do you draw near to God in your daily or weekly rhythms? How do you reaccept God's grace and mercy?

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. / Friday 9 a.m.- 12 noon**