Pastor’s Update

A few thundershowers have arrived now. I think indeed spring is finally here. The trees are all budded out, the grass is green, the birds are singing in the morning and finally the temp feels like maybe the warm air is here. Let’s hope so. It has been a long time getting here this year. It seems like a pattern—these cool springs. I just hope we have a nice summer. I know we are all looking forward to that.

I hope you all had a nice Mother’s Day. Thanks to Irwin for filling the pulpit for me this past week! When I finally get back, Holli will be gone as well with that new baby. We have lots of great people filling in for her while she is away. I love how the church responds when there is a need. Way to go Community!

It is that time of year when people start making plans to get away for the summer. I know there are still lots of schools in session, but shortly everyone will be out and going for the summer. I guess that means lots more people on the live feed. We really do have plans to make that so much better than it is. My getting sick this winter kind of pushed that extra stuff back a bit. I apologize for that. I hope now to get all healed up from this mess and then do some of that extra work. It has been an interesting few months in my life.

With that, let me just say a word of thanks for the cards and prayers. You all have been so nice. The surgery is now in the past. It was not the easiest thing I’ve gone through, and of course all my systems don’t respond well to meds and so there was all that going on. The surgery was very, very needed. It’s just too bad it took this long to find it. That is another story all together and one that I won’t share in this letter, but that problem that got fixed has caused a lot of extra issues for sure. I have to heal up now and then see how long some of the other things take to get better. My feet are still funny…it didn’t fix that right away. We are hoping that as things calm down and heal that the nerves being affected will also begin to settle down. Time will tell. I have been told to be very patient. It could take weeks for that to return.

Patience is a big word. For those of you out there who have been dealing with ongoing issues for a long period of time, you know the struggle to stay focused. I have so learned that lesson. I have so many unanswered questions right now. It has my mind working all the time. I am sure many of you have those too. Together we put our trust in the One who knows the big picture and we take the next step. All throughout the Bible we read those accounts of people who were in tough places. They had no option but to trust in God. He was always there. It didn’t always go the way they planned, but it always went according to some amazing grand plan that was always for the sake of the great Kingdom and Glory of God. I’m getting better each day now. We found the big problem…and we fixed it. Now we wait to see how the rest goes.

Sunday…I’m back. I’m doing my favorite Bible Chapter—Romans 8. (Interesting how that turned out.) There is so much in that chapter. I’m so ready to share it. It’s about all we get because Christ isn’t in the tomb. The power we possess within these broken vessels. We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
NURSERY SCHEDULE
May 21: 9:00am—
Jeris & Maylene Van Zee
Matt & Erin Weerheim
11:00am—
Angie, Ali & Justin Cable
May 28: 9:00am—
Eric & Jamelee Van Donge
Tyler & Laurel Wolf
11:00am—
Jonah & Brittany Nyenhuis
Amanda Wielenga

COFFEE SCHEDULE
May 21: Irwin & Helen Van Leeuwen
May 28: Jim & Kathleen Ludens
June 4: Dick & Jeannette Jennings

THE LINK SCHEDULE
May 21
9:00am– Chad & Diane McKee
11:00am– Arlan Burggraaf
May 28
9:00am– Wilmer & Marilyn Rensink
11:00am– Grant & Leslie Boltjes

Union Gospel Mission love gift for May
is cash for the Vacation Bible Time &
Camp. Please designate your gift and
deacons will forward the money on.

MONTHLY MISSION

May Mission of the month:
Arise Ukraine

The ministry’s purpose is to see Ukraine saturated with living com-
munities of believers where the transforming power of the gospel is
reaching every area of society—
giving every man, woman and
child in the country the opportunity
to be reconciled to the Father and
to each other. Arise Ukraine is
completing God’s work through 6
main ministries and their goal is to
have 10,000,000 Ukrainians hear
the gospel by 2020 with 1,000,000+
becoming disciples of Christ.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

Joy Circle— May Fun Event— No Less-
on. Tues, May 23 meet at the Pettigrew Museum at 1:45 for museum
and home tour. Refreshments after
the tour. Please sign up at The Link.
Need more info, call 351-4202.

Morning Book Club will next meet on
Wed., June 14, at 9 am at the Bagel
Boy on Minnesota Ave. They will dis-
cuss The Hunger Games by Collins.

Evening Book Club will next meet on
Tue., June 20, at 7 pm at the east
side Panera. They will discuss The
Zookeeper’s Wife by Ackerman.

NOTES from
Community’s full service library is at it
again. They are making it possible
for the next 2 weeks for you to see a
listing of everything your household
currently has checked out of the
church library. They understand that
wrangling up those library items can
be difficult when you’re not sure
what exactly you’re searching for.
Stop in and “check it out!” Trudi, Lois,
Lorena and Merry will be ready to
help!

QUESTIONS

Join us for a time of prayer on Saturdays from 7am-8am at church.

- Natallie Baker (seizure disorder)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jaron DeWit’s grandpa
- Julie Dobesh (surgery recovery)
- Jill Hansen’s aunt (cancer)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Cami Kuchta (cancer)
- Terry Mayer’s mom, Rose (stroke)
- Chelle McMurray’s dad (multiple myeloma)
- Rhoda (Odens) Meyer (high risk pregnancy)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Susan Payne (cancer)
- Gerban TeSlaa (hospice—Helen Van Leeuwen’s dad;
Sheri Brouwer’s grandpa)
- Mat Timmer (brain tumor)
- Harriett Valentine (recovering from shoulder surgery)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart testing)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Marlys Van Bruggen (breast cancer)
- Annetta Wiese
- Gail Babcock (recovering from shoulder surgery)
- Alvin Hoogedoorn (cancer treatments)
My retreat at the Benedictine Peace Center in Yankton was incredible. A huge thank you to everyone who prayed for me while I was away! The facility is exceptionally well thought out for time alone with God, and the Sisters who live and work there are, in a word, lovely. They made sure to make me feel welcome and safe, and they took time to explain things about their times of prayer and religious practices. I was pulled out of my comfort zone in a good way several times during my stay, and I had so many opportunities to listen to and for God during my time there. The gardens and walking paths around the monastery were in full bloom, so the scent of spring was everywhere. My time there was the perfect blend of quiet and contemplation as well as interaction with new friends. The center is open to anyone who has an interest in doing a retreat like this, and I would encourage you to check it out if that’s something you’ve ever wondered about!

One of the specific things I wanted to share about my time there concerns a book. I had recently heard an author speak about taking time in silence and solitude for God. Ruth Haley Barton has written several books on the topic, (one of her best being “An Invitation to Silence and Solitude”) and she has really practical ideas and suggestions for how to begin these practices. (They are challenging at first!!) Ruth referenced a book called, “Guerrillas of Grace” by Ted Loder. That had not been my first introduction to that book, so at the time, I thought to myself, “I need to check out that book!” When I arrived at Peace Center, I was shown through the building and into their small library, which is for use by people who are staying on retreat. On an eye-level shelf, literally sticking out from all of the other books in the row, was Ted Loder’s book, “Guerrillas of Grace!” I couldn’t believe it! I grabbed that book and used it as a guide as I spent time there with God. Ted Loder was a pastor in a United Methodist Church for many years, and he wrote this book of prayers as a way to express thoughts and feelings he had while he was working. His prayers are meant for everyone, and they are honest, and even at times, raw, in their emotion. What I love about this book is that he gives words to so many things that I’ve thought and felt during my journey with Jesus. It’s short, and it’s real. I’m not sure if it’s in our library, (hint, hint, librarians!) but I would highly encourage you to check it out!

It’s graduation season now in Sioux Falls, and as always, we do have a group of graduating seniors. Graduation is super bittersweet for me. I’m so happy for these kids and for this new phase in their lives. But I also really hate to see them go! Parents, we’d be happy to include the pictures of your graduating seniors in our morning announcement slides, so if you would email me a picture of your graduate and include his or her name, high school, and post college plans, we’ll start to add them to our slide show. Just send the information to youthpastor@communityrc.org. If you have questions let me know.

On Sunday, you’ll notice a graduate table set up in the narthex. Graduates, (this includes high school, college, and even graduate school!) please feel free to take a book off of the table as a gift from Community! We congratulate you on your hard work and accomplishments!!

And lastly this week, I’ve scheduled time next week to hopefully get some recording done on my album of worship songs. Friends, I’d love prayers for smooth recording sessions, for good health for musicians, including myself, and for the power of God to be over us as we record. I’m doing this all for Him, and I’m trying to keep my focus on Jesus. If God leads you in that direction, pray us up!

Whew! This is a long article, but I think that’s it for me this week. ☺

Until next time,

Liz
youthpastor@communityrc.org
Hi Everyone!
This week I just have some thoughts to share with you that have been on my mind and heart.

Why whisper?

When I am spending time with a group of students and struggling to gain their full attention, I often whisper. I can almost hear the nodding heads of the educators reading this but the rest of you might be puzzled. Why would I whisper when I want kids to hear me? In a noisy room, it takes focus and attention to listen to a whisper. If I yell, I’ll just join the rest of the noise in the room and become part of the chaos, rather than draw the child in to what I need to tell them. For most kids, it calms them to attend to a quiet and calm voice, and they become ready to listen and learn.

I have been feeling like maybe God whispers to us sometimes so that we can calm our hearts and minds right in the middle of this loud and busy world and hear what He is doing in our hearts. God wants our full attention. He knows us well enough to know that blending in with the noise isn’t the best strategy for Him to use in gaining our focus.

I’ve been reading the story of Elijah this week and the conversation between God and Elijah is hitting my heart in a new way.

1 King 19:11The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Elijah was a regular person, chosen by God. I doubt his response to the wind, earthquake and fire was, “oh look,” or “huh, that’s strange.” I imagine how I would have responded to such things and I don’t think it would probably be one of my more relaxed moments. I may have tried to put out the fire, find shelter in the wind or even hold on during the earthquake, but Elijah waited there for God. He stayed put because God told him to. God didn’t come in the wind, the earthquake or the fire, even though He has the power to do that. God came in the calm after the chaos. This is where we learn the phrase “still small voice.” I imagine it to be a voice so gentle that there was no choice left but to lean in. He and Elijah chatted for a bit after that. Elijah didn’t tell God anything He didn’t already know in the talk but they spent some time together, and in that time Elijah had his needs met.

So, if you have children and they aren’t listening well, try a whisper! When you do, remember that God’s voice sometimes arrives to our ears gently and quietly. Lean in. Attend. Give yourself the time, quiet and space to hear a still small whisper.

I’ll see you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org

Summer Memory Verse:

Psalm 46:10– NIV: He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.”
UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 18
6:30 & 7:30pm—Church softball
7:00 pm—Elders Meet
8:00 pm—Full Consistory

Saturday, May 20
7:00 am—Prayer Ministry

Tuesday, May 23
1:45 pm—Joy Circle @ Pettigrew Museum

Monday, May 29
Memorial Day—Church office closed

JOHN THORNTON will be leading a Wednesday evening Bible study this summer on the Gospel of Mark. This class is open to everyone and will begin on Wednesday, June 7th. Class will be each week from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. No books are needed except for a Bible. Come out for a verse by verse study of the entire Gospel of Mark.

MEET and GREET

We want to introduce new members Jeremy and Stacia Sirovy to the Community family. The Sirovy’s presently live in Harrisburg where Jeremy works for Landscape Garden Center in construction. Stacia is a dental assistant working at Park Center. They are expecting a baby in June. When you meet them at church, please share a Community welcome with them.

SAVE THE DATE

6th Annual CRC Kids Fishing Day
Saturday • June 10th
Details and sign-up sheets are at The Link
Or contact Rick Hanson: 201-5135

John Thornton will be leading a Wednesday evening Bible study this summer on the Gospel of Mark. This class is open to everyone and will begin on Wednesday, June 7th. Class will be each week from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. No books are needed except for a Bible. Come out for a verse by verse study of the entire Gospel of Mark.

General: $10,115
2017 Weekly Goal: $15,033
Ahead/(Behind): $-4,917
Vision: $2,755
Missions: $595

Tee it up for Timmer’s

Willow Run Golf Course
Wednesday, May 24
Tournament is full
But we are still taking items/services for the silent auction

Contact: Eric Harms–harms@hegg.com 940.8535 or Sharen Harms–sharen@hegg.com 366.2684

Congratulations

Audra Grace, daughter of Brian & Holli Jans, was born in the early hours of May 12th. Congratulations Brian, Holli, & big sister Bethany!

FINANCES AT A GLANCE:

May 14, 2017

YEAR-TO-DATE STATUS 5/7/17

General: $10,115
2017 Weekly Goal: $15,033
Ahead/(Behind): $-4,917
Vision: $2,755
Missions: $595

Year-To-Date Offering: $301,925
Year-To-Date Goal: $300,662
Ahead (Behind): $1,265
Year-To-Date Vision: $141,129
Vision Account Balance: $217,185
Community Reformed Church
6800 E 41 Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

May 17, 2017

Health Concerns / Congregational Needs
All needs should be called into the church. Leave a request with the office or on the office Voice Mail. For prayerline, please contact Susan Bierwagen, 331-3996 or John Thornton, 331-3028 (crcprayerline@gmail.com). For emergencies during non-office hours, please call Pastor Clyde or the elder on call.

May 21—Jolene Larson
May 28—Bob Hein

Join us for worship at 8am, 9am or 11am.
Deaf Interpreting available at 9am service. Check us out on the web: www.communityrc.org or like our Facebook page!