PASTOR’S UPDATE

April starts this week! Spring is finding its way into our crazy world. I was hoping that we might get a normal spring this year and for the most part, things were going so well. Then this other thing happened. I am disappointed. I know it would have been a great time for the church to gather on these great Sundays, but that isn’t going to happen. It could be a long time before we do that sort of thing. I completely understand the need. The plan is worth taking very seriously. This is a very catchy virus. We don’t want to be the bad guys in the world. I am looking at the spring coming and realize just how nice it will be for families to get out and enjoy the sun. That will be a good thing. Enjoy that!

Church stuff: Everyone continues to do what we do in a very different way. Doyle, Liz, Heather, Holli, Pastor John and I are all learning a new way. We don’t like it very much, but we are doing the very best we can. I know what we do matters, and we are all trying to refine this process to make it even better for all of you. I am praying for more ideas that will make this so much better for all of you.

Palm Sunday is coming this Sunday. I bet we never thought it was going to be like this. Jesus is coming! Excitement! Everyone grab a palm branch and go to the parade! Ok…no…that isn’t how this will go. We can still do it! Have some fun this week with all of that! Take on the challenge! We can do it!

It has been a blessing that many of church folks haven’t had extra things with illness here these past few weeks. We are praying that trend continues. Visiting the sick is not being done these days. Pray for a special presence to be in those places for people and an amazing sense of peace will rule their hearts. It is challenging.

I am home mostly these days. I have been trying to get a new normal established for doing this new job. It works for the most part, but it can get frustrating. I am sure many of you are feeling that same thing. I am focused! That I can say. Praying for the “fix”. Not necessarily the cure right now, but for a treatment that will ease the tension some. I am concentrating on that in my prayer time. Deliver us from evil! That’s my new line for this. Go God Go!

Giving: This is going to be a challenge. There are ways to get it done if you are able. I know many of you are not. Life has been turned upside down, but for others you are still in a good place with your jobs...the church is still here...even when you are not. Do all this prayerfully. If you need to help figuring all this out, send us an email...we will try to give you direction on that.

Finally, the message for Sunday. I hope after last week you are starting to get a sense of just how excited this band of followers are getting. They have all had a long journey that has been filled with all kinds of twist and turns. They have walked past all kinds of reminders of ancient days. Each of those point to victory. Blind people are being given sight! Lives are being touched…Jesus is on the edge of town. Everyone knows he is coming! Are they listening to his words? Do they hear his message? Have they really noticed what he is doing? Are they convinced that they have it all figured out? We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

DOYLE’S UPDATE

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

This Wednesday night will be our third meeting online and while I know this may continue to drag out, I am so ready to be able to meet in person again! However, until that happens, we will continue to meet as a middle school and high school group through Zoom. I continue to learn more and more as the weeks go on.

There are three weekly opportunities for both middle school and high school students moving forward. Wednesday night youth group, Sunday school, and lunch hour. Each meeting looks a little different as the goal is to continue to build relationships, learn and grow together through scripture and have time to pray for one another. While it is not close to a perfect substitution for meeting in person, it does allow us to stay in touch, talk, and learn together.

Weekly Middle School – Wednesday Youth Group at 6:30, Thursday Lunch at 12:00 and Sunday Morning at 10:00am.

Weekly High School – Tuesday Lunch at 12:00, Wednesday Youth Group at 7:30 and Sunday Morning at 10:00.

If you have any questions about the youth ministry during this time or need help with setting up zoom, please feel free to reach out anytime.

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org
605-310-2561
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All in-person 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.

MISSION OF THE MONTH – APRIL
Bishop Dudley House - The Bishop Dudley Hospitality House in Sioux Falls offers daytime and overnight emergency shelter for the homeless and vulnerable. For overnight services there is room for 80 men, 20 women and seven families at the House.

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 canceled for April.

SENIOR CITIZENS
Senior Citizens canceled for April.

HOPE CIRCLE
God willing, the Hope Circle will meet at 7:00pm on April 21st. Helen is the hostess and Marjie has the lesson.

HIGH SCHOOL/ MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Zoom Meetings this week

HS:
TUESDAY LUNCH @ 12
WED YOUTH GROUP @ 7:30
FRIDAY GAME NIGHT @ 7:00

MS:
WED YOUTH GROUP @ 6:30
THURSDAY LUNCH @ 12:00
FRIDAY GAME NIGHT @ 7:00

PARENTS, CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR MEETING ID OR MESSAGE DOYLE

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

VBS AT COMMUNITY
JULY 19-22, 2020 6PM

Livestream CHURCH SERVICES
WATCH FROM HOME
SUNDAYS AT 9:00AM & 11:00AM
I’ve been curious if anyone has tried the spiritual practice of Examen during the week! I did hear some positive feedback about offering it in my article, so I will continue. 😊 Just know that I think of you all so often, and I’m praying that God’s Kingdom will be mighty in the midst of this time of social distancing. God is still God even though things seem a bit discombobulated and even scary at times. We must remember that the Lord is fighting for us. “The Lord is a warrior. The Lord is His name!” Exodus 15:3

Below is Week 2 of a new spiritual practice. Blessings on you as you practice!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

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**The Practice of Contemplative Prayer**

**Contemplative Prayer** is a way of praying that focuses on an openness toward God. It is a way of actively waiting for God to move, speak, or otherwise show you His Presence. It helps us intentionally trust and rest in the Presence of the Holy Spirit with us.

**Method**

*Plan a time where you can be alone for at least 15 minutes at any point of the day.*

*Sit in a comfortable position.*

*Spend 5 minutes intentionally relaxing your body and breathing deeply. Say to God, “Here I am. I am with You.” Be with God and welcome Him into your time together. Be in the moment without controlling or influencing it. Do not strive. There is nothing to achieve.*

*After several minutes, choose one section from The Lord’s Prayer. (I have broken it into 7 sections below; one for each day of the week.) Repeat that section in your mind slowly. Think about each word. Savor each thought. Let it sink deep into your heart as you spend time with God.*

Consider the following:

- Is there a truth the Lord is inviting you to notice as you contemplate His prayer?
- Is there something new you felt as you let that prayer sink into your heart?
- Is there a question you feel God is asking you?
- Are there any questions you want to ask God? Ask, and then listen with your heart.
- Close your time by thanking God for this prayer and for His Presence with You.

Day 1 – Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Day 2 – Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Day 3 – Give us this day our daily bread.
Day 4 – Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Day 5 – Lead us not into temptation.
Day 6 – Deliver us from evil.
Day 7 – For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.
Hi Everyone!

I hope you are all doing well. I miss seeing everyone but we are finding some ways to connect from a distance and I’m very thankful for that!

I want to start by reminding you all that if there is anything you need that I can help with, please email or call my cell phone.

We tried a second week of Facebook Live Sunday School and had many people join in and comment. Our first week was “Bring your Pet to Sunday School” and our second week was “Pajama Sunday School.” During Pajama Sunday School, we talked about how Jesus is always with us, just like Jesus was with the disciples in the boat! We talked about how those men in the boat must have felt like things were out of their control. It is hard to steer a boat in a storm! They must have wondered what would happen next. Maybe they forgot that the one in control was right there with them the whole time! Jesus was right there in the boat with them and he’s right here with us!

I asked the kids what they want to do next week and since we’re going to talk about things that are unexpected, we’re going to do Crazy Hair Sunday School for Palm Sunday. If you have ideas for themes for upcoming weeks, please send them my way.

I know a few kids made storms in a bottles and some did a few of the other activities. https://www.communityrc.org/sunday-school-to-go/
I’m hoping many of you were able to spend a little time getting fresh air. I sure did! I’m thankful for this spring weather.

See you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
(605)336-1475

Finlee made a storm in a bottle for Jesus to calm!
ARE YOU INTERESTED?

How many of you are interested in doing a Bible study, discussion group via some kind of online media type of thing? (like Zoom)

The material is from The Wired Word, and has a current event topic, an emailed lesson, and then we would have our online discussion group.

Please email me separately with your ideas or interests.
John Thornton
prayerline@communityrc.org

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

Check out this Lenten Devotional written by Abbie Coffey as a companion to Pastor Clyde’s Lenten sermon series. You can find it on Community’s app, website, Facebook, and Instagram.

MAundy ThursDaY

Join us ONLINE as we celebrate the Last Supper on April 9th at 7:00pm.

Easter

Join us ONLINE as we celebrate The Risen Savior! We know this is going to be a different Easter but we still have so much to celebrate!

You can join us at 9:00am for the Livestream or can watch anytime of day you’d like from your couch! If you are having streaming issues at 9am, please come back online at 10:15am to view the video. Sometimes having too many people view the service all at once, creates an online traffic jam 😊

PRAYER REQUEST

- Clayton Bienwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Cheille McMurray’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)
- 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)
- Tad Boyle (surgery recovery)
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...

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Lisa Blankers
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Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator