And just like that May feels like March! I wish I would not have mentioned spring last week. What happened? And the wind…what was that all about? Just so you know, I had nothing to do with the wind. I am hoping we have survived that blast of cool and now we can get back to May again. I am ready for that! I’m sure you all are as well. The weeks continue to move along and we continue to move with them. Each week does seem to bring a new set of things to pay attention to in all this craziness, but we are getting there…I guess.

This week is Consistory and we will be talking about all of this. I know there were churches who met this past week and some starting in the coming weeks as well. I am very curious how all of that went. Trying to keep a distance is going to be interesting. When I read through some of the guidelines that churches put in place, I was thinking it would be a much nicer service from your living-room. We will be talking about all of this. Plans are coming. We’re just keeping you informed.

Informed? Let me take some time to inform you on another front. This paragraph will take up most of the letter this week so get ready. Our denomination is going through an “interesting” time right now. I don’t really know how else to frame it. We have talked about it with all of you at various times, but honestly, we did not deliberately spend hours doing it because we really didn’t know where all of this was going. It seemed always to be a moving target. I would speak about things and direction and then that would change. This time, we have waited and watched. I think there is some wisdom in that. Talking these days comes easy. Listening does not! So, we have been listening. There was a national team that was set up two years ago to make recommendations to the RCA about issues that divide us. That team has done their work and are ready to make that recommendation, but now with COVID 19, General Synod is postponed until October. However, even that may not happen as there are some who are concerned that you can’t just move a national meeting…it has never been done and there are all kinds of issues with that. And of course, with this particular debate, there is always so much more to all of it. Most of you understand how that goes. It is all very bumpy right now. Uncertainty is a good way to describe it. If you wonder where I am on all of this, I will say that at one level it is sad to watch and yet I do understand how we got here. When you put that many competing ideas about social issues into a group of any size, the outcome will not bring perfect agreement. Then, if you add theology to the mix and it only gets more complicated. The solution? I’m not sure what will finally happen, but I know changes are coming. I hear that from everyone involved. What kind of changes? No one knows that for certain right now. It has to play out. Will it affect us greatly? I suppose that depends on what “affect” means to you. It will not change anything we do as a church. We will still preach the same. All the of the great things we do won’t be changed at all. It might affect the sign out front. I’m serious when I say that. Maybe our name changes somewhat. Still “Community”, but maybe the last phrase changes a bit. I’ll keep you informed. Pray about it…the Kingdom of God is bigger than all of this. I am always about that first.

Sunday, we continue with the series. It’s getting very important now. Jesus is together with them this week around a meal. Peter is there. The fish are there. Now what? We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
This week, I don’t really have much news to update, so I’m going to dive right into this week’s spiritual practice. (In case you’re wondering, I’ll only share these practices through Memorial Day weekend.)

The Practice of Celebration

“Celebration is the practice of engaging in actions that orient the spirit toward worship, praise, and thanksgiving.” – Calhoun

Before you get to the methods of this practice, it will be important to spend some time reflection about how you have celebrated in the past. You can reflect on these questions alone, with a friend, or with your whole family.

Where are you most able to celebrate God? Alone? With others? At church? With music? Outdoors?

When you see other people celebrating God in ways that are new or foreign to you, what do you find yourself thinking or feeling?

Who do you know who really celebrates God?

How do you feel about those people?

Methods

There are many different methods to celebrate God. Below are three methods to get you started, but you can be creative in how you celebrate!

If possible, plan to spend time in a place where it is easy for you to celebrate God. If needed, bring along those things that help you move into a spirit of celebration. What do you want to tell God about the joy you receive in this moment? Speak or write a prayer of thanksgiving and celebration about the joy you are receiving from God in this moment.

Consider how God loves you. Read Zephaniah 3:17. Take some time to be still and listen. How is God celebrating you? Ask God to help you appreciate yourself the way God does.

Attend to the people who give you joy. Ask God how you might celebrate them in a way that would encourage them.
DOYLE’S UPDATE

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Here we are with a week left of the school year with a lot of students, parents and teachers working in a new format. It is so hard to believe we are already near the end. Along with the school year wrapping up, we are also wrapping up our youth group for the spring this week.

Middle School youth will have their final night through zoom as we have an “In-Home Scavenger Hunt”. Abby and I will be choosing random items that can be found around the house for students to collect. If students get the selected item in the time limit allowed, they will receive a point. We will have some fun things put in to mix things up and the winner will receive a prize. I’m looking forward to ending our time this year with some fun – even through a screen!

The high school group will be meeting in the church parking lot this week as we gather together with safety and respect in mind. So while there won’t be hugging, high-fives or trying to pack as many people around a table as possible, we will get to spend some time together. For those who are unable to make it to church on Wednesday, they can still join us Via zoom as well.

Final note for this week – I have started a YouTube page for the youth ministry. While we have been separated for some time, I thought it would be fun to do some recorded gatherings for people to stay connected in different ways. While this is still pretty new, the videos will keep coming and I think we can have a lot of fun with this! Right now I am doing a “5 Questions With _____” series where students jump on zoom for an interview about their time in social distancing/online learning. If you would like to check it out and see how students are doing in this time you can go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8q5StnPitPA0heW677rhg?view_as=subscriber

Also, if you want to stay updated on the channel and help us out, please subscribe. If we get 100 subscribers we are able to customize our URL to make it easier to direct people to. If not, no worries. That’s it for this week!

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 – MAY
ARISE Ukraine

BOOK CLUBS
The morning book club is postponed at this time. They will be discussing Gentleman in Moscow when they meet.

The evening book club will meet May 19 at 7pm at a location to be announced. (Zoom or real). They will be discussing Yellow Wallpaper by Gilman, available online free rom Gutenberg.org.

FAITH CIRCLE
Faith Circle has been postponed until further notice.

HOPE CIRCLE
Hope Circle has been postponed until further notice.

JOY CIRCLE
Joy Circle will not meet in May and further meetings will be postponed until further notice.

SENIOR CITIZENS
Senior Citizens will not meet until further notice. Hoping all of you are well and looking forward to meeting again.

LINK OF THE WEEK

ONLINE CLASS

THIS WEEK’S CLASS IS: OLD MACDONALD

https://youtu.be/p-DruFdTM08

Thank you to Sing n’ Sprout for this special class for Toddlers & Preschool Kids!
Hi Everyone!

I have heard from a few of you this week and it sounds like your kids are doing well but ready to wrap up their unusual school routine and swap it for summer. Hang in there, kiddos! Finish well. I’m praying for you and thinking of you.

Our Sing ‘N Sprout video of the week for the preschool and younger bunch is Old MacDonald: [https://youtu.be/p-DruFdTM08](https://youtu.be/p-DruFdTM08) We appreciate them sharing these with us!

As a reminder, Inspiration Hills camp let us know that they won’t be able to hold regular camp this summer. However, they are offering a “Camp in a Box” option for $75 that includes devotion materials, chapel lessons, crafts, project supplies, a t-shirt, snacks and other fun items so that kids can have a little taste of camp at home. Feel free to chat with Inspiration Hills if you have questions about that or email me for information.

We don’t know what our summer will look like for kids at Community yet, and that’s ok. We have plenty of time to watch and listen to experts. We are good at flexibility and will make it a great summer no matter what.

For now, I’m planning to share activities for kids as often as I come up with something fun. I’m guessing it will be about once each week. This week, I’m suggesting letting your kids play with dry spaghetti and mini or regular marshmallows. I know it sounds crazy, but it is actually really fun and easy! Kids can make a variety of creations ranging from simple shapes (like squares and triangles) to bridges and buildings and everything in between. I’ve even seen kids copy famous landmarks (Eiffel tower, White House, monuments, etc.) using just marshmallows and spaghetti! For little kids, including toddlers, you can also flip your kitchen colander upside-down and let them put spaghetti sticks in the holes. This is such a great way to talk about some of the Bible stories and lessons related to building and there are many of those! There were some temples and towers built as well as a house built on a rock and sand.

I’ll talk to you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
(605)336-1475
Safe Families for Children is a movement fueled by compassion to keep children safe and families intact. We rely upon host families and a network of support, to open their arms, their hearts, and their homes. WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS!

Jamelee Van Donge & Robyn Niewenhuis are leading this serving opportunity at Community and can answer any questions you might have.
Jamelee-360-5830  Robyn- 413-5667
www.safe-families.org/involvement

Ways you can get involved:
Be a Host Family– Voluntarily host children in your home on a temporary basis
Be a Family Friend– Provide support to host families and families in need
Be a Resource Friend– Provide goods & services to families in need
Be a Family Coach– Help families in need reach their goals and provide encouragement to host families
Donate– Your financial support keeps children safe and families intact
Pray– pray for families in crisis, our volunteers, our staff and the movement.

FINANCES
Sunday, May 10, 2020

General: .................... $16,090
Vision: ......................... $2,200
Missions: ....................... $370

General YTD: $240,608
Vision YTD: $40,093
Vision Account Balance: $105,390

Congratulations
Congratulations to Marcia and John Thornton on the birth of their grandson. James Thornton Deboer was born on May 9.

PRAYER REQUEST

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle 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)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Doug DeWit (testing)
- Clazina Van Wyhe (brain bleed)

- 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 Parmlay’s granddaughter
- Tami Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)
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 DeWit
Director of Children’s Ministries
heather.dewit@communityrc.org

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

Sheri Brouwer
Part-Time Nursery Coordinator
sherri.brouwer@communityrc.org

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

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator