

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.

August Mission: CLUMC supports Meadowbrook Elementary School by providing school supplies like wide rule notebooks, crayons, 2 pencils, a box of tissues, pointed scissors, pink erasers, pencil boxes, plain solid pocket folders, glue sticks, colored markers & pencils, & dry erase markers. Clothes such as girls' leggings, boys' sweatpants (sizes 5-10), new socks and underwear are needed. Monetary gifts for children's lunches can be check or cash (denote 'August Mission Project') or given through CLUMC website: clumc.com

Cornerstone Mission - Brown Bag Meal for Summer: Food Items that are needed: Vienna Sausages, Packets of tuna or chicken, Gorp/Trail Mix, Pretzels, Animal Crackers, Pudding cups, Applesauce cups, Granola bars, and Cracker. Monetary donation to CLUMC website: clumc.com.

September 27: 75th Anniversary Celebration, 4:30 PM for Tours, 5:30 PM Dinner, Cost \$20 per person. Tickets are available online clumc.com, and between Sunday church services.

Financial Report (January 1-July 31, 2025)

	Actual	Budget
Revenues	423,613	407,633

Expenses	393,497	426,478
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September 1: Labor Day (Church Office Closed)

September 2: Fall Office Hours Resume

September 6: The Tom Pfeifle Memorial 5k fun Run/Walk at 9 AM Paider Park

September 7: Fall Worship Times Begin

September 7: Sunday School Resumes

September 7: Kitchen Clean Day Noon-4 PM, All are welcome to come help for all or part of the time. Deep cleaning of walls, floors, and storage spaces. Sandwich lunch will be provided.

September 10: Wednesday Evening Activities Resume

September 11 & 12: District UWF Retreat at Storm Mountain

September 21: Special Charge Conference, 9:30 AM at CLUMC

September 27: 75th Anniversary Celebration

September 28: Dakotas Conference Bishop, Lanette Plambeck, will be preaching at both services!

September 30: Blood Drive 2-6 PM CLUMC CLC Gym



For the week of
August 24, 2025

Canyon Lake
United Methodist Church
Rapid City, SD

"Empathy Isn't a Sin"

The Bible is in many ways a brutal book. We would claim that the Bible is a book that teaches love and kindness, and that is true. However, the Bible is also a book that lifts up stories of cruelty and brutality. In our own faith journeys we look for ways to move around and past the brutal stories. We look for ways to claim the positive: the moments of justice, caring, compassion, and love. We strive to live with EMPATHY; we seek to live our lives trying to understand and walk with people through the darkness and difficulty of life. So, this week we seek ways to focus on empathy as we live into the Kingdom of God.

Prayer: Lord, open our eyes that we may see the life situations of others around us. Help us to see when others are walking with such difficulty day by day. Open our ears that we may hear the cries of those suffering with injustice caused by both cruelty and neglect. Help us to hear your quiet whisper guiding us to justice and peace. Open our hearts to truly feel the pain of others. Help us to move beyond the pain into action. Open our minds that we may know the rugged realities of how others live in their daily walks. Help us to reach out in prayer and with helping hands. Amen.

Monday 8.25 "The Great Commandment" Matthew 22:34-40

This Great Command is also found in the Old Testament back in the book of Deuteronomy. It is an ancient command, not something Jesus just made up. He would have known these words from the time he was a little boy. As a grown man, he sought to walk and live by these commands daily. Today we try to put qualifiers around these commands. We are called to love God with all that we are and have... until something more important comes along to distract us. We are called to love our neighbors... unless those neighbors are too different than us and, in some way, threaten us. How is it that others (and you!) put qualifiers around the Great Commandment?

Tuesday 8.26 "NOT on the Sabbath" Luke 13:10-17

We try so hard to follow the rules that Jesus set down for us so that we can live a life that looks like his. One of the problems that we run into is the fact that Jesus broke the rules of his day all the time. The Jewish faith with all of its surrounding religious rules, traditions, and laws was incredibly confining to Jesus. He really chafed against so many of the rules... like not being allowed to heal people on the sabbath. In his Jewish tradition, you were not allowed to do any form of work on the Sabbath. This was the truth for the Jewish people even when offering that healing brought life, health, and wholeness. We look at this story and roll our eyes at the Jewish authorities but now stop to think. What might be some of the rules and regulations, traditions and taboos that we similarly enforce today that block us from feeling empathy toward others? (Where and how are you most judgmental?)

Wednesday 8.27 "The Great Commission" Matthew 28:16-20

Make disciples... Baptize... Teach... Obey... These words are our marching orders. This is what we are supposed to be doing. Notice it does not say "...only to the people like you" or "...only to the people you like". There is an inclusiveness built into these words. And this means that there is empathy built in as well. We cannot create new disciples or baptize or teach or obey unless we are taking into consideration the life situations of others. Where do you see our own Canyon Lake Church failing and succeeding in this?

Thursday 8.28 "What Does the Lord Require of You?" Micah 6:6-8

Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly. Empathy is not a sin. It is a command. How do you see yourself living these words? How could you live them even more deeply?

Friday 8.29 "Let Justice Roll Down" Amos 5:21-24

We hear again words spoken thousands of years old, words that Jesus would have known by heart. What do you think might have been the

issues that Amos was talking about? How are we still dealing with the same issues? How is it that in your own journey you are currently working for justice? How can you go further?

Saturday 8.30 "Jesus Wept" John 11:17-36

We often think of Jesus, the lamb of God. We interpret a Jesus who was fully divine, and when we do, it is often tempting to think of Jesus as not fully human. He knew all about human emotions, including and especially empathy. He felt with others, with all those who had contact with him. Jesus hurt deeply when he was with Mary and Martha mourning the death of Lazarus. An entire community was caught up in the embrace of deep grief. Jesus did not just rush in and "fix it." He first lived in direct contact with that grief. This week we have explored the gift of God's love through our own expression of empathy. May your empathy continue to deepen and grow!



Sermon Notes

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