Another week of this “deal.” It’s not the last! Spring is starting to show itself a little more each week. I do like that. At least you can get outside and that does really help. I even have seen a bit of lawn work being done on our block. I guess that’s the first sign of spring. With April comes the promise that warmer weather can’t be too far away now. Hopefully, we shall see more things that bring us a little extra joy. I have a lot of confidence in good people doing right things to make this all work. It is a big challenge though as most of us can see. This is something we shall never forget. I know in my lifetime, I haven’t seen anything quite like this. Yes, there have been scares with diseases, but never some crazy bug that could spread so quickly and so silently. We are all being asked to do some pretty amazing things and for the most part, people are really trying to do this the best they can. Keep at it folks. It won’t be forever! There will be a day!

I have seen all of the staff work to adjust to all of this the best they can. Churches really are places of contact. We get together to do everything, so this places a huge challenge for us to figure out the next best thing. Online…that seems to be the mode of communication people have chosen. It does work. It’s not the same…I know that, but it is something and right now that matters.

The Consistory will be meeting next week online. We have a number of things to talk about. Obviously, finances have been strained. They are working on that. There are some programs we are looking into for all of that as well. This is all new and uncharted territory for all of us, so we are learning more each day as we move along. Asking people to do more is a hard ask right now…you are all wondering about your “money” right now. Many folks are doing just fine, but many are not.

We are praying for God’s direction on that and for people who can to be there for us. It is not a simple thing and you all know that so very well. We are asking God to show us the next move. He doesn’t let us down. I know that!

Thursday night we shall meet again online. I have been working on some ways to make that look different…somehow…still working on that. The message is all about what Jesus did. He now makes some extraordinary moves and statements. The end is getting close. He’s about to change everything! I guess that sort of fits exactly where we all are. God will be present; I just know it. We are going to do a communion service online. I know…that’s never been done before…is that ok with the Orange book? I don’t know how to even respond to that. I will say this…nothing Jesus did in his last week of his life was according to anything those Jewish people had ever seen before. Nothing! A little something out of the ordinary might just be the thing we need. So, if you are comfortable, get some juice and some bread and gather around the screens. We can do this!

Sunday is Easter…there is a big cross up on the hill by the church. You can’t miss it! Drive out that way and take a look! Easter the world changed. The Jericho road has led us to the cross and now back to a tomb. A new day dawns! It sure did! Nothing like this had ever happened before! They weren’t even expecting it! A new day…I like that! Let’s make that happen!

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Christ is Risen! Celebrate Easter with us! Join us ONLINE at 9am & 11am...or anytime of the day you choose!
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 (NEW)
The evening book club will meet ONLINE through a Zoom call on Tuesday, April 21, at 7 pm. They will be discussing Where the Crawdads Sing.

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.

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.

JOY CIRCLE (NEW)
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.

HIGH SCHOOL/ MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Zoom Meetings this week
HS:
TUESDAY LUNCH @ 12:00
WED YOUTH GROUP @ 7:30
MS:
WED YOUTH GROUP @ 6:30
THURSDAY LUNCH @ 12:00
MEETING ID AND PASSWORD (WHICH IS NEW) CAN BE FOUND IN PARENT EMAILS, THE YOUTH INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT OR YOU CAN MESSAGE DOYLE

FINANCES
Sunday, April 4, 2020

General: $6,215
Vision: $1,625
Missions: $250

General YTD: $159,086
Vision YTD: $33,906
Vision Account Balance: $114,200

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
As we enter into Holy Week, I know that things definitely feel different for everyone. I want to share just a few things I have noticed since we have had to practice social distancing.

We have had an actual “Spring” season this year! I believe this is God’s gift to us as we go through this time. Doesn’t the sunshine make a huge difference? Thank God for the sun!

We are drawing closer to God because we realize our desperate need for His Presence, His healing, His protection, and His guidance just to name a few things. No matter how you cut it, this is a good thing.

We are reminded of just how good we have it here in America. We are not a perfect nation, but when you consider how easy our lives were before we had to address Covid-19, it has been a rather shocking reminder that for the majority of days, we live very well here. That is a massive gift, friends. When this is over, let’s not forget how fortunate we are.

Below is Week 3 of a new spiritual practice. Please don’t dismiss it out of hand when you see the title! This practice is sometimes polarizing for people, but it can be done in many different ways as you’ll see below. Blessings on you as you practice this Holy Week.

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

The Practice of Journaling

**Journaling** is a tool for reflecting on God’s presence, guidance and nurture in my life. As we are in a particularly unusual season of life, I encourage you to use journaling as a way to document how you and/or your family has moved through this season. It will be an encouragement to you down the road to be able to look back on this time and see how God was present to you.

**Methods**
(borrowed from Adele Ahlberg Calhoun)

Designate a book or a computer file where you will store all of your writings in one place. Then choose any one or any combination of suggestions below to work through each day. You can take as much or as little time as you need. The key is to be honest with yourself about your own thoughts, feelings, and desires, and to take those to God. These methods can be done with children as well. Remember that journaling is for your eyes only unless you choose to share it with someone you trust. It is a spiritual practice that is intended to help us draw closer to God in honesty.

- As you read magazines or newspapers (either hard copies or online) cut out or save to a file articles or photos that touch your heart. Use these clippings to help you pray and join in God’s care for the world.
- Develop a journal of quotes, poetry, and Scripture that have touched you. Reflect on these words and their significance to you.
- If you enjoy art, create a collage journal. Express your thoughts and feelings to God through pictures, textures, and colors.
- Keep a prayer journal where you record requests, prayers, answered prayers, etc.
- Use your journal as a place for your unedited thoughts, feelings, and reactions. Out of this time, ask the Holy Spirit to form a godly response in you. Listen for His word to you.
Hi Everyone!
I hope you are still doing well. It is on my heart this morning to pray for kids and families who are struggling with being away from school right now. For some kids, the struggle is learning at home while parents are at work or trying to work from home. Some are missing their friends and that is hard too. For others in our city and region, it may be that school is their “safe place” and this time feels scary and overwhelming. Still others may be missing out on some of the milestones that they were looking forward to. Let’s just pray for them all and love on them a little extra from a distance. God is with them and can help them through all of the struggles, big and small. I just hope the kids remember how much God loves them! This strange time is short in the scheme of eternity but it sure doesn’t feel short right now for people who are really struggling or afraid. I am praying that God holds them close.

I hope you enjoyed the little Palm Parade at the beginning of online church. It was so nice of the kids and parents to make their palm branches and send photos. It made my week!

This week we did “crazy hair” Sunday School so I colored my hair pink and blue temporarily for the kiddos. Some of their photos of silly pig tails and wild hair made me giggle. We were talking about Palm Sunday and how things aren’t always how we expect them to be. Jesus knew just what to expect and He is with us and knows what to expect now too! We talked about Jesus coming on a donkey and what we’d think a king might do. The kids thought maybe a giraffe, a giant chicken, a unicorn or a cheetah would be good transportation for a special king!

We want to invite all of you (not just kids or families with kids) to join us in a project for Easter. Some wonderful people at church are putting a big cross up in the lawn. We’d like everyone from church to paint or decorate a rock to place at the foot of the cross. If you don’t have paint at home, I recommend using nail polish, sharpie markers, wrapping with yarn, etc. Even colored pencils or food coloring could work. Use anything you have at home. It doesn’t have to last forever. If you can, drive your rock out to church and place it at the foot of the cross. If you can’t, that’s ok! Just place your rock someplace you’ll remember. If you are in an apartment and can’t get a rock but want to participate, you can cut or rip a rock from paper. Just join in your own way and know you are loved! If you do drive out to church, be sure your rock is not huge-small enough to carry in one hand. Also, if you get out to church and there is someone else there, just wait in your car until they leave. Please be sure that you take some time to pray! That is the most important part of this project together.

See you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
**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

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**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)
- 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 Siecta (rib pain)
- Al Price (prostate cancer)

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**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Join us ONLINE as we celebrate the Last Supper on April 9th at 7:00pm. Communion will look different this year for this service but Jesus, too, did things differently for The Last Supper. Gather at the table from your home with any type of food and drink you already have. We’ll reflect and partake of the Lord’s Supper together.

Please do not make an extra trip to the store.

Come as you are with whatever you have.

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**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 😊

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**Let’s ROCK this Community!**

Paint or write on a small rock. (one you can carry in one hand) You can use whatever you want to decorate them: sharpies, nail polish, paint, etc. Bring it to church between now and Easter and place it at the foot of the cross on the hill.

And pray! On Easter morning, there will be lilies and palms among the rock to celebrate Christ’s rising!
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

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

Holli Jans
Communications Coordinator
connect@communityrc.org

Heather Devitt
Director of Children’s Ministries
heather.devitt@communityrc.org

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

Sheri Brouwer
Part-Time Nursery Coordinator
sheribrouwer@communityrc.org

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

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator