

THE COMMUNICATOR

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER | 605.336.1475 | MARCH 18, 2020

PASTOR'S UPDATE

I read through last week's newsletter and realized last Monday when I wrote all of that nothing much was happening. Then the world changed! So now we are doing things in a new way. We are all learning new things and adjusting as best we can. We're finding our place and pace in a new day of living while still trying to be engaged with each other as much as we can. It is challenging...I don't think I need to tell you that. So, this week let's talk about how we are going to do this battle.

First, take care of yourself. That means do the best you can with your physical health. Remember, much of what we are being asked to do is for the vulnerable around us. They are the reason. We are their safety net as it were. This crazy virus is a very serious problem for the elderly and frail around us. So, for them we will do the very best we can.

Second, be creative. This could get a little long. You might start feeling a bit captured by it all, chains all around you sort of feeling. Pray that God will give you a word of encouragement but, be specific. "God, show me a way to "get busy." Pray for God to show you things to make the hours productive and meaningful. God's Kingdom is not a slave to this world. Get into His Kingdom and live there. Seek first His kingdom...remember that verse?

Third, breathe. Life is still precious. There is still beauty in the world. Spring is coming and the sounds and sights of spring things can be uplifting. There is still music. People still love. Smiles are contagious. Joy is deeper than this!

Now let's talk about church things. We are still trying to figure this all out too. We know that lots of our gatherings are just going to be done for a good long while. I was hearing this morning (Monday) that the CDC is recommending 8 weeks of encouraging groups of over 50 not to gather. The last time I checked we were over 50. That's us!

So, we are going to have to get really good at this online church. We are going to make some changes to make that even better for you. We are going to get creative and see if we can't provide an even better experience for you all. I know there were a few of you that found the signal getting choppy and cutting out. We are going to try to fix that for this Sunday but, just so you all know, once we have finished that program at 9am we post it on the web and the app. That format is much easier for your computers and phones to play. So, if you are having trouble with all that, wait an hour and tune back in at 10:15am and watch the download. You might find that a better, less aggravating experience.

Heather is going to continue to work on different online things for the kiddos and I have a feeling Doyle is working on things for the youth. It's all bit of challenge right now, but we are going to get it done!

Sunday, the message moves from the wrong side of the Jordan to the other side. That's right, we are going to cross the Jordan this week. How many times do we see that phrase in the Bible? Jesus is going to turn west again...cross that river again. He's been there before. The last part of the journey is ahead. He's thinking about you! We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

DOYLE'S UPDATE

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Our monthly series, "March Madness." has taken up a whole new meaning this month! With Midweek being canceled and all the new recommendations coming in, we will be finding some new ways to connect as a youth group over the weeks to come. I am working on setting up Zoom which is an awesome resource for meetings/video conferences. I am also looking into setting up a few other online resources for students and parents.

Before I get to far down that road though, I want to take a moment, stop, and give a huge thank you to all that came out for the Spring Fling Fundraiser this year. It was a really fun night, the food was amazing and the youth were once again blessed by this congregation. To all the students who worked hard during set up and the event, for everyone who donated, gave, and supported this year's fundraiser, and to all of you who came – THANK YOU!

While I am not excited about the reason, I am looking forward to being creative in the coming weeks to keep the youth ministry going. If you have any questions about the Youth Ministry, please feel free to send them to me anytime!

Doyle Burnside
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605-310-2561



GOOD FRIDAY FISHING TRIP

FRIDAY, APRIL 10
NEAR CHAMBERLAIN
See more details on page 5.

EASTER BREAKFAST CANCELED

SUNDAY, APRIL 12



VBS AT COMMUNITY
JULY 19-22, 2020 6PM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All activities suspended until further notice

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

Mission Haiti—Their purpose is to show the love of God by developing and equipping strong Christian leaders in Haiti for the cause of Christ.

BOOK CLUBS

The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, April 21, at 7 pm at the Panera on Foss Ave (Eastside). They will be discussing *Book Girl*.

The morning book club will meet on Thursday, April 9, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave. They will be discussing *Gentleman in Moscow*.

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.

NOTE FROM THE LIBRARY

As you spend more time at home and without some of your normal TV and activities, you may want to consider books, DVDs, and games from your church library.

The public library is currently closed but the church library is available whenever the church is open. We have added extra new materials on the new racks and on the counter. You can always check out items on your own; just write your name and the current date on the book card and leave the card. (Hand sanitizer is available on the counter too, to ease your mind.)

Note: Please call the church to check "open" status before making the trek. If all staff are absent at the same time for some reason, the church is locked.

From your librarians,
Trudi, Lois, Lorena, and Merry

Adult Discipleship/Worship

I'm going to write about three things this week: knitting, reading, and surveys!

First of all, if you've been reading my article, you know that I've been knitting a sweater, and that God has taught me a number of things during this process! Well, during all of this social distancing, I think I'm going to get that thing finished before the end of the week! So hopefully, I'll have a picture to share with you by next week's newsletter.

Secondly, I want to write a little bit about reading. Again, if you've been reading my articles, you might recall that for Lent this year, I felt God inviting me to give up all of the reading I do *during my devotional time* and simply sit in His Presence in contemplative silence. As the weeks of Lent have passed, this has become more of a challenge for me, and I have found it to be especially challenging during these days full of information about Covid-19. I am so tempted during my devotional time to grab my Bible and read verses or grab books and read about God's greatness and providence. But I continue to feel God inviting me to simply stop. Rest. Sit in His Presence. Know He is in control. I don't need to fill that space with words. I need to fill that space with the Presence of God. Personally, I find it harder to focus on God without words aiding that focus.

But I know this is good for me. And I know that God is enough, with or without words. Of course, this doesn't mean that I am not reading at all! During the day, I read many things! I am an avid reader and encourage reading! But during my designated quiet time in the morning, I focus on God. Challenging? Yes. But so good!

And lastly, I know I had written about putting out surveys for everyone to fill out regarding Mid-Week. Since we've cancelled the remainder of Mid-Week, a survey won't happen. However, if you have particular thoughts about Mid-Week, and you would like to share them with me, I will gladly welcome your emails!

As much as possible, friends, I invite you to enjoy this slower pace of life. As busy as we are during normal times, I know there is considerable value in being socially distanced for a time. Keep praying. Keep seeking God. Read and listen to reputable sources. We will come through this, and God will bring good from it. He is good!

Blessings!

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)
- 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)
- Audrey Landegents' son, David (cancer)
- Matt Marcus' dad (prostate cancer)
- Holli 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)
- Vi Slecta (rib pain)

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

HEATHER'S UPDATE

kidsMINISTRY



Hi Everyone!

The end of Midweek came a little sooner than we expected and I'm a little sad that we didn't get to spend more time together, but we'll be ok. I hope you were all able to join us for church on Sunday morning. I sure am thankful that this virus arrived at a time in history where we can stay so connected through technology. I know it isn't the same, but I also think it really helps us all to have something that resembles "normal." I can't say that I really minded doing church in my pajamas!

We did offer "Sunday School to go" for those kids who are at home and wishing they could do Sunday School. I know it isn't the same as being together but I hope it is helpful for some. The Noah's Ark activity set is at <https://www.communityrc.org/sunday-school-to-go/> and I'll work on something for this week too. However, as the rest of this article indicates, it is also ok to NOT do these activities. Spending time with God and family is even better.

I wanted to share a little bit about what is on my heart on this time at home for kids. I'm just one voice of many with opinions on how we should all do "at home" and parents are great at knowing what is best for their families, but I hope my little thoughts are helpful to someone.

First, I see many posts with learning activities, projects and things to keep kids busy and learning at this strange time. While I'm all for activities (and even have shared some including Sunday School), I'd also really challenge that idea that we need to keep kids busy. I'm glad there are options, so no judgement from me on the posting of good activities. However, I am hoping we can all embrace this time to allow kids to do the very thing their little hearts sometimes long for. Let them be still. Let them make choices. If they are enjoying building an intricate creation from Legos, don't interrupt to sit them down for a writing lesson. Playing is learning too. If they are curled up with a book and want to read a few more chapters, don't pause their time for a math activity. Boredom isn't necessarily bad. As a matter of fact, "boredom" may be a great gift that comes from this. Kids don't often have long uninterrupted stretches of time and therefore don't get to explore their interests in an unhurried and peaceful pace. Don't let yourself feel guilty if you aren't printing worksheets, planning educational scavenger hunts or scouring Pinterest for learning activities. There are great free online options and that is nice, but maybe a break from screens is just what kids (and adults) need. Let kids figure out on their own what they might like to do with their time. Let them run in the backyard. Let them read. Let them create. Let them rest. Let them play. Learning is good and it happens in a variety of forms. It won't be long before we are back to structure, schedule, busy life and mounting expectations, so for now, embrace the boredom. Enjoy the quiet. Rest.

If you are looking for ways to serve, there are many options in Sioux Falls. I have a couple suggestions as well. One, while your kids are home, have them try on their shoes and if you have any gently used, closed-toe shoes that are no longer useful, bag them up to send to Haiti. They need sizes ranging from kids 9- adult 9. No sandals or heels are needed but tennis shoes, dress flats, etc. are great. The second option is that for VBS this summer for one of the little kid classes, I need a bunch of rain sticks glued and assembled. I can definitely do that project this spring, but if a family is looking for something to do, this might be a good "no school" project. It would mean picking up a few boxes with the rain sticks and glue and following the instructions for assembly.

See you soon!

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STAY **UP** TO DATE

DOWNLOAD OUR APP



Features of the app:

- Watch Live**
- Watch past sermons**
- Download current newsletter**
- See Prayer Requests**
- Community Events**
- Link to library catalog**
- Online Giving**

VOTING FOR CONSISTORY

Voting for Consistory has been suspended at this time.



Interested in playing on the Community Softball team this year? Contact Rick Hanson (605) 201-5135.

The Jericho Road

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

You are invited to walk this road with us for the next 40 days as we carefully consider the last journey Jesus took to Jerusalem.

THEJERICHOROAD.BLOGSPOT.COM

GOOD FRIDAY FISHING TRIP

Come for just 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

Check out this Lenten Devotional written by Clyde Teel & Abbie Coffey. You can find it on Community's app, website, Facebook, and Instagram.

Community Reformed Church

6800 E 41 Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

March 18, 2020

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Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Permit No. 7119

INFO YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW...

Temporarily Suspended

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.

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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.**

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