It's another Monday and no sun again. Now we did get a little of that sun on Saturday, but it was so cold. It is January now and we all knew this is how things typically are for this month. I guess we can’t complain. I know the cold is going to stick around now for days so here we go. Won’t spring feel nice? I guess that’s the bigger purpose for all of this. You have a little cold spell and then appreciate the warm even more. I always looking for the positive in all of these things. Enjoy the cold!

I have been doing to some work on my summer sermon series this week and I think I’m going to do a series on the Holy Spirit and also spend some time on a power of the Christ who lives in us. I’m working on putting those two things together in series for the summer. My sermon from this past Sunday put my mind in that gear. It’s not fully formed yet in my head but give it some time and I think it might turn out to be some valuable teaching for us.

I saw a few faces in the Mission Haiti meeting on Sunday morning. If you were not able to attend that meeting, remember they are meeting again this week during MidWeek. Jaron DeWitt is our connection there and he is very capable of putting all of the pieces of this together. If you need more information just talk to him on a Sunday morning or stop in the Corner and talk to Liz. She can put you in touch with the right people.

I heard Heather and Doyle putting together a meeting for parents and kids who are interested in doing “Profession of Faith”. We have always used the process of personal mentors for this sort of thing in the past. We like that format, but we are thinking not everyone understands how all of this works. They are looking at Sunday evening the February 10. If you have more questions talk to either of them.

Sunday will be the last in the series on the wisemen. This week it is about the gifts. They must have chosen them with some degree of thought. What do the gifts mean? Why gold, frankincense and myrrh? Was God trying to say something through them? We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!

Liz is starting a new MidWeek class called “Hearing God” based on a book study by Dallas Willard. We have used some of his book before and this is shaping up to be great study. She is working hard to make the class user friendly and informative. We all know that feeling of wondering is God is listening to us, but this book goes even farther to talk about the ways in which God speaks and putting our hearts in a place to hear. It should be a great class. Stop into the Corner and talk to her about it if you have questions.

I know it seems a little early, but they do these Softball planning meetings early in the year. We are looking to put another team or maybe two for our church. If you would like more information on that they are meeting on February 10 during the Sunday school hour. If this is something you like to do, we would love to have you join up with our teams.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Saturday, January 26
7:00 am – Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am – Closed AA meeting

Sunday, January 27
10:10am – Sunday School

Monday, January 28
7:00pm – Men’s Bible Study

Tuesday, January 29
7:00pm – AA Meeting

Wednesday, January 30
6:00pm – Tacos
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.

HOPE CIRCLE

We’ll will meet on Feb. 19 at 7:00pm. Jerralynne – host. Jeanie – lesson.

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
As I have been working in my new role at Community, it has been truly awesome to watch new areas for growth, suggestions, and connections made within the Adult Discipleship part of my job. Obviously, we have a lot of adults at Community. And it’s becoming clear that there are many ways we can offer opportunities for growth at Community. The most recent opportunity that I’m very excited about is starting a grief group here at Community.

I have been working with a mental health professional about the best way to set up, structure, and plan an effective small group for adults who are working through the grief of having lost a loved one. By the end of February, I am hoping to have a sheet of information available along with a preregistration of sorts for anyone who might be interested in this group. We hope to pilot the first meeting right around Easter. It is important to note that this group will function as a support group to help in the grief process rather than as a therapy group. I think the potential for meaningful conversation and healing is pretty significant, so if you feel lead, I ask you to be in prayer for this group. If you have lost a loved one and you think you might like to be a part of this pilot group, just keep an eye on my article for more information.

And since I mentioned small groups, I thought it would be good to let you know that I’ve been gathering information and reading up on small group ministry within many different church settings. I’m learning a lot about what works and what doesn’t, and I’ve been giving significant thought to how we can structure successful groups for those who attend Community who are interested in participating in small group ministry. It is my hope to begin to roll out that information late this spring, and to potentially try our first small groups early this fall.

And lastly this week, I wanted to be sure to specify that my Hearing God book study will begin February 6. We’ll meet Wednesday nights from 7-8, and it’s open to any adults who are interested. Please let me know if you’d like a copy of the book. I’ve ordered some, but we have time to order more if needed!

Have a good week and stay warm out there!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

---

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

- **Pete Valentine** (pace maker surgery)
- **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)
- **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)
- **Junella Wesselink** (appendix surgery)
- **Duane** (Jerralynne Tjeerdsma’s son-in-law)
SARAH’S UPDATE

We’re planning to go to Great Bear on February 17 from 5-8pm to go tubing. If possible send your kiddo with $10 dollars for admission. Dinner will be on us! Please let us know if your son or daughter can make it. Postcards will be going out today so watch your mail and check our Facebook page.

This week during youth group we are going to talk about grace. Last week we talked about the Lord’s prayer. We got into a discussion about the contents of the prayer and one of the kids had said they haven’t thought to ask God’s help to forgive someone else. Grace is a life changing word. It involves forgiveness and love. We are going to dive a little bit more into that discussion tonight. I think God invites us to receive grace but also give others grace as well. We will talk about what that word means, what it feels like, and what can happen when we show other people in our world a little grace.

Sarah Powell
Powell.SarahEllen@gmail.com
Middle School Youth Group Coordinator

The Church Library

There’s always something happening in the library. If you like to listen to a book, we have two of the Karen Kingsbury sets (Redemption & Firstborn) in CD adaptations. Look for our audio selection to the left of the desk as you enter the library.

Faithgirlz publishes books primarily for girls from 8 to 12. We have a new four-book series called Girls from Harbor View by favorite author Melody Carlson. Second/third grade boys and girls may enjoy the Jones & Parker Case Files, a series of solve-it mysteries.

Recommendations for books for women include More than Meets the Eye by Karen Witemeyer, a historical with mystery and a touch of romance. Favorite author Lynette Eason writes great suspense for anyone; try her Blue Justice series. Her writing is a thumbs-up from the librarians.

There are quite a number of new videos for a cold evening. If you have read or watched Unbroken, you will want to check out the new DVD: Unbroken, Path to Redemption.

There’s always so much new at your full-service church library.

Check it out!

Your librarians: Trudi, Lois, Lorena, and Merry

Volunteer!

Looking for 5-6 volunteers to help on prep and/or serve the Wednesday night meal on Feb. 6th. Contact Janet Bartscher (bartea1@sio.midco.net) if you can help.
Hi Everyone!
I hope you are having a good week. I have a couple of new items for you to note this week:

- For Middle School and High School Students and their Parents: We have an informational meeting scheduled for those of you interested in learning more about how Profession of Faith works here at Community. We'll have a meeting on Feb. 10 at 7pm to share that information and answer any questions.

Parents of 4-6 graders: Inspiration Hills has a Winter Retreat for your kids. Students have gone in the past and enjoyed a fun growing time. To learn more: http://inspirationhills.org/4th-6th-grade-winter-retreat.html

I’m going to use the rest of my article this week to talk about SUMMER CAMP. Maybe thinking about summer will warm me up! ☃

We do some mini day camps for K-5 kids in the summer time here at Community that usually last a day or two. This year we’ll be learning about Daniel’s Courage in Captivity and doing some fun projects. We’ll probably do two mini camps this year and I’ll let you know when I have some dates. The High Schoolers will have their own Community High School Youth experiences this summer as well so High School students may want to check with Doyle before signing up for Inspiration Hills.

We also encourage kids to attend Inspiration Hills Summer Camps. Here’s what you need to know:

- There is a display filled with brochures in the Children’s Wing (and if you look closely you’ll see some kiddos from Community in the brochure!) There are some great videos talking about the value of camp on the Inspiration Hills web page. The kids from Community that have gone have come back to share an overwhelmingly positive experience.
- Camp starts for kids going into 1st Grade with Day Camp and goes through High School.

- Many kids from Community go to camp so if you are hoping to go with a friend, ask around! I know there are some kids going into 4th, 6th and 9th grades wondering when “everyone else” is going to camp, and I predict I’ll hear more of the same questions, so if you happen to know when your child is going to camp, please let me know and I’ll spread the word. ☺ Even if your child goes on a week that no other Community kids go, it is still a great opportunity and the counselors help everyone connect right away! Invite a friend from school to join you at camp!

- There are a variety of types of camps including day camp, overnight, horse camp, wilderness, sports, family, grandparent

- The theme this year is “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1

- April 15 is the early deadline to sign up for camp.

- Community offers scholarships to all of our kids! Church pays for 50% of the early registration amount. If you sign up later than April 15, you would just pay the difference. When you register your child online, just indicate the amount Community will pay (50% of early registration) and pay the rest. Then email me with the amount and the date your child will be attending so we can send Inspiration Hills a check for the church scholarship portion.

If you have questions about camp please let me know and I’m happy to help! There is also more information at: http://inspirationhills.org/summer-camp.html

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