PASTOR’S UPDATE

It sounds like a little cool down for this week, but we have all been enjoying March. I have been telling folks this is how I remember March years ago. It would seem like spring was coming and then maybe a quick snow or cold rainy day and then warm up again. I hope this is a sign of spring. Only time will tell. In the meantime, enjoy it! I can tell just by the look on people’s faces that you are all so much more joyful when the temps are above 40. What a difference that is from last year at this time when we were fighting sub-zero and a big snow storm.

A big thank you to all of you who participated in this year’s Spring Fling. You are such generous folks. I enjoy those evenings when I get to see you all at your very best as you support the work being done with our young people. Doyle spends lots of hours getting that evening ready for us and the kids and him did a fine job of hosting our evening. They have some big events planned for this summer and those funds will go a long way to making those moments so much better. Again, thank you to all!

The team got back from Haiti and they are all feeling the effects of fatigue from a busy week and the joy of seeing God do what only He can do. They will be doing a presentation for us this coming Sunday during the Sunday school hour so make plans to attend that. I have been hearing many stories of all that went on there. There are funny moments as well as profound moments of God’s hand working. Those trips always make an impact on those whom we go to serve, but very often those who go find themselves blessed beyond what they expected. I would always highly encourage folks to get involved in these kinds of trips. I know it is not for everyone, but if you have ever thought you might want to do that sometime this is a great opportunity. It will not be our last trip to Haiti! Thanks everyone who prayed for the team.

I also want to remind you to grab a ballot on Sunday morning and get those filled out. We could still use more. Actually, a lot more. Remember, this is how we select who goes on that next ballot. We want as many people involved in this process as we can. If you haven’t done it... do it now. We need your help!

We are doing a breakfast for Easter again this year. This really went well last year and I am certain it will be a hit this year as well. This truly is a good way to introduce people to our church. Folks are usually thinking about church on Easter so it’s a good time to ask them to join you for breakfast and a good morning of worship.

The church is working to put a softball team together again this year. Your contact for the that is Rick Hanson. There is more about this in the newsletter. If this is something you enjoy doing...get signed up! I think I’ll pass this year. My bones just won’t take it. I know lots of you can. Go Community!

The next in the series of messages will take us to the first big change in this journey to Jerusalem. The scenic route is about to be interrupted. Not everyone likes Jesus now. He has enemies and those who do not trust him. As the caravan approaches a new territory the word will get out. Resistance is coming! What now! We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

THE COMMUNICATOR
COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER | 605.336.1475 | MARCH 11, 2020

NURSERY SCHEDULE
March 15: 9:00am—Bob & Katie Deelstra
Daron, Sherri & Aubrie VanBeek
11:00am—Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen
OPEN

March 22: 9:00am—Charlene Hopf
Mike & Angie Boyenga
11:00am—Tami Boyle
Allie Underberg

THE LINK SCHEDULE
March 15: 9:00am—Chad & Diane McKee
11:00am—Angie Hageman

March 22: 9:00am—Gerald & Deb Teunissen
11:00am—Bill & Dar Keizer

COFFEE SCHEDULE
March 15: Steve & Becky Lee
March 22: Dick & Jeannette Jennings
March 29: Joel & Lisa Blankers

GREETER SCHEDULE
March 15: Jeri & Maylene VanZee
Dennis & Helen Robinson
Ron & Jaunita Palsma
11:00am—Jean Nollmann
Dennis & Helen Robinson

March 22: Jeralynne Tjeerdsma
Rich & Carolyn Odens
Nic & LaDonna Freiborg
11:00am—Jerralynne Tjeerdsma
Mark & Pat Koll

VOTING FOR CONSISTORY
Now accepting nominations for elders/deacons. A list of eligible people can be found at The Link in the lobby.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 11
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

Thursday, March 12
9:00 am– Book Club Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave.

Saturday, March 14
7:00 am– Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am– Closed AA meeting

Sunday, March 15
10:10am– Sunday School

Monday, March 16
7:00pm– Men’s Bible Study
7:00pm– Quilting

Tuesday, March 17
7:00pm– AA Meeting
7:00pm– Hope Circle
7:00pm– Book Club @ E. Panera

Wednesday, March 18
6:00pm– Soup Night
6:30pm– K-5 Singing
6:45pm– K-8 Classes
7:00pm– Adult Classes
7:30pm– H.S. Youth Group

FINANCES

Sunday, March 8, 2020

General: $9,431
Vision: $965
Missions: $216
Wed night: $397
Faith Ave: $450
Sunday School: $1

General YTD: $114,692
Vision YTD: $28,565
Vision Account Balance: $123,871

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

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

SENIOR CITIZENS: Seniors will meet on April 13th at noon at the eastside Pizza Ranch.

MISSION OF THE MONTH
Call to Freedom provides supportive services for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

HOPE CIRCLE
Hope Circle will meet on March 17th at 7:00pm. Jeanie & Helen are hostesses and Helen has the lesson.

BOOK CLUBS
The Morning Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 12, at 9 a.m. at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave. They will be discussing The Invisible Man by H.G. Wells.

The Evening Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 17, at 7 p.m. at the eastside Panera on Foss Ave. They will be discussing Book Girl by Clarkson. Each attendee is asked to bring a list of personal top 10 books.

FAITH CIRCLE
Faith Circle will meet for lunch Monday, April 20, 11:15a.m at the Olive Garden, 3121 W 41st. Please bring your ideas for Bible study, events, etc. for our circle. Hope to see you there. RSVP to Connie 275-0030 by April 18.
This week, I thought I’d give you a short update on the knitting I wrote about back in January! I have been pleasantly surprised at how many people read and remembered that article! And several of you have asked if I’ve finished my project or not. So, here’s the scoop: I’m about 75% finished with the sweater. So close! I’m currently working on the sleeves. As many of you knitters know, small circular work can really wreak havoc on your hands, elbows, and shoulders, especially when using DPNs (that’s double pointed needles for all of you non-knitters). And sadly, I do have some ten-donitis I’m working through. But this is exactly what I was writing about in my article in January.

The process of knitting (or building, or baking, or farming, etc.) is a lot like the process of spiritual growth. There are times when we make a ton of progress, and everything moves along beautifully. But there are also times, when we are forced to slow down, or even stop altogether. We get wounded, others need our attention, or life’s circumstances simply don’t allow us to keep going at our original pace. When that happens, we can get frustrated, angry, and even feel like quitting because things were going so well, and now they’re not! But the key is to pay attention to what is necessary and do that. If rest is necessary, then rest. If slowing down is necessary, then slow down. If changing direction is necessary, then change direction. In all of these processes, we must be willing to accommodate any changes that come along. If we’re going to finish well, we have to be willing to bend a bit. I feel like that’s always easier said than done.

So, as I’ve been knitting, I’ve had to limit my knitting to 30-45 minutes per sitting. I need to be sure to stretch my arms and hands and even use ice when I feel things getting fired up. I probably won’t finish in time to wear my sweater this season, but I will finish. And really, that’s what matters, right? For those interested, I’ve included a picture of my sweater. And you better believe that when I’m finally done, I’ll let you know!

Again, friends, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, pay attention to what is necessary as you move and grow, and do that. Our focus is finishing well in Christ. As Paul said in Philippians 3:14, “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Amen and keep knitting! 😊

Have a great week!
Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

PRAYER REQUEST

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurry’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)
- Gary Jensen (cancer)
- Jamelee Van Donge’s dad, DeLyle (cancer)
- Sara Van Ruler’s dad (throat cancer)
- Pete & Jan Mellema’s grandson, Henry (brain surgery)
- Emily Larson
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Al Hoogendoorn (multiple health issues)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Melanie Oden’s dad, David (motorcycle accident)
- Aubrey Landegent’s son, David (cancer)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate cancer)
- Halli Jans’ dad, Milt (prostate cancer)
- David Baker (triple bypass surgery)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Mike Boyenga’s mom, Anita (cancer)
- Bruce Gebauer (broken leg)

Prayer Group meets at 7:00am on Saturdays in the chapel. Everyone Welcome!
Hello Everyone!
One of the kids asked me an interesting question this week and I could only answer their question in part, so I
told them I'd learn more and get back to them. My article this week is what we discovered. The student asked
me if St. Patrick’s Day is a holiday. (At Christmas time we had talked a bit about how the word holiday comes
from the Old English word hāligdæg (hālig “holy” + dæg “day”).)

Most kids have some pretty cute connections to March 17. They think of leprechauns, clover, gold, and of
course rainbows. While rainbows certainly hold some significance (think Noah’s ark.) St. Patrick’s Day actually
relates to a very different story. However, before you toss out your green shirt or stop with the Irish accent, read
on. The story may not be about luck but it certainly involves some intrigue and blessings.

St. Patrick was originally named Maewyn Succat and lived sometime around AD 430. He was raised in a Chris-
tian home but wasn’t excited about his faith until a major event changed his life. At age 16, he was taken from
his home in Scotland and taken as a prisoner to Ireland. There, in slavery, his faith ignited. As his faith grew, so
did his care for the Irish people. Six years later, Patrick was given a vision or dream and was able to escape
slavery and travel through peril to return to his home. However, his heart for the Irish people, and particularly
Irish children grew. He wanted desperately for them to know Jesus and have salvation before death. His next
vision was what called him back to the land of his enslavement to bring Christianity to the people of Ireland. As
one of the very first missionaries to Ireland, Patrick planted over 300 churches. He faced danger and opposi-
tion. There is a myth that St. Patrick drove all of the snakes out of Ireland, but that is unlikely as snakes weren’t
native to Ireland. He is sometimes credited with using a 3 leafed clover to illustrate the Trinity though evidence
of that event isn’t clear. What is clear is that prior to the missionary work of Patrick, Ireland was pagan and af-
fter his time there, Ireland had many, many Christian people, including their king. While calling him a saint is sur-
prising, because he wasn’t given that title by the Catholic church, what is not surprising is the fact that we con-
tinue to celebrate his ministry. He was a passionate follower of Jesus and had great compassion for those living
in darkness. The reason St. Patrick’s Day falls on March 17 is that some believe St. Patrick died on March 17, 461
in the city of Saul, which is where his first church was planted.
This is an excerpt from the much longer Prayer of St. Patrick (though some dispute the authorship, the senti-
ment of the prayer is appropriately connected with St. Patrick, even if he isn’t the author):

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
   Christ behind me, Christ before me,
   Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
   Christ to comfort and restore me,
   Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
   Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
   Christ in hearts of all that love me,
   Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.
I bind unto myself the Name,
   the strong Name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
   the Three in One, and One in Three.
Of whom all nature hath creation,
   eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
praise to the Lord of my salvation,
   salvation is of Christ the Lord.

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
We welcome Matt & Lanette Hendrickson to the Community family. Matt is employed at the Air National Guard working on the F16 fighter jets. Lanette works at Southeast Tech. They are blessed with 4 wonderful children: Lily, Madison, Faith and Brennen. The Hendrickson’s reside in Brandon.

Come Join Us for an OPEN HOUSE

The Union Gospel Mission is celebrating 120 years! Join them on March 17th from 11:30am to 7:00pm for an open house. (701 E. 8th St.)

We are excited to once again be able to offer an Easter breakfast. Breakfast will be served from 8-11am and we are looking for several people to help serve/clean tables. Look for a sign up at The Link or email connect@communityrc.org the times when you are available to help.

Congratualtions

Congratulations to Anna Roetman & James Hamilton on the birth of their daughter, Scarlett Jade on March 8. Grandma is Karen Roetman and great-grandma is Bert Roetman.

Thank You

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, and kind words following the loss of my mom. We feel blessed to be part of a wonderful church family.

Nancy, Marv & Darin Vos

Interested in playing on the Community Softball team this year? Contact Rick Hanson (605) 201-5135 or join him in The Corner on Sunday morning.

GOOD FRIDAY FISHING TRIP

Come for the day or stay the night. If staying, you are responsible for making your own reservation under the block of rooms for Community at the Quality Inn, Oacoma, SD. 605-734-5593 (hot breakfast included) $69/room.

Sign up at The Link and answer these questions: 1) Do you have your own boat? 2) Do you have room in your boat? (If you are a boat owner & have extra space, let us know) 3) Don’t have a boat? No problem! Just indicate that when you sign up and we’ll pair you with someone who does. ?s contact Arlan Burggraaf– 359-9563

WILD GAME NIGHT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28
6:00PM

It’s a wild game feed potluck and game night all wrapped into one night! Bring your favorite game dish, side dish or a dessert to share.
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.)

Next Baptism Service: Sunday, June 7 @ 3pm.

NEED GROCERIES? OR GAS?

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

INFO YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW...

Pastor Clyde Teel
pastor@communityrc.org

Liz Teel
Director of Discipleship & Worship
liz.teel@communityrc.org

John Thornton
Part-time Visitation Pastor
prayerline@communityrc.org

Holly Jans
Communications Coordinator
connect@communityrc.org

Heather DeWit
Director of Children’s Ministries
heather.dewit@communityrc.org

Doyle Burnside
Senior High & Middle School Youth Director
doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

Sheri Brouwer
Part-Time Nursery Coordinator
sherri.brouwer@communityrc.org

Lisa Blankers
Part-Time Financial Administrator
accounting@communityrc.org

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator