And just like that, it’s May! This will be a spring we will never forget. We will all have a few stories to share when this does finally pass. The weather has been wonderful though. A real spring of sorts like we used to get back in the “old days.” I believe part of the reason I can’t believe it’s May already is that lack of doing normal things has allowed the calendar to march along without me really paying much attention to it. It is all one day at a time. However, I do know the nice days and evenings have made doing this a much easier task. So, let’s keep having those nice days! Enjoy the spring!

We have done nearly two months of only online church. There was only one Sunday that got a little bumpy with the video and so, we have done quite well with it. I’m starting to get the hang of that in front of the camera thing. Finally! We are working in the background to get this whole system redesigned. This takes time. You can’t just throw pieces together and hope it works. Good planning takes some thought. I’m not sure when we will be rolling it out, but it is coming. This is a “ministry” we will be able to use for a long time. What we are noticing is that our “message” is getting out farther than we could have ever imagined. That will not end when all of this mess begins to calm down. All churches are seeing this new reality. From now on, we must be more aware of the possibilities that exist beyond the normal getting together in a building. The church can be much larger than that. We have to give that some thought.

On Sunday morning I shared a thought about looking at this Covid thing from a Kingdom of God perspective. What is God trying to do with all of this? Obviously with the illness itself, but from another level as well. It has changed so much of our lives for a few weeks now. People have done a good job of staying apart…but now you can hear medical folks saying we have to begin to relax our distancing a bit. The reaction to this new message has a couple of very different opinions. You hear “finally,” and you hear “are they serious?” I could see this coming a couple of weeks ago as the discussions began to focus on “phase two” of this virus. We will have to get out and do life, but also be protective of those who are most vulnerable. I’m no expert, but I am a good observer of ideas and it seems as though we are hearing more now about this new strategy. Therefore, we will at some point figure out when we start meeting again. How do we do that? How many at a time? How many services do we have to do to keep numbers manageable? How will we know how many people will be coming to each service? Do we have to sign up for a time? STOP!!!! Do you see what happens? It is so easy to lose sight of God’s Kingdom in all of this. Don’t get me wrong, we will have to figure all that out. Churches all across the area are working on this right now. We will too. It is important and we will do it with great care, but I refuse to let this “thing” become all we are about. The church has a message. The world right now is listening with different ears. Hearts are curious! Pray with me on this Community! What is God asking us to do, say and be? Go God Go!

Sunday, we continue with the story on the shore. It’s a turning point moment in this seaside adventure. The disciples try the other side of the boat. They listened to Jesus and dropped the nets on the other side. Things are going to start happening now. Oh, all the fish they will catch. It is about the fish, right? We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

Join us for prayer on Saturday mornings at 7am via Zoom video. People can join via video or using the call-in number if video is not an option.

Join via phone: (346) 248-7799
Meeting website: https://zoom.us/j/862139432
Meeting ID: 862 139 432
Call Shawn Blom at 605-940-6702 with questions.

There will be a time of prayer from 7 to 7:30 pm on Thursday, May 7, for National Day of Prayer. It will be on Zoom. Limited to the first 100 who sign in.

If you are interested in joining the Wednesday evening Bible study, prayer, and discussion group, which meets via Zoom at 7:30 pm, please email John Thornton prayerline@communityrc.org.

You will get weekly emails with the lesson and instructions on how to access the meetings.
As we head into a new month with new news, new updates, and new possibilities, I want to share a personal story with you about a time I lost my patience during a time of waiting.

Right after I graduated from college in 1996, I lived in Sioux Falls and worked a couple of different types of jobs before I taught school. My parents had just moved to Sioux Falls so Dad could attend seminary, and fortunately, for me, they were willing to let me live with them for a few months while I made the transition from college to real life. At that time, I had no idea how valuable this gift would become to me. In February of that year, (February 13 - my dad’s birthday to be exact) I slipped on some ice in a parking lot and broke my fibula in half. I also sprained my ankle really badly when I broke it. At that time, the protocols for fixing it were surgery, which included a plate and 6 screws, and absolutely no weight bearing exercise for 6 weeks. So, I was on crutches during one of the snowiest winters Sioux Falls has ever seen. I was also not able to drive because I broke my right ankle. My sweet mom drove me to work (and anywhere else I needed to be). And basically, I had to learn to do everything on one foot. (They didn’t have those awesome little knee scooters at that time either!) I dare you to try to do normal, everyday activities while balancing on one foot with absolutely no weight bearing on the other foot or toes. It’s really difficult!

During the last week of waiting, I was in the bathroom trying to do my hair and get ready for work. Of course, this bathroom was pretty small, and there wasn’t much room to do anything let alone maneuver on crutches. I got so annoyed that I intentionally banged one of the crutches into a wall, the crutch slipped, and I ended up hitting the other wall with my good foot so hard that I broke a toe. Are you laughing yet? You should be. 😊 I just sat there thinking, “Well…you sort of had that coming.” It turned black and blue and was a little sore, but I was still able to function, thankfully. When I went to the surgeon for my last follow-up visit, I asked him about it. He said, “Yep. It looks like you broke it, and we don’t really do anything for broken toes. It will heal.” Man, I felt stupid. Had I just stayed calm and moved slowly, like I had been doing for 5 weeks, I never would have broken it. But I got frustrated, annoyed, angry, and ended up with a broken toe. That toe is crooked, and there’s a bump on it from where it healed. Whenever I see it, I think about that time. It’s a pretty stark reminder that we have to seek God’s help for patience every day. We can’t ask for that fruit once and expect it to last. It’s Fruit of the Spirit that God cultivates every day.

My point is, that as we continue in the unknowns of this waiting time, (as Dad preached about on Sunday) it is more important now than ever to seek God. We know things are changing, but we need to seek God and ask what He would have us do. And then we need to ask for God’s help to do it! Otherwise, we’ll end up with a few broken toes. 😊

In honor of that story, this week’s spiritual practice is simple but challenging. It’s the practice of Slowing.

Blessings on you as you try the spiritual practice of Slowing. Watch those toes! 😊

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

Check out the spiritual practice of Slowing, on page 3.
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 from 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.

HIGH SCHOOL/ MIDDLE SCHOOL

*The Practice of Slowing*

**Slowing** is the practice of learning to overcome inner hurriedness and addiction to busyness. It is the practice of learning to savor the moment.

**Methods**

*Choose any one or combination of techniques below to begin to slow your pace of life.*

- Intentionally drive the speed limit.
- Intentionally speak more slowly.
- Look people in the eyes as they are talking to you.
- Chew slower when you eat.
- Plan more buffer time between activities.
- When you wake up in the morning, take 1 minute to sit intentionally in God’s Presence before you rush into your day.
- Intentionally choose the long line at a store checkout. (This may be more difficult in our current world situation.)
- Sit a little longer at the dinner table.
- **Take time to consider these questions and what they tell you about yourself:**
  - Are you addicted to hurry, rush, and adrenaline? Explain that.
  - How do you feel about being stuck behind cars that go slowly? Why?
  - What is your response to children who dawdle? Why?
  - How have deadlines and bottom lines affected the pace of your life? How much power do you give them in your life? What options do you have?
  - What is God trying to reveal to you about the hurry in your life? How would your life with Christ be different if you savored moments instead of rushed through them?
Hi Everyone!

I pray that you are all doing well and that the kids are hanging in there on these last few weeks of the school year. For kids who are doing school online or with worksheets right now, I think they are experiencing a big life lesson in finishing well. Doing our best during hard things is challenging and then sticking with it all the way to the end is even more challenging. However, if I know the Community kids, they will lean on God and rise to the challenge with smiles, creativity and kindness (and maybe a few oopsies along the way.) They are great like that!

I tried something different for Sunday School “To Go” this past week and I’m pretty sure that I’m not a fan of being on video. 😊 However, I hope the kids get the message that Jesus loves them and knows their name and all about them. He seeks and saves the lost. https://www.communityrc.org/sunday-school-to-go/ That was our last “regular” Sunday School for the school year but I’ll still continue to post some fun lessons and activities on the Community Kids Facebook page.

Our Sing ‘N Sprout video of the week for the preschool and younger bunch is Jonah: https://youtu.be/a7PvBr0IEUI

Mother’s Day is coming up and I’ve heard quite a few jokes about how the dads are going to have to step up their game since kids won’t be making crafts at school this year. Don’t worry. We’ve got that covered too. We made a little video of a couple of Mother’s Day Project ideas that kids can easily make with things you probably have at home. One is a carnation flower made out of Kleenex. The other is a card that uses the sign language (ASL) hand for “I Love You.” The video is at: https://www.facebook.com/CommunityRCKids/videos/2604877256446255/ but I’ll also include instructions for making the card here as well:

1. Glue two pieces of different colored construction paper together or color the side of one piece of paper. The idea is to have a page that has a different color on each side.
2. Trace your hand onto the two colored page and cut out the hand shape.
3. Fold down the middle and ring finger and glue them down so that the hand is in the “I Love You” hand shape from American Sign Language (see the picture.)
4. Fold another piece of paper in half like a card and glue the hand onto the front.
5. Write “I love you” on the front and inside write, “God made my mom special!” Then write some of the special gifts that God included with your mom like that she loves Jesus, she is kind, she is funny, she is a good cook, she likes to be with you, etc.

We heard from Inspiration Hills camp this week that they won’t be able to hold regular camp this summer. I know some of the kids will be pretty sad about that. 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 and I’ll do my best to get good answers for you.

I’ll talk to you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Bill (Willard) Keizer and his family on the death of his brother, Wayne. Please keep the family in your prayers.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those people who so generously donated of their time and talent to make the face masks for our mission, Church on the Street. We were able to provide over 150 masks and they were deeply appreciated.

FINANCES

Sunday, April 30, 2020

General: .................. $17,067
Vision: .................. $1,497
Missions: .................. $210

General YTD: $224,518
Vision YTD: $37,903
Vision Account Balance: $107,811

PRAYER REQUEST

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurrey’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)
- 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 Parmley’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
sheri.brouwer@communityrc.org

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

Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator