It’s Monday morning and I’m still waiting for the sun. We do have these days in row of no sun. I’m not sure what that is about. It just seems like when the sun shines everything is different. When you add light...things get better. There is probably a sermon in there somewhere if I would put a little effort into it. We have been so blessed with these mild winter temps thus far in in January. I have been hearing that is going to change by the weekend. I guess we knew it couldn't last forever, but it was sure nice while it lasted. I love the fact that we had some days of no ice an sidewalks and parking lots. That is so much better for everyone. I’m sure there is more winter ahead of us, but we can buckle down now for a few days if necessary. Our family is supposed to play at the Old Court House on Friday and they are talking about snow. I think the last time we played there in the winter it snowed. Oh well, we can’t control that!

The congregational meeting on Sunday went very well. Russ Robers did another outstanding job going over all the numbers from last year and presenting the budget for this coming year. There is a great deal of time and effort that goes into all of that. It is not something that is just thrown together. I think you can really see that when you are at that meeting. Our finances are being handled in a very thoughtful and professional manner. From Lisa Blankers and her expertise in keeping the books to the work of our deacons, this is all being done very well. We are blessed by their efforts. As I mentioned on Sunday morning, a big thanks is to be given to all of you folks and your amazing generosity.

I’m not just talking dollars, but your time, prayer support, and attitude make us a very healthy place, and that matters. We are truly blessed in so many ways and that translates right into our giving and finances. Thanks Community!

We talked a little about the street during that meeting as well and there will be more information coming to us as that project gets closer. We at this point don’t know the actual timeline for all of that to take place. We have a little time, but we are very sure it will all be finished in the next two years. That gives us time to plan and work on all that this means. What I can tell you is that the street will run absolutely straight north from 41st street...no turns. It will run right past the west side of the church and up that hill that is behind us. The new middle school is going to be right to the west of that new street. We will be meeting with the school this week to get some perspective from them as far as their time frame for completion. It will sure change the look of things around here. No more corn! I am going to miss that big field.

This Sunday we as we do our study of the wisemen and King Herod we are going look at this moment in history and see just how sad this story begins. There seems to be so much struggle and so much sorrow. I don’t want to focus on just the bad and get all negative but isn’t it amazing that the event that should have been such a celebration has so many tears. I don’t always know what to say about that...but I’m going to try. Where is God in our messes? Why does He not do more? We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Wednesday, January 16**
6:00pm– Chicken Salad/ Taco Salad
7:00pm– Classes for all ages

**Saturday, January 19**
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am– Closed AA meeting

**Sunday, January 20**
10:10am– Sunday School

**Monday, January 21**
7:00pm– Men’s Bible Study

**Tuesday, January 22**
7:00pm– AA Meeting

**Wednesday, January 23**
6:00pm– Soup
7:00pm– Classes for all ages

**UPCOMING MINISTRIES**

**COMMUNITY BOOK CLUBS**
The **morning book club** will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave. We will be discussing *The View from Saturday* by Koningsburg.

The **evening book club** will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 7 pm at the Eastside Panera on Foss Ave. We will be discussing *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Stein. **New participants welcome.** Book Club Contact Trudi Nelson 371-3512

**AA BIG BOOK MEETING**
Every Tues at 7pm at Community– Open meeting. Use east door. Every Saturday at 10am Closed (Addicts/Alcoholics only) meeting.

**DECORATING COMMITTEE**
Seeking volunteers to be on a ‘call list’ for when help is needed. We have small and big projects, and sometimes extra hands are needed. We know everyone has a busy life, so maybe you can help with one project – but not available for another. No worries! An email with upcoming project details and dates is distributed. If you want to check out the Decorating Committee, you are welcome to the meeting at 2:00 PM on JANUARY 26th. If you have questions, please call Brenda @ 605.484.3142.

**THE GIVE**
Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby. It’s a place to donate to local ministries.

- **Safe Families**– diapers (size 2 & up)/ wipes
- **LSS**– Alarm clocks, light bulbs
- **Mission Haiti**– hotel shampoos & soap
- **Union Gospel Mission**– Regular Coffee

**MISSION OF THE MONTH:** The Klays– SIM

**FINANCES**
Sunday, January 13, 2019

- **General:** $14,581
- **Vision:** $6,690
- **Missions:** $635
- **Wednesday night:** $22

- **General YTD:** $26,371
- **Vision YTD:** $16,606
- **Vision Account Balance:** $93,488
I’d like to begin my article this week by thanking everyone for the many fantastic birthday wishes I received on Sunday morning! It was a delightful gift to have my birthday fall on a Sunday, and you all definitely made me feel special! As my Grandma Lucy often says, “Growing old is a privilege.” And that makes me extra thankful for another birthday to celebrate!

On Sunday during his sermon, Pastor Clyde referenced a class I’m going to be teaching this spring, and I wanted to share a little more information about it. I will be teaching from Dallas Willard’s book “Hearing God” on Wednesday nights during Mid-Week. My current plan is to finish the Just Ask questions on January 23 and begin the Hearing God class on January 30. We meet in the fellowship hall from 7-8pm, and everyone is welcome. I have ordered books already, but if you’d like a book, I did order a few extras. 😊 However, you do not have to read the book in order to participate in the class. I think this class will most likely meet through April 3.

I first read “Hearing God” about 10 years ago, and it is easily the best book about discerning what and how God communicates with His people. Dallas Willard is an exceptional writer who will challenge us with our current ways of thinking as well as encourage us with practical and Biblical ways to hear God.

As we have worked our way through the Just Ask questions, it became increasingly clear that a study like this would be very helpful. So, I decided to make that our next study! It is my heartfelt prayer that God would move powerfully in this study, and that He will use it to grow us into deeper relationship with Himself. If you have any questions, please let me know. I’m excited to dive into this book in just a couple of weeks!

And just briefly, I want to mention that I’m currently working with someone from our church to set up and facilitate a grief group, which will meet at Community. I am taking the time to make sure this group has excellent and effective structure as well as proficient and compassionate leadership. I meet with a counseling professional next week to discuss our options, and as soon as we have a viable plan in place, I’ll be sure to write about it here and talk about it on Sunday mornings. I think this will be a powerful group at Community, and I’m praying that God will lead us to the best way to carry out this plan.

Have a good week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

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**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- **Joe Johnson** (cancer)
- **Sara Van Ruler’s dad** (throat cancer)
- **Lori Hein’s mom, Joan** (heart)
- **Wade Persson’s mom** (cancer)
- **Randy Grotenhuis** (inflammation of the inner ear)
- **Al Hoogendoorn** (multiple health issues)
- **Jim Ludens** (radiation treatments)
- **Harriet Valentine** (breast cancer)
- **Jelena** (Safe Families baby)
- **Pete Valentine**
- **Natallie Baker** (seizure disorder)
- **Clayton Bierwagen** (heart)
- **Jodie Jensen** (cancer)
- **Chelle McMurray’s dad** (multiple myeloma)
- **Ellen Nelson** (chronic airway disease)
- **Lexi Valentine** (auto-immune disease) (surgery 12/18)
- **Jessica Vander Weide** (heart)
- **Lindsey Vander Weide** (heart)
- **Gloria Wierda**. Laura Maloney’s mom (stage 4 breast cancer)
Hey everyone!

A quick update from last week's newsletter. Our Red Carpet Night has been moved to Friday February 15th. This month we will be doing a game night and simple meal on Sunday Jan. 27th. We will meet from 5:30-8:00. I will have some soup available and will have a few of my favorite game. If students have a favorite game they can bring it along!

Also mark your calendars. The high school Spring Fling is coming up March 2nd. This is the yearly youth fundraiser and all money raised goes to supporting youth trips and events throughout the year. From what I am learning this has been a really great event and I am looking forward to joining in on it this year. Tickets will be for sale starting in February and will be $25 a ticket. They will be available Sunday morning before and after services or by calling the church. Thank you all for loving and supporting the youth ministry program! If you have any question, please feel free to connect with me anytime!

I think that is it for this week.

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org
605-310-2561

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Hey Community,

Last week on Wednesday we talked about praying with scripture. This week we’re going to talk about the significance of the Lord’s Prayer and how that can help us as we pray. On Sunday mornings, we are spending some time talking about Ruth. We’re on Chapter 3 this week.

We have another fun event planned for February. We’re planning to go to Great Bear on February 17 from 5-8pm. Please let us know if your son or daughter can make it. Keep an eye on the Community Kids and Youth Facebook page for the details.

Sarah Powell
Powell.SarahEllen@gmail.com
Middle School Youth Group Coordinator
Hi Everyone!
It has been a good week of fun with kids at Community. Each Sunday I walk around the classrooms in the Children’s Wing and take a peek at each class to see if anyone needs anything. This week I was especially captured by the way each class was so engrossed in the Bible. It was so evident that the caring adults who spend their time with the kids each week are really sharing God’s love in a beautiful way. Wednesday nights are also such a special time. If you have kids and want to check it out, I encourage you to visit. If you are an adult, I encourage you to volunteer your time. God is blessing what is happening and I am so thankful!

As I said last week, we decided to do an event for children and their families before Easter again this year but we really need volunteers to make it a success. Can you join us to lead a station, welcome people or just lend a hand? It is on April 13 from 10am to noon. Please mark your calendars to attend, bring friends and/or volunteer!

I encourage you to check out the Children’s Wing at Community. On one of our walls, the kids have a display to help us all remember that we can do ALL things for the glory of God. Even the little daily moments are an opportunity. Even if you don’t want to bring a photo, just come check it out!

WHATEVER YOU DO, DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

If you are willing to join the fun, can you email us some photos that I can print and hang on the wall? If you prefer, you can print them and bring them to church as well. We’d love a lot of photos of kids but also adults too so even if you don’t have kids, join the fun! We’re looking for photos of our church family and kids doing “whatever we do!” A quick photo at school, a sport, music, homework time, playing with a pet, eating a meal, playing a favorite game, running outside, curled up with a book, taking a nap, laughing with a friend, painting, smelling the flowers, enjoying family time, even a photo of some of our grown-ups at work. We’ve got some great photos up already but we want EVERYONE from age 0 to 110!

Save the date for VBS as well! July 28-31

Check out our Facebook page for some surveys about summer events. We’d like your input on dates and ideas. Thanks!

Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
Heather DeWit
Director of Children’s Ministry

THANK YOU to the Decorating Committee Team and the Volunteers that helped complete the following projects in 2018. Your efforts are greatly appreciated in helping serve our congregation.

- Decorating (and undecorating) the core church areas for Christmas, Easter, and the seasons
- Planting, decorating and maintaining the outdoor pots located in front of Chapel and Main entrances
- Improvements to THE GIVE mission wall and donation area
- Installation of 4 new round tables in the Main Foyer to promote safety and cleanliness
- Installation of 2 new wooden rectangle to consolidate and organize display of information
- Expansion of seating with 10 new benches in the Family Foyer to maximize space for our growing children’s education department
- Re-upholstery of 8 armed chairs used in Chapel hallway and Main Foyer to replace frayed and cracked seat fabric.
- Reorganization of the decorating storage room
REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...

If you would like to request membership or baptism, please e-mail the church office at connect@communityrc.org to set up a time to meet with the Elders (2nd or 4th Sundays of the month @ 10:10am).

For baptism, one of the parents needs to be a member at Community. Next Baptism Service: Sunday, March 31 @ 3pm.

NEED GROCERIES? OR GAS?

Gift cards for HyVee, Fareway & Sunshine can be purchased on a Sunday morning at the coffee bar. 5% of that purchase will go toward our vision fund at church.