Spring is trying to get here as the thermometer struggles to get above 60. I think this week looks to be a little better. The rain was very nice though and we can be grateful for all of that. It is amazing how last year we couldn’t get the rain to stop and this year we actually needed a little. What does that teach us? See, if we just wait long enough things change. Have we not seen that over and over in our lives? Very few things stay the same forever. Seasons come and go! Don’t forget that as the days go along. I remember hearing people say last spring that things may never dry up. Really? In South Dakota? Are you kidding? Give things a little time and life has a way of finding a balance. God is in charge of all of this. Trust Him! Lean on Him! Take your worries to Him! Give Him your fears! He can handle it!

If you are wondering when we will start Sunday morning worship together, the Consistory talked about that last week. We are going to be asking you for input as well. You could be asked in the coming days your thoughts. Share if you like. I know a number of churches did get started this past week. I haven’t heard how all of that went, but I am sure we can learn some good things about that. I know several of them saw low numbers as many people are still not sure what to do. We are going to be watching and listening. The team just didn’t feel like it was of burning importance to get right back into things. They didn’t like the idea of possibly not singing and sitting far apart from each other. That didn’t seem like very good church to them. We have a very calm group of folks on Consistory who are good thinkers. They want to do this the best we can and not just do a thing to prove a point. It’s about having worship...not just having church. There is a difference. All of that will be a challenge as we move along, but we will get it done and done well.

For those of you who are interested about some of things I talked about in last week’s newsletter concerning the discussion within the RCA you can visit their website. It is full of all kinds of information about the things I mentioned last week. There is an entire section devoted to Vison 2020. If you are interested in all of that discussion, it is there for some informative reading. Google Reformed Church In America and it will pop right up. Look for Vision 2020.

We are looking at opening the offices possibly next week. For now, call first. There is usually one of us around there in the morning as we are all trying to find a pace to do this all again. You are going to be amazed at how much activity there is out at the church. They are working on 41st street as they are adding new lanes for the school. Work has begun on Brandon’s new grade school and new fire station. It is a busy place. It will get your attention! Also, there are several new houses behind the church. It is really something!

Sunday I will finish this series we started after Easter. “On The Other Side” has been a good word for all of us. I have learned so much about that fishing story in John’s gospel that I never knew before. It is so amazing how those stories are so deeply filled with life. I hope you have enjoyed it. This Sunday the story takes one more important turn. It becomes personal. It becomes one-on-one personal. It truly will show us who Jesus really is. We will talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
LIZ’S UPDATE

Adult Discipleship/Worship

I can hardly believe that this weekend is Memorial Day weekend already. Even though things have been turned upside down, it still seems like time is moving along at a quick step! I’m hopeful that you will get to recognize and honor Memorial Day in a special way this year. Memorial Day is an especially precious holiday of remembrance for me. Both of my grandfathers served in the military, and of course, my mom made her heavenly entrance right around the same time. NO matter how you observe it, I pray your day of remembrance is filled with blessing.

We only have 2 of these spiritual practice articles left! I continue to hear from people about how they are incorporating these practices into their lives. I love getting those emails! Blessings on your practice this week!

Liz

The Practice of Unplugging

**Unplugging** is the practice of leaving the virtual world of technology (phones, computers, email, texting, etc.) for a specified amount of time in order to be fully present to the physical world.

**Method**

Begin by answering the following reflection questions.

1. How has technology influenced your relationships?
   - A. Do friends and family complain about the amount of time you spend online or on devices?
     - What is their real concern?
2. Are you online for both work and pleasure?
   - A. What do you like about being online?
   - B. What don’t you like about being online?
3. What sort of temptations does cyberspace hold for you?
   - A. How do you address these temptations?
4. Where are you using technology to avoid face-to-face encounters?
   - A. What are the fears or reasons that cause you to avoid these encounters?
5. Does being online affect your relationship with God in a positive or negative way? Be specific.

As you consider your answers to the above questions, make a plan to unplug.

- Choose the device or devices from which you need to take a break.
- Start small. Plan to take a total break from your device(s) for a short period of time. Some of you may need to break for only 10-15 minutes. Others may be able to do an hour or more.
- Shut off your device.
- Set a timer. If your timer was on your phone, get creative and find another way to time! 😊
- Spend that time fully focusing on whatever or whomever needs your attention: God, a person, a task, Bible reading, book reading, yourself, etc.
- When your time is over, consider these questions:
  1. Was this time challenging for you? Why/not?
  2. What did you notice about this time that you would not have noticed otherwise?
  3. How can you reasonably incorporate unplugging into your everyday life? How would that make your life better?
  4. Close with a prayer in which you tell God about all you are thinking and feeling in this unplugged moment. Thank Him for His Presence with you.
CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to everyone who knew Carmillien, the Founder and Director of the Frédérique school in Haiti. That is where the Mission Haiti people have served. He has died and leaves behind his wife and six children. Please keep them all in your prayers.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Arise! Ukraine is a non-profit ministry established in 1997 by missionary, Paul Logan. Its purpose is to see Ukraine saturated with living communities 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All in-person activities suspended until further notice

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

BAPTISM DATE POSTPONED

The baptism scheduled for Sunday, June 7th has been postponed until Sunday, Aug. 23 @ 3:00pm.

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 still postponed until further notice. Please return the current book. Call Trudi if you need a pathway to do that.

The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, June 16, at 7 pm and will be discussing Gentleman in Moscow by Towles. Meeting place will be announced.

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.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

Have you moved recently or changed your email address? Please send your new contact information to connect@communityrc.org. Thank you!
Hi Everyone!

This morning before work, I drove my Middle Schooler (who was not impressed at being at school before 8am for the first time in a while- LOL) over to Patrick Henry to drop off her Chromebook laptop, pick up a paper grocery bag of items from her locker, and wave goodbye to a few teachers and school staff. I’m guessing many of you are having similarly unusual ends to the school year. I am praying for all of the kids, parents, teachers and school staff as they go through this transition in a new way.

I recently got to watch online as my little brother graduated with his master’s degree from Yale. One of the graduation speakers commented on how the education that the new graduates just received has prepared them to be successful in a changing world and therefore a world changed by Covid. Their point was that while graduating during a pandemic isn’t ideal, they will be ok because they are ready. That reminded me of some of my favorite portions of the Bible in which people are uniquely prepared by God for moments they never saw coming. Esther is a great example of this but as I was working through some of the Sunday School lessons for next year, I was struck that many, many people in the Bible, and also many people in my life, have found themselves in situations and realized that God had prepared them in surprising ways. I can certainly think of times in my life in which that is the case. I suspect God has prepared us to handle this weird Covid time in a variety of ways. I also think that this pandemic time in our history can be used by God to prepare each of us for what he has in store for our future. God is good and will make all things work together for good. It may not be easy but it will be good.

Our Sing ‘N Sprout video of the week for the preschool and younger kiddos is Bears and the letter “B”: https://youtu.be/6Re50Opc7nQ It is so nice of them to share these with us!

I want to give you another reminder that you can always let me know if you think of anything that I can help with. I’m here, writing, learning, working and praying and preparing things for us all to do together both online and in person. I’d love to help if I can.

I’ll talk to you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
Consistory Meeting
May 14, 2020
Community Reformed Church, Sioux Falls, SD

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

Clyde opened with prayer.

MSA of the minutes from April

MSA of the financial reports for April 2020 given by Matt M. and Chad M.

Old Business:
MSA via email the following proposals from the City of Sioux Falls:
   Offer by the city to purchase a 5’ x 5’ triangular piece of property at the corner of 41st and Faith.
   Permanent utility easement at 41st and Faith
   Temporary construction easement for the work at 41st and Faith.

New Business:
Bob reported that the entryway to church has been moved slightly and the mailbox will also be relocated.
Heather and Liz submitted their reports. VBS is still on so far, the decision on how to proceed does not have to be made until the last minute.

Discussion followed on how to move forward with safely opening church back up again. It was decided we will proceed with caution and revisit this topic at the June consistory meeting.

Service Master, our cleaning service, has been doing some extra deep cleaning at church. The nursery and narthex carpets have recently been cleaned. We will have the remaining carpets cleaned once we have a start date.
We also discussed doing some crack sealing in the parking lot but will also wait with that until the street is done.

MSA to elect Mike Hilbrands to take over as the Vice President, Tom Jacobs as the Secretary and Matt Marcus will move into the Treasurer position.

Other:
Rick reported that church softball has been cancelled as well as the family fishing event for June.

Next Meeting: June 11, 2020
Pete closed in prayer.
Respectfully submitted, Jolene Larson, Clerk

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PRAYER REQUEST

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurry’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)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Clazina Van Wyhe (brain bleed)
- Tami Harm’s cousin (colon cancer)
- Lanette Hendrickson’s dad
- 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)
- Vi Slecta (surgery recovery)
- Al Price (prostate cancer)
- Gary & Connie Parmley’s granddaughter
- Tami Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)
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, Aug 23 @ 3pm.

Temporarily Suspended

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.

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John Thornton
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