PASTOR’S UPDATE

It’s March everyone! I don’t think any of us are complaining with our weather pattern the past few days. This has been awesome! I know it’s probably a little early to get our hopes up too high, but regardless of what may be coming this has been wonderful. It sure does make for some nice planning on Sunday mornings. I love that! It has taken care of much of the snow around the area and back home as well. There was a great deal of concern about flooding and I would think this should be helping with that. Spring is on the horizon and that is good news. March is not one of my favorite months, but maybe this year it will be different. In like a lamb…. I know…don’t say anymore! Enjoy!

Our team is off for Haiti. They got out of Sioux Falls right on time this past Sunday and will be returning this coming weekend. It is a fast trip with a very full plate of things to get done. We are hoping for all the details to work well and for them to bring a great word from our church to those folks who are waiting for their arrival. Pray for them and the messages and stories they will share. We will be having a share time once they get back home. I’m sure there will be lots of moments they will want to share with us.

The “Spring Fling” fundraiser is this weekend. I haven’t looked at the ticket sales yet, but I know it was a little slow this year. I know that so many people have things going and it is hard to carve out time for everything that demands our attention. I hope those of you who are coming are prepared to have a great time and share the gifts that we can for the work that goes on in our youth programs. I’m looking forward to it. I hope you all are as well.

I want to also remind you all to get your ballots turned in for Elders and Deacons because we will start counting those very soon. I have been hearing much about the number of names on the ballots and how can we possibly know all these people. The simple truth is, you can’t know all those people. Even I have a difficult time keeping everyone straight. That issue is not going away and will only progress as time moves along. I am saying this because we might want to start thinking about how best we do this in the coming years. Nothing will change this year, but I do think we need to be considering some new possibilities. I am sure there are many great people who would be very good members of that leadership team, but because they are new most of the church won’t know them. Be prayerful about this and let’s see what we can do. You always have great ideas! I’m listening!

Our new series, “The Jericho Road,” is now beginning. The series again will focus on the journey Jesus is taking from the little town on the northern edge of the Sea of Galilee to the city of Jerusalem. It is a lengthy journey and one that will take several days. Along the way He is watching and listening…and remembering. He is being moved forward by a longing to bring healing to the lost sheep of the world. This coming week we will start with Him. The first steps He makes. The direction He is traveling and once again this week to focus on who is on his mind. We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
THE GIVE
The GIVE wall in the lobby is a place to donate to local ministries.

Union Gospel Mission—
peanut butter & jelly

Mission Haiti— new or used closed-toe shoes (sizes kids 9 to adult 9)

Community Nursery—
2T-5T used clothing

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 4
6:00pm– BBQ Night
6:30pm– K-5 Singing
6:45pm– K-8 Classes
7:00pm– Adult Classes
7:30pm– H.S. Youth Group

Saturday, March 7
7:00 am– Prayer ministry (Chapel)
10:00am– Closed AA meeting
6:00pm– Spring Fling

Sunday, March 8
10:10am– Sunday School

Monday, March 9
Noon– Senior Citizens (E. Pizza Ranch)
7:00pm– Men’s Bible Study

Tuesday, March 10
7:00pm– AA Meeting

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

FINANCES

Sunday, March 1, 2020

General: $12,717
Vision: $2,560
Missions: $315
Wed night: $184
Faith Ave: $—
Sunday School: $—

General YTD: $105,295
Vision YTD: $27,604
Vision Account Balance: $122,906

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 March 9th 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.

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
This week, I want to talk a little bit about surveys. Exciting, I know. 😊

For those of you who were kind enough to fill out the choir survey, thank you! We had a lot of responses, and the suggestions and comments were extremely helpful. I plan to try to implement a few of the suggestions this fall! If you’re interested in more details about the results, feel free to swing by The Corner some Sunday morning, or catch me on a Wednesday night. The comments and responses were overwhelmingly positive! Thank you!

In just a couple of weeks, you’ll see a survey on the dinner tables for Mid-Week. Last year’s surveys were very helpful for us to gauge our growth and to gather information about how to make things better for that ministry. I’ll plan to have surveys (and pens) on the tables on March 18 and 25. We would appreciate any feedback you can give us about Mid-Week and all that goes on here on Wednesday nights.

And speaking of Mid-Week, believe it or not, we are down to just 5 more nights for that ministry. I have been very encouraged by our steady numbers for Mid-Week and by all of the new faces I’ve seen throughout the year! This ministry continues to be a fantastic way for new people to get involved and meet others at Community. Even though we’re coming to the end of the season, it’s not too late to join us. If you’d like to give Mid-Week a try, just come out! The end of the Mid-Week season is as follows:

- March 4: Regular Mid-Week for everyone
- March 11: Regular Mid-Week for everyone
- March 18: Regular Mid-Week for everyone
- March 25: Regular Mid-Week for everyone
- April 1: Last Night/Pizza & Praise and Worship for everyone

On April 8 and the following Wednesdays, you’ll want to be sure to check out Doyle’s article for the middle school and high school youth group schedules.

Have a great week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

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**PRAYER REQUEST**

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurey’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
- 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)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Mike Boyenga’s mom, Anita (cancer)
- Haiti Team
- Barb Acheson (angiogram)

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

This week is a little different for me. My husband is traveling with the mission trip team from Community in Haiti so my house is short a family member this week. Having been married since 2003 and rarely being apart, it is a strange feeling to be without Jaron but the girls and I are doing pretty well. This is his third trip to Haiti and I sometimes think he leaves a little bit of his heart there each time so my expectation is that he’ll come back exhausted and energized just like the last two times. However, this time feels a little different for me! The last two times I felt a little on-edge and anxious while he was gone. Like I said, I’m not used to being without my husband. This time, I find myself missing Jaron but not afraid or stressed. In some ways, I think I realize now in a new way that God goes before him, goes with him and stays after him in Haiti. That might be one of the many gifts of getting out of my comfort zone. I also find myself noticing the many things God takes care of for us here at home. For those of you interested, the team will come back from Haiti and tell you all about their trip but if you want their prayer updates you can sign up at https://bit.ly/383BSn1.

The people traveling from Community are a team that includes Tom & Robin Jacob, Mike & Jolene Hilbrands, Darin Voss, Bob Hein, Doug Harms, Mark Groeneweg, Steve Bonnema, and Jaron DeWit. Nelson VandenHoek is going as well but has a separate project with some mechanical and repair projects that need to be taken care of and he is a Mission Haiti board member. There are two other friends traveling as well along with Breanna, a fantastic staff person at Mission Haiti. God has certainly shown that he takes care of everything for this trip through support, donations, good travel so far or just a positive planning experience. When they arrived in Port-au-Prince, they let me know they had arrived safely and quickly headed off to go through customs. The airport can be busy and chaotic and customs may need to check out any or all of the carry-on bags or 24 suitcases that the team is carrying! However, the team planned for that and has plenty of time to do so. The many bags are filled with supplies packed by Mission Haiti and the team including the many items generously donated by everyone for the people of Haiti. They have supplies for VBS including t-shirts for the students, items for the homes of people in need, food, gifts for a few sponsor kids, hygiene items, supplies for some important projects and much more.

Following the airport is the long from Port-au-Prince to the Mission Compound and if all went as planned, the first meeting with a sponsor child. The team is hoping to meet Doug & Sharen Harms’ sponsor student on the very first day in Haiti along with other activities. In addition to the many visits and projects ahead of the team, they also have daily devotional time led by a different team member each day. Other activities will include some quick lessons on Haitian history and culture as well as some basic introduction to Haitian Creole, the language spoken in Haiti. Tuesday and Wednesday is Vacation Bible School at Frederique School! That is the school that many of you sponsor children in and also the school that Community raised funds to build classrooms at. After VBS both days they’ll meet many of Community’s sponsor kids and bring items to families in need. On Thursday they should get to see some of the other Haitian schools, the block plant that employs Haitians, the medical clinic, the ministry center and the elderly home. Mission Haiti has a new program that allows people here in the United States to sponsor elderly people in Haiti who have no place to live and no one to care for them so that they can have a home and care for their final years. The team will also get to bring hygiene packs with items like toothbrushes, soap and laundry detergent with little toys to a Children’s Hospital. I can’t wait to hear about what God does through them and for them. The many items you all donated will go a long, long way in Haiti! The team will get home late Saturday night.

Thank you for praying!

BONDYE RENMEN OU= GOD LOVES YOU!

See you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
(605)336-1475
DOYLE’S UPDATE  
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

We are in March, and our high school fund-raiser is here this week! I want to thank everyone for the ticket purchases, donations and support for the high school ministry. For those who have tickets, we will start seating at 5:30 on Saturday night and will begin serving food right around 6:00. If you have any questions leading up to the night please let me know!

With March also comes our March Madness series as we talk about relationships over the next three to four weeks. This is a topic we do every year as it is something students are in all the time. Whether it be relationships with parents, friends or dating; the drama, excitement, joy, pain and brokenness is so real. As we dive into this series, the overall concept is “What We Are For.” I’m looking forward to another month of talking through questions, conflicts, joys and talking through healthy relationships.

The middle school group will be having their monthly event toward the end of March. We will be having a maze night at church on March 22nd as I set up a few rooms for students to make their way through. During their journey in the maze, there will be some people leading them the right way, while others try to bring them to dead ends and stuck in circles. I’m looking forward to a fun night with a great message to go along with it.

As we draw near to the end of our time together for Midweek, I invite you all to pray with me for the students here at Community. This can be a time where stress of the end of the year begins to build alongside the feelings of being ready to be done with school. Here’s to a great final three months of the school year!

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

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Lisa Hanson and her family on the passing of her mother, Ramona Dykstra.

VOTING FOR CONSISTORY

Now accepting nominations for elders/deacons. A list of eligible people can be found at The Link in the lobby.

SOFTBALL LEAGUE

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.

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.

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