April is now half over. We have all been doing a very different thing. I was thinking about that this week and realized that we have never done anything like this...ever. There have been moments in history where the entire country had to get behind a cause but this one is so different than any of those. There have been times when other diseases put people in harm's way, but for the entire country to go on hold is a new experience. Somehow all the rain last spring doesn’t seem like such a bother now. There will be a day when we get on the other side of this. Hang in there everyone, together we can do this. Spring weather will help for sure. Let's hope for a bit of that in the coming days.

We had a lot of “bumps” in Sunday’s church service. We are still trying to figure out what happened. It may have been a combination of things from so many churches being online to computer issues on our end. We are going to figure that out and then make sure we have that covered. There is a complete version of audio on the web page if you want to hear the whole morning together. I am probably also going to record several sermons now and have them ready to upload on the spot if we ever get another one of those crazy things happening. I know it is frustrating for you and it is on our end as well. I don’t like it when things are not working. That’s how I am. I can’t fix all of that...when it happens, it happens, and you just have to work through it. We are making every effort to keep those kinds of things from happening.

Consistory met this past week and discussed a number of things in the business for the church. Obviously, this “mess” puts a dent in the offerings. We knew that would happen so, there is a program we applied for to help with salaries during that time. Lots of businesses are doing this and churches can as well.

In short, it is a very low interest loan to cover salaries during this time. The thinking is by doing this, you don’t have all these people applying for help at the same time. This program tries to keep people’s salaries coming in during these days when life has been interrupted. We will keep you informed as to how all of that is going in the coming weeks. It was voted on unanimously to move forward with the application process. There was a lot of hard work getting all that put together. Thanks to those folks for a job well done.

We discussed the upcoming election of Elders and Deacons and decided to put all that on hold until we can all get back together. If we get to June and can’t do a meeting, then the existing folks can either go off or stay with us if they wish. I’m sure everything will be just fine with a smaller group. I have to worries about that.

The mission group that went to Haiti in March also had some extra funds that were not spent on their trip and so it was decided to give that money directly to Mission Haiti and let them use that money how they most need it. I thought that was a great gesture on our part. We are still about the business of being mission minded even in the middle of all that is going on.

Sunday...well...we will take another run at doing church. Hopefully, things will go better. It will be the second message in the new series “On The Other Side”. This week we will introduce the story of Jesus and disciples trying to catch fish for a morning breakfast. Another after Easter encounter! We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!

Join us for prayer on Saturday mornings at 7am via Zoom video. People can join via video or using the call-in number if video is not an option.

Meeting website: https://zoom.us/j/862139432
Meeting ID: 862 139 432
Call Shawn Blom at 605-940-6702 with questions.

If you are interested in joining the Wednesday evening Bible study, prayer, and discussion group, which meets via Zoom at 7:30 pm, please email John Thornton prayerline@communityrc.org.

You will get weekly emails with the lesson and instructions on how to access the meetings.
DOYLE’S UPDATE
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

We are entering our 5th week of Wednesday nights on Zoom as a youth group and while it has been a great resource during this time, it doesn’t fully replace our time together in person. As an extrovert, I am missing all the interaction with people in general as well! However, I am really thankful for the technology to keep meeting together online and being able to build off the relationships that have been growing since the beginning of this year. The last 5 weeks have been a time of learning and growing in this new form of ministry. Every week I feel like something is improving.

Moving forward, the middle school and high school group will continue to meet on Wednesday nights through zoom. We are turning our focus on God’s amazing Grace as we focus on three truths of Grace and how it combats lies or doubts we may have in our lives. This first week we are going to be talking about how Grace is a gift. Not something we have earned, but something given to us by God. I’m really looking forward to our time in this series!

As we continue through this time of ministry, if you have any questions about the high school or middle school ministries please let me know.

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

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. AA meeting via Zoom on Saturday mornings at 10am. Please contact Tom Jacobs (tjstonegate@gmail.com) for meeting access.

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 morning book club’s next meeting date is to be announced. They will be discussing Gentleman in Moscow.

FAITH CIRCLE
Faith Circle canceled for April.

HOPE CIRCLE
Hope Circle has been postponed until further notice. God bless you, Sisters, and stay healthy. See you when we can meet again.

JOY CIRCLE
JOY Circle will not meet in the month of April. Please join us on Monday, May 11 at 9:30 at Community for our first meeting of 2020.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you can sew, we need your help. Our mission ministry, Church on the Street, desperately needs your help in making face masks. If you can participate in this project, please note the following:

All masks must be made from 100% cotton material. Pony tail hairbands work well for the ties or elastic. If you need a pattern, please check the following website: sewcanshe.com/blog/5-free-diy-face-mask-tutorials-using-fabric.

We will have pickups for these masks on Saturday, April 25 and Saturday, May 2 at Community. There will be a container setting outside the chapel door from 10:00-2:00. for the masks. Anything you can do, will help.

A big thank you to those who have already contributed to this project.

If you need additional information, please call Elaine Deelstra at 351-4202.
LIZ’S UPDATE

Adult Discipleship/Worship

It’s hard to believe we are nearing the end of April already! In some ways, the time goes strangely fast, and in other ways it seems to crawl by. I am trying to learn how to live in each moment as it comes rather than overly anticipate the future or dwell on the past. I’m finding this to be a good practice no matter where we are in our lives. Challenging, yes! But it’s good for me. 😊

I know the members of our piloted small group ministry have been seriously limited this spring in what you can do with your small groups! I still intend to send out a short survey about your experiences. You can be looking for that survey in your email towards the end of May/beginning of June. Of course, small groups officially end May 31, 2020, and it is my hope that the surveys will give me some good information to tweak anything that needs tweaking and prepare for the next small group Draw to be held this fall, Lord willing. As always, if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

This week’s Spiritual Practice is probably going to make use of something you are already doing in these days of social distancing and working from home: walking! However, it will give an intentionality to your walking times. I love this spiritual practice because it’s extremely varied and incredibly powerful. You’ll find the practice below in the yellow box. Blessings on you as you practice Prayer Walking!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

The Practice of Prayer Walking

**Prayer Walking** is a way of physically walking with Jesus through places you are particularly connected to. Even though we are currently in a time of social distancing and are limited in where we can be, you can still practice Prayer Walking by walking through/around your home, your workplace (if possible), your neighborhood, etc. Children can also participate in Prayer Walking! As you walk with Christ, you will see these places through His eyes and can pray accordingly.

**Method**

1) Decide the walking path in advance. Remember, this can be the inside of your home (all the rooms or even one specific room), outside of your home (spaces where different activities take place), a garden or other creative/work space, a certain block of your neighborhood, etc.

2) Walk *deliberately* through/around this space. You may need to slow your walking speed a bit.

3) Picture Jesus walking with you.
   - What does He notice?
   - How would Jesus pray over what you see?
   - What good work is God inviting you to pray about?
   - What would you like to see God accomplish in these places?

4) As you walk by/through these places, offer your thoughts as prayers to God.

5) When you have finished your Prayer Walk, you may want to take time to reflect on the following questions. This can be done silently or with someone who joined you on the walk.
   - a. How did moving affect the way you pray?
   - b. What does it mean to you that God is everywhere?
   - c. Were you surprised at the things you prayed about? Why/not?
   - d. What is one thing you will remember about this experience today?
Hello Everyone,
I am missing you all this week and praying that you are doing well. I’ve seen a few of you out on walks or posting pictures on social media and it looks like this nicer weather is helping everyone feel a little less cooped up. I hope so! I was working on some craft projects for Vacation Bible School and I moved my project work station to my garage for the weekend because that gorgeous weather was just too nice to pass up but I was also enjoying thinking of when we get to be together and crafting again someday.

Sunday School “To Go” this week was “Let the Little Children Come to Me.” You can see it at https://www.communityrc.org/sunday-school-to-go/ or Facebook. In addition to the Bible story, there are instructions for making pop-up cards, an easy static science experiment, discussion questions, instructions for an easy stained glass look, and more. Next week we’ll talk about the Fruit of the Spirit. While these are made for kids, adults can also use the theme to pick up their Bible and read a section so that you know what the kids are up to.

Our amazing friends at Sing n’ Sprout gave us a special gift this week! We get to share Sing n’ Sprout videos with you each week for awhile during our time away from one another. We had hoped to pick up our Sing n’ Sprout classes again this spring but since we can’t, check out their awesome videos each week! Please don’t share them as they are provided to us. If you want to share some of their items, use their Facebook page as they do have some publicly available ones there. https://youtu.be/DFO-098u1LA is the Noah’s Ark video for this week for Toddlers and Preschool Kids.

I’d love your feedback if you are using any of the activities or videos and what you like most or wish we did instead. I want to do what I can to make things better but I don’t want to overwhelm with too many projects or videos. If you do any of the projects, I’d LOVE some photos to share.

I’ll talk to you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
Consistory Meeting
April 16, 2020 via Zoom
Community Reformed Church

Attendance: Clyde, Jolene, Tom, Pete, Mike, Bob, Curt, Mark, Gerald, Dustin, Michael D., Matt M., Chad M., Rick, Russ, Chad O., Matt W., Jim, and Nick

Matt M. opened with devotions and a time of prayer. Matt read Proverbs 3:5 and spoke to us about trusting Jesus. MSA of the minutes from February.
MSA of the financial reports for March given by Chad M.

Chad M., Matt M., Russ and Lisa have been working on a Payroll Protection Program loan for all those on payroll at Community. Discussion followed. MSA to follow up and close on a PPP loan in the amount of $78,997.00. Clyde will inform the congregation of this decision through his weekly newsletter article. Clyde will be checking with Sheri regarding the hourly nursery staff. Recommendation was to take an average monthly total and continue to pay accordingly.

Bob informed us that the city has awarded contracts for the street project and new fire station. Work will move forward in both areas. There will be a slight change to the church entrance mid/late summer. Dirt work has begun on the new Brandon Valley elementary school. Bob will also be checking with the city on the time line for billing on the utility tie in.

Mike and Tom reported on the mission trip to Haiti. MSA to change the $1100.00 donation, given to them from Community, to be used for projects at the school rather than t-shirts and school supplies as originally requested. Liz, Heather, and Doyle submitted reports via email. All three continue to make the necessary changes needed to connect with children, youth, and adults at Community.

Discussion followed regarding the election of new elders and deacons. This will be tabled until we can all meet for a congregational meeting.

An upgrade will be made to the online live stream system thanks to a generous donation. This will continue to enhance our ability to connect for church right now!

The RCA 2020 meeting, originally schedule for June, has been postponed until a later date yet to be determined.
Next Meeting: May 14, 2020

MSA to adjourn.
Clyde closed in prayer.

FINANCES
Sunday, April 15, 2020

General: .......................$35,745
Vision: ..........................$1,470
Missions: .........................$870
Faith Ave: ........................$1,100

General YTD: $194,831
Vision YTD: $35,376
Vision Account Balance: $108,278

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 (surgery recovery)
- Al Price (prostate cancer)
- Gary & Connie Parmley’s granddaughter
INFO YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW...

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.

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.

Temporarily Suspended