My opening paragraph last week was about spring trying to get here. I could start this week the same way, but I think I will start with the idea that the SUN is trying to get here. I can’t believe how many days can go by without the sun. Now, I have heard that a warm-up is coming and even temps that are above normal. I suppose that is how this will go, no sun, cool, and then just hot! That sounds about right, doesn’t it? I’m sure the sun is still up there and the warm weather will come back. It is summer season now with Memorial Day weekend behind us. I know things are a bit crazy, but maybe a little time away from things will be a good change. We can all hope for a little change. I think that would be a good thing.

We are still only doing church online. We are listening to our people as best as we can. I have been asking pastors who are opening how that is going and what things they are adjusting. Most have said the numbers are very small. People are not comfortable yet sitting in a group for a longer period of time. That will take time. Most churches are encouraging their people not to sing…that’s awkward for sure. We have only heard good things about online church. We are trying to do it well. People do like it up close like it is. I’m not sure what we will do when we go back up on the stage for things. We are giving that some real careful thought right now. I’m not sure as I write this when we make that first try at getting us together. Even though, if we are all honest, having to sit apart, maybe not sing, and then only smile from a distance seems a little strange. I guess it will be that way for a while longer. I’m still praying for the fix! Go God Go!

I will have a wedding this weekend. They had to bring their numbers down a considerable amount. We will spread people out all over the church. It will be different, but those young people deserve the best effort we can make for them. It seems like everything takes a little extra planning and care. I don’t mind that so much, but it does make us realize how nice normal is. Just walking about without thinking. This is a good reminder of just how messy the “world” can get.

Lots of you did graduations this past weekend. I know all of those where changed greatly. Congratulations to all of our graduates. It was such a strange ending to your school year! I hope you will not to be discouraged by that, but somehow be motivated to do the next years with a deep sense of gratitude for the simple things of life and to go out into this next adventure with a heart determined to make a difference. Don’t let a virus define your future. God has not left you in this mess. He is walking through this with you. Together is my point! You are not alone! Find a new stride and run with perseverance the race marked out for you, fix your eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. Congratulations!

This Sunday was marked on my sermon calendar as “Free Sunday”. That means I could pick anything that I felt like I needed to do for a theme. We have had such a great journey from all the way back through Lent and then the other side of Easter that I feel like I need to take the journey all the way through to the end of the story. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
LIZ’S UPDATE

Adult Discipleship/Worship

Recently, I’ve had a few people ask me if I’ve thought about hosting an online video chat/class/devotional/something for a few weeks to help people feel even more connected to church while we move through these unusual times. I’m certainly willing to do something like that, but I would really love your input! If I were to do an online video “thing,” what would be your preferences? Would you like a Facebook live video so you could respond in real time? Would you like a podcast or video that you could download and listen to or watch anytime? Does it need to be shareable? What topics would you like? Should the style be like a class or a devotion or music?? See?!? There are too many variables for me to decide on my own, and I’m not sure what would be the most helpful for the most people. So, if you have an opinion about this, please email me at Liz.Teel@communityrc.org, and let me know what you think. I can’t promise to meet every suggestion, but I’ll do my best!

And now for our last spiritual practice: Fixed Hour Prayer. Read below if you are interested in giving it a try! And if you would like more sources for spiritual practices, please email me, and I’ll steer you in the right direction.

Blessings on your week, friends.

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

The Practice of Fixed Hour Prayer

Fixed Hour Prayer is the practice of stopping your work at fixed times of the day in order to pray.

Method
In addition to when you normally pray, establish one new time of prayer during the day.
Set an alarm to remind you to stop whatever you are doing at that moment and pray.
Very often, fixed hour prayers are pre-written prayers, but you are welcome to pray freely too. You’ll find a pre-written prayer below to use if you like.
After one week, consider what this has been like for you.

Ancient prayer times are often listed as follows:
- Vigils – Night prayer
- Lauds – Waking-up prayers
- Prime – Prayers for beginning work
- Terce – Giving thanks in mid-morning
- Sext - Noon-day prayers
- Vespers - Evening prayers of stillness
- Compline - Going-to-sleep prayer of trust

A Prayer of Dedication
I give my hands to You, Lord. I give my hands to You.
I offer the work I do, Lord. I offer the work I do.
I give my thoughts to You, Lord. I give my thoughts to You.
I give my plans to You, Lord. I give my plans to you.
Give Your hands to me, Lord. Give Your hands to me.
Let Your love set me free, Lord. Let Your love set me free.
Keep me close to You, Lord. Keep me close to You.
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.

FINANCES
Sunday, May 24, 2020

General: .................. $17,341
Vision: ......................,$795
Missions: ..................$160

General YTD: $281,268
Vision YTD: $44,181
Vision Account Balance: $102,085

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.

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!
I hope that you had a good Memorial Day weekend. I am so thankful to live in America and for the sacrifices made by brave men and women so that I can live in a country where I am free to worship and live. This is a gift that I do not take lightly. I think it is good for us to talk with kids about the holiday and why many people have a day off of work and there are flags flying. God really is generous and kind. You may be surprised at how much your kids know about this topic already. They often inspire me!

Our Sing ‘N Sprout video of the week for the preschool and younger kiddos is Cats & Dogs: https://youtu.be/CNTfWPnA7M4 I hope you are all enjoying this fun gift that they are sharing with us!

I’ll keep my article short this week so we can fit the activity for this week on the page. It is an active running game so I’m hoping the weather cooperates for some outdoor play time! If you don’t have enough people in your family to play the game, just adapt it and play “catch and release” by letting the fish go back in the water after you catch them and take turns being the one in the boat.

I’ll talk to you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
Safe Families for Children

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!

Our intake calls are currently much quieter than normal with about 70% less calls than what is typical, but we anticipate that many families will need the support of host families and coaches like YOU when they begin to recover from the economic impact of this pandemic.

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.

• 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)
• Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
• Clazina Van Wyhe (brain bleed)
• Tami Harm’s cousin (colon bleed)
• Lanette Hendrickson’s dad
• Doug DeWit (testing)

• 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)
• Jean Nollmann’s sister, Joyce
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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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...

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
sher.brouwer@communityrc.org

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

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator