Another Monday morning and another shot of cold air that arrived during the night. I am hearing there is a change coming by Wednesday and I think all of us are looking forward to that. I’m just not ready for winter yet. I don’t mind a little chilly, but January in November is not what I want to do right now. Maybe we can get through this cold spell and then get some more seasonable temps through Thanksgiving. I guess we will just have to see about that one.

It was a very full week around here last week. I know we have some very sad families out there right now and with the holiday season coming up, that is going to make all of this a bit more difficult for each of them. I mentioned Sunday that we had a number of our folks step up and do so many things to help out and that really makes a difference. Prayers will still be needed and I know you will all be doing that as well. It is something I don’t want to do again for a while. Three funerals in four days is a bit much…for all of us. Thanks again to those who helped out. Great job Community!

We did have a church break in last week…you have probably all heard about that. It simply put in motion the great people we have doing things around here and I can fully assure you there are a number of things that are going to be done and already are done about that. It happens to lots of people and now it was our turn, I guess. The person at least didn’t do a lot of damage and very little was taken. God was watching, and he knows what all needs to happen. I am going to trust that a bit and then watch our leadership people do what they do. They are moved to action. Once again…Great job Community!

Our Christmas Choir is working hard on their music. I don’t think we recognized how very difficult our music is this year. It takes such a lot of concentration for our singers and they do such an amazing job. I love that time. I know they are tired on a Sunday night as so many of us are, and they have to put up with my “pushing”, but oh my, can they make some amazing music when it all comes together. That concert is just a few weeks away now and I believe you are going to enjoy that. There will be a little more congregational singing this year because of the theme I have picked for Advent…I’ll leave that conversation for another week. Get ready…it’s going to be exciting!

I am planning on being out of town this weekend if all goes as planned. I have a hunting trip in Nebraska which is a gift I was given. Hopefully all will work out and I will get to go do that. It hasn’t been working out very well for me this year, but maybe things have turned around and I can get some time out in the open for couple of days. I know I am looking forward to doing that.

Seth Sundstrum is filling in for me on Sunday morning. He will be great. Seth is an amazing teacher/preacher and you are going to enjoy that. I know he will be there to “rock your boat” a little as well. I am also having Irwin Van Leeuwen do the Thanksgiving service for me. I’m going to home to spend that night with my mom. First time in almost 20 years. She will be happy. We’ll talk more after Thanksgiving, have a great week!
LAST CHANCE—OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
DEADLINE: THIS SUNDAY, NOV. 18
It's the last Sunday to get your shoeboxes in! Leave them at the table in the lobby. Contact Neil @ 777-9103 or Linda Conover (after 5:30) @ 310-9893 or email CFOcpc@sio.midco.net

KID'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
PRACTICE: SUNDAYS @ 2PM
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:
DEC. 2ND @ 4:00PM

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, NOV 21
7:00PM
Give thanks and join us for our Thanksgiving Eve service.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Wednesday, Nov 14
9:30am—Book Club (Bagel Boy on MN)
6:00pm—BBQ
7:00pm—Classes for all ages & Youth groups

Saturday, Nov 17
7:00 am—Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am—Closed AA meeting

Sunday, Nov 18
10:10am—Sunday School
2:00pm—Kid's Christmas practice
6:00pm—Choir

Monday, Nov 19
6:30pm—Moms of Newborns
7:00pm—Men’s Bible Study

Tues, Nov 20
7:00pm—Open AA Meeting
7:00pm—Hope Circle
7:00-m Book Club @ E. Panera

Wednesday, Nov 21
No Midweek meal
7:00pm—Thanksgiving Eve Service

UPCOMING MINISTRIES
COMMUNITY BOOK CLUBS
The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 7pm at the E. Panera. We will be discussing Cutting for Stone by Verhese.

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.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS
SAFE FAMILIES INFO MEETING
Monday, December 3, 7-8pm
At the Bethany Christian Services office
400 S Sycamore Ave, Suite 103-1

FINANCES
Sunday, November 11, 2018

General: ......................... $10,529
Vision: .......................... $2,315
Missions: ......................... $455
Wed Night: ...................... $286

General YTD: $672,161
Vision YTD: $180,287
Vision Account Balance: $108,508
PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pete Valentine
- Natallie Baker (seizure disorder)
- 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)
- William VamBram’s wife, Cynthia (heart)
- Gloria Wierda, Laura Maloney’s mom (stage 4 breast cancer)
- Sara Van Ruler’s dad (throat cancer)
- Barb Acheson (heart stent Nov 7)
- Diane Friese (hip replacement Nov 8)
- Junella Wesselink (appendicitis)
- Joe Johnson (cancer)
- Lori Hein’s mom, Joan (heart)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Michelle Wigg
- Arlene Clyde (health issues)
- Carolyn Hink’s sister, Marilyn Woodden (hospice)
- Cleone Groen
- Gary VanDenHoek
- Rachel Thornton (cardiac echo 11/8)
- Randy Grotenhuis (inflammation of the inner ear)
- Cahlen Vanderlip (grandson of Mike & Jolene Hilbrands)
- Grace Vanden Hueval (surgery recovery)
- Kara Schouten (kidney transplant)

MISSIONS

THE GIVE

Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby. It’s a place to donate to local ministries. We’ll highlight 4 each month.

Love Lexi & Friends Christmas Closet: gifts for children hospitalized over Christmas— all ages

Operation Christmas Child— stuffed toys, small doll, ball pump

Union Gospel mission: Hooded sweatshirts XL-5XL

The Banquet— new hoodies & socks

MISSION OF THE MONTH:

Angel Tree

UNION GOSPEL MISSION:

Hooded sweatshirts XL-5XL
Please place in the designated bin at The Give in the lobby.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

FAITH CIRCLE

We will not meet the third Monday in November. Mark your calendars for our Christmas Gathering on Monday, Dec. 3, 11:15am at CJ Callaways, (500 E. 69th St.)

JOY CIRCLE

Tuesday, Dec. 18th Christmas Party
CJ Callaways @ 11:30am
Please RSVP to Char at 366-1341

HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle meet on Nov. 13th At 7pm.
Hostess= Jerralynne. Lesson = Jeanie.

MOMS OF NEWBORNS

MONDAYS from 6:30-7:30pm

This is a new group at Community open to any woman who is caring for a newborn. Do you feel overwhelmed? Do you have more questions than answers. Then this group is for you! Hosted by Jolene Larson.
Jmlarson@alliancecom.net

Dates: Nov. 19; December 3, 10, 17.
I’d like to prepare everyone for this shocking announcement: THANKSGIVING IS NEXT WEEK!!! Seriously, where has the time gone? The fall has flown by, and November is half over. Absolutely amazing.

Speaking of Thanksgiving, remember that Community has a Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 21, at 7:00 pm. This means that there will be no Mid-Week next week, but we will resume on November 28.

The choir had a fantastic rehearsal on Sunday night, and things are starting to come together nicely! The choir will perform our Christmas concerts on Sunday, December 9 at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. We have a very large group of adults who have committed to this group, and I want to thank them for their hard work. They come each week ready to rehearse and ready to be stretched and challenged as we sing. I believe the music this year will be especially meaningful to the audience, partly because it’s been especially meaningful to those who are singing! There’s nothing quite like a chorus, and I’m incredibly thankful we have so many people who are willing to come together to make this happen. By the way, this is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend or two to the concerts on December 9. We hope to pack out our services that morning!

I wanted to say that I have been greatly enjoying the “Just Ask” Mid-Week class! The adults who come each week have generated an outstanding list of questions to work through, and I feel that our conversations every week are thought-provoking and honest. It’s been a blessing for me to be teaching such a wonderful group of adults each week, and I’ve been deeply thankful that this class has made my transition from youth ministry to adult ministry so much fun! We’re not finished, and we still have some fantastic questions coming up before Christmas. I’m already looking forward to our next conversations.

If you’ve noticed, there has been the theme of “thankfulness” woven throughout my article this week. Next week, we’ll talk about thankfulness too, but maybe not in a way you expect. J Tune in next week to find out more…

Have a great week!

Liz

Please welcome Brett and Megan Blankespoor to Community. They live in Brandon and are transferring their membership from Inwood. Brett is a Control Systems Developer for Interstates and Megan works for Avera as a Health Systems analysis. They attend either the 9 or 11 am service and Sunday mornings. Welcome to Community.

Say Hi to Don and Lori Lems. Don is a farmer near the West Lyon school in Iowa and Lori works at West Lyon in the computer lab. They also have transferred their membership. Give them a Community shout out when you see them Welcome

Katie is a daughter of Don and Lori. She also joins the Community family along with her son Jaxon. Katie works for Avera in the infectious diseases department. She would remind you to get your flu shot! Katie lives in Harrisburg. It is great to have Katie with us. Please say Hi when you see her.
Hi Everyone!
With this weather, it doesn’t seem so silly to be talking about Christmas Program practices and Operation Christmas Child!

This Wednesday is the night the K-5 kids and Middle School Youth Group all spend their class time learning about sharing God’s love and packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child. If you want to bring items to fill boxes, this is the week! It is always a fun evening. If any of you want to help me “use up” any leftover supplies and fill a few more boxes after class Wednesday for a few minutes or during the day on Thursday, please send me an email.

The 3 Year Olds and Preschool Age kids have been busy practicing their Christmas Program during the Sunday School hour. We made some adjustments to their “script” and switched a song or two so we’ll hand out new copies on Sunday for practicing. If you’d like to download the new script to help your little one practice, it is at: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ntflqP7b97Ts9imxzkGFeQ1A3LQKkckcJ You can also get one at church on Sunday during singing. They are on purple paper.

Our K-5 and Middle School kids have two more practices. They’ll also practice songs during Sunday School. They are singing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”, “Angels we have Heard on High”, “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World.” It would be great if they can practice at home too.

Our next practice is for ALL K-5 and Middle School PARTICIPANTS on 11/18/18 from 2-3pm. (The band should arrive at 1:45pm to get set up and warmed up before practice.)

- Kids with speaking parts should have their parts memorized before practice.
- If your child needs any props (they would know if they do) then you can bring them for this practice.
- Kids with costumes (shepherds, Bible people, angels, Mary, Joseph, etc.) should plan to stay a couple of minutes after practice to try on your costume.

We DO NOT have practice on 11/25/18 because of Thanksgiving.

OUR DRESS REHEARSAL is on SATURDAY, DEC 1 AT 2PM

Tech helpers, if you can make it for those practices, we will practice the lights and cues as we run through the whole program.

See you soon everyone!
Heather
Heather.DeWit@communityrc.org

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DOYLE’S UPDATE

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Hello again! The high schools “You Asked It” series has wrapped up and we are moving on. Students asked a lot of great questions, a lot of tough questions, and a lot of fun questions. While I may not have been able to bring complete clarity and answer every question in a way that removes all doubt or struggles, I hope it was a good starting point for students to continue to lean on their faith and open doors for further conversations. There were several questions asked that I skimmed over as they will fit in with other lessons we will be going through later this year as well.

Our retreat was this past weekend and while we ended up having a small group (as some plans changed and one student got sick the day of) it was a great opportunity to step out of our everyday routine. Swan Lake’s staff was really flexible and actually moved us into their main lodge. It is a little nicer and it also kept us from having to walk in the cold for meals/lessons/activities for the most part! Our focus on the weekend was Freedom in Christ. We talked through three traps/lies that come from the enemy and three ways to combat those lies.

We now move into the season with a lot of breaks. Next Wednesday (the 21st) there will be no midweek for high school, and that Sunday (the 25th) there will be no Sunday school. Then there will only be three more Wednesdays before students are out for Christmas break!

Speaking of Christmas, the 12th of December will be our last Wednesday night and the high school group will be having a party. It will be during our normal hours as we celebrate the end of the year together. There will be food, white elephant gifts and awesome Christmas sweaters!

That’s it for this week! If you have any questions about the high school ministry feel free to contact me anytime!

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

It is not too late to let me know if your Middle Schooler will be attending Air Madness this Friday. Arrive at 6:45 and we will jump from 7-8. Students are still welcome to come without an RSVP but it is helpful for me to know who will be coming prior to the event. The most important thing to do is to make sure you have a waiver filled out for your student. They can be completed at Air Madness or online at https://airmadness.com/waiver.html. If you have any questions about the event, need help transporting, or would like to RSVP, you can call or text me at 605-251-6491 or email me at powell.sarahellen@gmail.com.

During midweek this week students will be packing Operation Christmas Child boxes. We will talk about how the boxes are used to tell kids around the world about who Jesus is. Next week we will pick back up on our media series and will talk about ways that we can use media to honor God. That’s all for this week!

Sarah Powell
Middle School Youth Group Coordinator
powell.sarahellen@gmail.com
Samaritan’s Purse is celebrating 25 years of sending Good News and Great Joy through shoebox gifts! Since 1993, more than 157 million boys and girls in over 160 countries have experienced God’s love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan’s Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver these gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

Check out the table in the lobby this Sunday about Operation Christmas Child. Deadline to turn in boxes is Sunday, Nov. 18th! Contact Neil @ 777-9103 or Linda Conover (after 5:30) @ 310-9893 or email CFOcpc@sio.midco.net

Don’t let postage stop you from filling a box! Some generous donors have given money to cover some shipping costs. Email Heather to find out more info. Heather.DeWit@communityrc.org

Deadline to turn in boxes is Sunday, Nov. 18th!

Congratulations to Marty & Randi VanDerSloot on the birth of their daughter Olivia on Nov. 8th!

Also, congratulations to Logan & Chelsea Veurink on the birth of their twins, Ada and Oliver, on Nov. 10th!
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.