PASTOR’S UPDATE

January is moving right along, and winter weather is right in step with it. We did not have a very pleasant weekend for sure, but this week promises a little warm up. We all love that! I know the weather affects so many different things and we certainly see that at church. I am so thankful for the folks that come out and brave the cold for Sunday mornings. It matters! Also, we had nearly 50 homes watching at 9am on Sunday morning. Clearly, that live feed is important, and it works for us. Who knows what this weekend will bring. See you all then...here or online!

I have been doing all kinds of new reading this winter. Several new books are on my desk and they are all very good. I say that to encourage you to check out the selections in our library. Those ladies stay on it! You will not find a better selection anywhere in town and I’m serious about that! Walk in there and see what’s going on. Reading is really good for your mind and heart! Check out the place!

I still have not gotten back home to see my mom. I don’t like that so much. The weather just will not cooperate with me. They have lots of snow back there. I mean...lots! My mom said she can’t see her plum trees anymore and they were a good 10 feet high, so they have snow. I know lots of you have had to change plans for weather things this year. Just be careful when you are out and about. Those roads can get very dangerous. Hang in there mom...I’ll get there one of these days!

Sunday, we move forward in the series. This week we do one of my all-time favorite Old Testament stories. Joseph! Surprised by the Divine! This story is a great foretelling of the grace of God. Once again, the Bible is trying to express to us the depth of God’s mercy and His love for people. Joseph’s story reveals the very nature of Jesus. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!

Our MidWeek numbers are staying pretty consistent this year. I would like to continue to encourage folks to come out and join us. The food is always good, the company is the best, and our class times are filled with good information and discussion. You just can’t beat that! Good job everyone!

There are all kinds of things coming up this spring. Already we see the calendar filling up. A mission team will be going to Haiti in March. You will be hearing more about that in the coming days. Doyle is planning a number of summer activities already with both Middle School and High School students. Heather is already working on VBS! It is going to be a full plate of activities. Check out those opportunities and make the most of them.

THE LINK SCHEDULE
Jan. 26: Grant & Lesley Boltjes
Feb. 2: Bruce Wentzel & Bonnie Overweg
Feb. 9: Mike & Jolene Hilbrands

COFFEE SCHEDULE
Jan. 26: Gerald & Deb Teunissen
Feb. 2: Joel & Lisa Blankers
Feb. 9: Steve & Becky Lee

GREETER SCHEDULE
Jan. 26:
  9:00am— Jean Nollmann
  Dennis & Helen Robinson
  Nic & LaDonna Frieborg
11:00am— Jean Nollmann
  Dennis & Helen Robinson
Feb. 2:
  9:00am— Jerralyne Tjeerdema
  Doug & Sharon Harms
  Chad & Diane McKee
11:00am— Jerralyne Tjeerdema
  Mark & Pat Koll

NURSERY SCHEDULE
Jan 26:  9:00am— Jeris & Maylene Van Zee
         Corey & Laurel Feenstra
         11:00am— Jason & Jamie Van Sloten
         Leslie Cleveringa

Feb. 2:  9:00am— Matt & Erin Weerheim
         Angie Joswiak
         11:00am— Dustin & Sheri Brouwer

THE COMMUNICATOR
COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER | 605.336.1475 | JANUARY 22, 2020
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 22
6:00pm—BBQ Meal
6:30pm—K-5 Singing
6:45pm—K-8 Classes
7:00pm—Adult Classes
7:30pm—H.S. Youth Group

Saturday, Jan. 25
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am—Closed AA meeting

Sunday, Jan. 26
10:10am—Sunday School

Monday, Jan. 27
7:00pm—Men’s Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan. 28
7:00pm—AA Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 29
6:00pm—Chicken/Taco Salad
6:30pm—K-5 Singing
6:45pm—K-8 Classes
7:00pm—Adult Classes
7:30pm—H.S. Youth Group

FINANCES

Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
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<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>$5</td>
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General YTD: $37,376
Vision YTD: $11,955
Vision Account Balance: $137,265

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

BOOK CLUBS
The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 7 pm at the Eastside Panera on Foss Ave. They will be discussing Rebecca by duMaurier.

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

SENIOR CITIZENS:
Seniors will meet on Feb. 10th at noon at the eastside Pizza Ranch.

MISSION OF THE MONTH
CHURCH ON THE STREET—A faith community serving the unhoused and people struggling with poverty in Sioux Falls.

FAITH CIRCLE
Faith Circle will not be meeting the months of January - March.

JOY CIRCLE
Joy Circle will not meet in the months of January, February, or March for Bible Studies.

THE GIVE
The GIVE wall in the lobby is a place to donate to local ministries.

Union Gospel Mission—Canned Fruit
Sleep in Heavenly Peace—normal sized twin bedding (pillow, pillow cases, sheet sets)
Church on the Street—Stretch gloves, hand warmers, mini meat snacks, small fleece blankets, quart size sip lock bags, hotel size soaps, shampoos & lotions
Hygiene Kits—hotel sized shampoo, conditioner, body wash

DOYLE’S UPDATE

Planning stages are still in full swing as we continue to keep things rolling with the Spring Fling, Denver mission trip and Rocky Mountain High. The mission trip is basically set. We will be sending 9 people out to serve alongside Youth Works in Denver and will be doing a variety of service opportunities.

Senior High students who are planning on going to Rocky Mountain High need to be registered by February 1st so we can send in all our payment and roster by the 4th. If you have any questions on registration, let me know!

Finally, details are still getting put together for our senior high Spring Fling fundraiser. The date will be March 7th and we will be hoping for a little nicer weather than last years planning!

For middle school, our skating day got postponed from last Sunday to this Sunday. So for any middle school students who would like to go ice skating, meet at McKennan park at 4 for an afternoon of skating together.

That’s it for this week!

Doyle Burnside
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605-310-2561
This week, I’d like to give an update on two parts of my job: The Corner and my Mid-Week class.

First, The Corner. This space has turned into so much more than I ever thought. Almost every week I meet people who are new to Community and have a question or two about things around here. It’s been a fantastic way to connect with people one-on-one, and for already-involved Community people to meet newcomers. I have a long list of bakers who provide tasty treats every Sunday morning, and I always brew locally roasted Coffea coffee! The Corner has come to be such a prominent addition to Sunday mornings that I’ve actually been looking at ways to increase the size of the space. At Community, being creative with space isn’t anything new. We’ve done that before! Perhaps the summer months will be a good time to see if I can expand The Corner a bit without sacrificing the storage space on the other side. In any case, I’m thrilled at how God is blessing that time with people and how people are using it to connect. And Community friends, thank you for telling people to stop by The Corner and for stopping by with the friends you invite. It matters when we can all work together to help people feel at home!

And now for my Mid-Week class. One of the reasons I need to write a little about it this week is because I’ve had several people asking me about it since the beginning of the new year! I love that people are always looking for new ways to grow and meet others at church. So, let’s talk about it.

I’ve titled the class “The Bible Says What?!?” The premise of the class is that we study Bible stories that you were probably exposed to at some point if you ever took Sunday School, but we look at them through an adult lens. So much of the Bible is hard to explain to children, and quite a bit of it really isn’t child appropriate. In this class, we are able to look at every single part of familiar Bible stories. We don’t have to leave anything out. We discuss the historical context, the culture, how these stories point to Jesus, what these stories tell us about God, what the translations mean, and so much more. Here are several of the things I have been loving about this class:

- We have a wide variety of ages and demographics represented. We have college students, young parents, empty nesters, retired folks, and seniors, and they all contribute to class!
- It doesn’t matter how much you know or don’t know about the Bible. Any level of Bible knowledge is welcome! Everyone (including me) learns something new with each story.
- It’s not just lecture! My teaching style has always been very interactive (just ask my former youth group students 😊). And this class has contributed beautifully. I love that people are willing to share their thoughts and ideas as we learn and grow together.
- And lastly, you don’t have to read anything before you come to class. There’s no homework! 😊 If you’re interested, all you have to do is show up. We meet in the fellowship hall from 7-8pm on Wednesday nights. It’s been a huge blessing to me to offer this class. If you have further questions, don’t hesitate to ask me, and please know everyone is welcome!

Have a great week!

Liz

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**PRAYER REQUEST**

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurrey’s dad (multiple myeloma)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Laura Maloney’s brother-in-law, Bruce (lymphoma)
- Diane Johnson (liver disease)
- Gary Jensen (cancer)
- Jamelee Van Donge’s dad, DeLyle (cancer)
- Sara Van Ruler’s dad (throat cancer)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Al Hoogendoorn (multiple health issues)
- Dave Sells (surgery recovery)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Melanie Oden’s dad (motorcycle accident)
- Cleone Groen (surgery)
- Audrey Landegents’ son, David (cancer)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate issues)
- Gary Parmley (surgery recovery)
- Kara Schouten (broken foot)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (prostate cancer)

Prayer Group meets at 7:00am on Saturdays in the chapel. Everyone Welcome!
Hi Everyone!

Last week I tried something new for my newsletter article and talked a little bit about toddlers. If you missed that one, you can always see past newsletters at https://www.communityrc.org/news-feed/newsletters/. This week I’ll focus on the preschool age group. This is a wide range because between ages 3 and 5 so much can change!

Preschool kids are starting to think more independently and ask many, many questions. Their personalities really start to shine and parents start to really note that some love to move, some love to play quietly, some like to laugh, some are more serious, and in many cases, kids are a little bit of everything all rolled into one great little human.

So, how do we seize this opportunity as we seek to nurture our child’s growing relationship with Jesus?

- Be clear and open: Try to avoid the temptation to oversimplify. You might be surprised at how much a child this age understands. However, they still love and benefit from repetition of the “big idea” so this can be paired with a more detailed explanation or examples.
- Be a good listener. Kids this age may need some help putting their ideas and feelings into words but time spent on this now will pay off big time later.
- Offer choices: Kids this age are developing independence in a big way. One of the best ways to nurture a child in this phase is to offer choices. The key is to offer multiple choices that are all acceptable to the parent/caregiver. For example: “Do you want to read this Bible story with me first and then put on your shoes or would you rather put on your shoes first, then come read with me?” Or, “would you like to listen to music while you clean up your toys or would you rather have it quiet while you pick up?” Kids this age will also have preferences and favorites. Listen to them and say “yes” whenever you can, even if it means reading the same story over and over again.
- Be clear: Kids this age test boundaries and are learning what is acceptable in any setting. Give a positive instruction such as “Please walk in the grocery store because if you run you could bump into someone and hurt them or you.” “Please use a whisper voice here because when you talk too loud it bothers other people.” This doesn’t guarantee that the child will follow but it gives them a much better chance for success at meeting your expectations.
- Enjoy friends: By age 3-5, many kids are very social and enjoy learning and playing with their peers. Embrace this and use opportunities like Sunday School or VBS to connect them with God’s Love in a setting that they enjoy. With that said, if groups of kids are still scary for your little one, don’t panic and don’t push the issue. A little taste of time with a friend they enjoy is a great start.
- Incorporate music: At this age, kids often enjoy learning and singing songs. They gain confidence by “knowing” so they like repetition and beat with their music. We have some great CDs from Sing N Sprout with Bible songs but you can also easily find DVDs and YouTube videos as well as CDs with great songs of faith. Again, kids this age love their “favorites” and may drive you crazy but don’t worry- it is only a phase and their new favorite will be here soon enough. Any chance to add movement or an instrument is a big win.
- Use books: Preschool age kids thrive in a world filled with great literature! Offer books with big characters, exciting illustrations and engaging text. This might mean rhyme, repetition, humor or adventure. Our Church Library has some awesome options. Choose some picture books and give kids chances to make predictions and connections. “I saw lions at the zoo and Daniel is in with lions!” “I think that Jesus will talk to Zacchaeus.” “I remember once when I felt afraid and God was with me.” Read them over and over and over! Bedtime stories are a great opportunity.
- Add movement: Preschool kids are fine tuning their small muscles and are often interested in crafts, puzzles and challenges. Their big muscles are getting much more coordinated as they enjoy dancing, copying older kids, showing off their skills, taking safe risks like climbing or jumping and exploring. Encourage them to act out a story as you read, use actions with a praise song or even find some of God’s creation on a scavenger hunt with pictures.
- Prayer can become more detailed as kids start to connect their friends and family relationships to their relationship with God. They may be thankful for specific things or sorry for something that happened. They are ready to lay their worries (though they may seem small) at the feet of Jesus and can practice trusting God to help them when they are stuck. They are quite literal so you may need to talk about prayer and how God answers prayer.
- Set an example: Be sure your child gets to hear and see you talk with God, read your Bible and enjoy church. Tell them what you are doing if it isn’t obvious to them. Invite them to join.

See you soon!

Heather DeWit
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(605)336-1475
Local Mission Opportunity

Would you enjoy being part of a local mission? We are putting together kits for the mission CHURCH ON THE STREET. These kits are things that are needed for those who have to spend much of their time outside during the cold winter.

The following items are needed for these kits:
- Stretch gloves
- Hand Warmers
- Mini meat snacks
- Small fleece Blankets (like those sold at Menards)
- Quart size zip lock bags
- Hotel size soaps, shampoos & lotions


If you would like to help assemble these kits, come to the church (back door) on Mon, Jan. 27 at 12:00pm. Please come & join us for lunch.

Hello!

New Members!

We welcome these new members to Community!

Jordan & Megan Van Meeteren and their son Logan. Jordan works at Eide Bailly and Megan works for the Sioux Falls School District at Rosa Parks.

Tad & Tami Boyle and their two daughters, Mazie and Kenedee. Tad works for TC/American and Tami works for CO-OP Architecture.

Shirley Venenga. She is retired and lives in Sioux Falls.

Derek & Molly Kreutzfeldt and their son Bo. Derek works at Quoin Financial and Molly works at Henkin Schultz.

Movie Night for Valentine's Day

2.14.20

Concessions open at 5:45pm
Movie starts at 6:30pm

It’s a Movie Night at Community to fundraise for travel supplies and costs for those going on the Haiti Mission Trip in March.

Concessions opens @ 5:45pm for those who would like to eat together as a family.

Movie at 6:30. Adult Movie in the Worship Center (Overcomer). Kid’s movie in children’s area or Fellowship hall (TBD), for ages 5-12. Nursery for 0-5 years old will also be provided.

Nursery Donation.

Concessions : Popcorn, hot dogs, candy & pop, D’s Nuts, water
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, Feb. 9 @ 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.