I said in last week’s newsletter that summer was starting, but I had no idea saying that would bring 95 degrees and wind. Whew! Ok, me saying that, didn’t bring it on. Trust me, I don’t have that kind of power. It is hot though and little dry. Did you think after last year we would be saying that? Good ole South Dakota! I did get to see my mom this past week again. We went to the river and met my sister there and her husband. John is a fish frying kind of guy and we did enjoy some very fine walleye eating on Friday. It was such a nice day to get out of town and be outdoors. I certainly did enjoy that. I have been seeing that many of you are doing the same. Getting out and enjoying the weather and the air. That is a good thing for us to do during all this craziness.

This week the board will be meeting to discuss how and when we start putting this all back together again. Lots of churches are going right now, but most of them are saying that their numbers are still very small. People are not that comfortable being close together for extended periods of time. We have several options of how to do that on the table for our meeting. It will be an interesting discussion for sure. Whatever we do, it will be prayed over and well thought through…that’s how this place works. We are probably not going to please everyone, but we are going to do the best we can. I realize that much of this is really up to the people who show up. We all understand we can’t go charging into people’s space right away and we need to keep our distance a bit. I see that in most places. Caution is still a word that we need to keep in mind. We will be starting to get back together, but what I am waiting for is that Sunday when we know it is “safe”. That’s the one I am looking forward to. We are going to do a celebration on that day for sure!

We are still holding off on our decision for Bible School. Heather says she can put it together on pretty short notice if people are willing to help on short notice. I think you are! She has some extra ideas if we decide we shouldn’t do it. She is always working on things like that.

Doyle is still working on ways to connect with these kids over the summer. I hope you all realize what a huge disappointment that was for him to have some of those events canceled. Summer camps and trips are the way you connect with kids on a whole different level than the usual week to week things. He has lost some of that for sure. The kids have too. Pray that they can find another way later this summer to do a little of that.

Everyone else on the staff has been trying to do the best we can. Everything gets changed just a bit. I’m sure you are all seeing that in your lives too. We can adjust for some of that, but some of it just gets taken away to some degree. It will change though. That day is coming. Please be patient. You have all done so well with this. Your gifts have been so special. Community you are the people I knew you were. That is an awesome gift you have given each other.

Sunday...we do Chapter two. Jesus is our focus. He will be all summer. There is something very right about that. Hebrews will take us on an interesting journey. I going to guess that some of you are going to be surprised what is in that letter. Maybe not this week, but you never know. We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
Adult Discipleship/Worship

I sent out surveys to all of the participants of the Small Group Ministry we piloted this past fall, and I’ve received some very encouraging and helpful feedback! If you were a part of this ministry, please check your email (and maybe your spam folder) to see if you received the survey. I’d love to hear back from everyone. And if you didn’t receive it, let me know!

You might remember back before Covid times that I had mentioned we were beginning to run out of space in The Corner. So, while we’ve been practicing social distancing, my brother-in-law, Dalton, helped me to clean out and reorganize the other side of the storage room that houses The Corner. Then Rick Hanson donated the flooring and the labor to lengthen the usable floor space another 5 feet or so. I’ll be adding a new divider to the opposite end of The Corner, I’ll pull a few more tables out of storage to use, and I’ll set up a few extra places for information for all who visit. Huge thanks to Rick and Dalton for helping to make The Corner an even more welcoming place for people to connect at Community!

And lastly this week, I know I mentioned it on Sunday morning just a bit, but I wanted to say thank you to all of you who have been so incredibly encouraging and understanding as we try to discern when and how to get everyone back to church. Clearly, there have been many opinions shared on this topic across many different platforms. But what I continue to see week after week is that Community people and the Consistory are really united and seeking God on this front. I know the Consistory members have been reaching out to people to seek their thoughts. I know Pastor Clyde has been incredibly prayerful and has taken great care in discerning God’s will for Community right from the start of all of this. I feel the unified patience of all of you who want to come back to worship together but only when the time is right and safe for everyone. I don’t know when we might be back together, but I know that when that day comes, we all want it to be a day of free celebration and worship. Until then, thank you for continuing to seek God in this, and for being so patient while you wait. I see God in you, Community!

Have a wonderful week, friends!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

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.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

Features of the app:
Watch Live
Watch past sermons
Download current newsletter
See Prayer Requests
Community Events
Link to library catalog
Online Giving
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 or in person at the church on Saturday mornings at 10am. Please contact Tom Jacobs (tjstonegate@gmail.com) for meeting access.

MISSION OF THE MONTH– JUNE
Samaritan’s Feet

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.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Samaritan’s Feet

Samaritan’s Feet serves and inspires hope in children by providing shoes as the foundation to a spiritual and healthy life resulting in the advancement of education and economic opportunities. Visit samaritansfeet.org to learn more.

Locally, at the beginning of the school year, there is a shoe distribution for kids heading off to school. There will be opportunities to volunteers with this shoe distribution. Look for more info in upcoming newsletters.

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!

I was digging in the dirt in my little garden a bit yesterday and found myself thinking about time. Earlier in the weekend, as it got hot, I was thinking that this year the heat felt strange because summer snuck up on me. I didn’t experience any of the things that I’ve been used to in the spring. No end of year concerts or school programs happened. My kids didn’t need help putting away their school supplies because they’d already been doing school from home for weeks. The parking lots and traffic flow around schools didn’t have a noticeable change. The number of kids outside playing didn’t suddenly increase. We didn’t have a big goodbye for the end of Midweek or the end of Sunday School for the year. I haven’t set up sign-up sheets for summer events at church. I was thinking about how strange it is that even as an adult, I mark time with the school calendar a bit and certainly with the church calendar. Then, I sat down in my already neglected garden (oops) to wade through weeds in the search of the plants we put there. My tomato plants are still really small and I was pondering how I can’t wait to have fresh tomatoes waiting for me in the yard each evening. As soon as that thought hit, another followed. I didn’t want those plants to grow too quickly because as my garden becomes more mature, the summer starts to come to a close. Big, full plants usually give me a sign that fall is just around the corner and the nights of campfires and fireflies are wrapping up. I’m loving summer and I’m just not ready to let it go, but that’s good because we have a lot of summer remaining! I marveled at how God has amazingly set the seasons and growth in place in a way that sets my heart at ease. I can measure time in tomato plants (yum!) and June bugs (aaaaak!) My lawn has needed mowing and the birds wake me up far too early in our trees. My little hummingbird has been on my deck again. Even when things seem unusual, so much is comfortably predictable, because God is in control. Some years, I have been going through an illness or a tough time or transition and my garden fell to mostly weeds. My bird feeder sat empty for a season here and there. Maybe I’ll have a tough year again someday and the robins and finches (and squirrels!) will have to go to somehow else’s house to find seed. Some years it has been dry or flooded in Sioux Falls. Sometimes things aren’t “normal” and yet God marks time for us in so many ways that we can always have a reminder that He is with us and everything is OK. I guess I’m rambling on to say that I’m glad my tomato plants are small and the June bugs are still attacking my citronella candle. There may not be corn stalks to measure time with at church anymore but the fountain is on and the wind is hot. In the bigger picture, children are growing bigger and adults are growing older. Some moments are being celebrated and other struggles are heavy and heartbreaking. The world is broken and yet God brings so much Good. God has perfect timing and all is well. Seasons and circumstances change but God never does. After writing this article, the verses in Ecclesiastes 3 about seasons and about “beautiful in His time” came to mind so I’m going to do a little reading and resting there today. Maybe you could read it too if you want to join me.

I know some of you are wondering what our plan is for Vacation Bible School this year. In short, we don’t know yet. However, we are working on it and it will be good. I’ll talk to you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
DOYLE'S UPDATE

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Here we are in June and I have been working on restructuring our summer plans as our camps, mission trip and Rocky Mountain High have all been cancelled this summer due to COVID-19. While things will look different, I am looking forward to moving ahead with youth group activities for the summer. I am still working on a possible retreat for both middle and high school groups. Once I work through all the logistics I will be passing that along to parents and students.

Our high school group will be meeting weekly throughout the summer on Wednesday nights starting at 7:30. This week, students are invited over to the Burnside house for a night outside with fire and a few lawn games. Along with Wednesday nights, we are going to be hosting another “class” this summer as we once again focus on some spiritual disciplines like last summer. While we will have some of the same disciplines as last summer, all high school students are welcome to join when they are able. We will meet Sunday nights at 8:00 at church.

Middle school group met in person for the first time this past Wednesday and it was so great to see those who came in person instead of through a screen. We met outside at church and caught up on one another’s summer before playing a game to end the night. Our middle school group will meet every other week this summer and will also have a few other events later this summer. Our next meeting for middle school will be next Wednesday, June 17th at 6:30.

Finally, as we enter summer, we also start a transition for students entering into middle school and high school. So, moving forward, our incoming 6th graders are invited to join the middle school group and our incoming 9th grade students are invited to join our high school group. I am looking forward to meeting our soon to be 6th graders and see our 8th grade students from last year join and begin building relationships in the high school group!

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out any time.

Doyle Burnside
doyle.burnside@communityrc.org
605-310-2561

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)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Clazina Van Wyhe (brain bleed)
- Tami Harm’s cousin (colon cancer)
- Lanette Hendrickson’s dad
- Joe Johnson
- Marcia Thornton (sinus surgery)
- 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)
- Tami Boyle’s surgery recovery
- Jean Nollmann’s sister, Joyce
- Dave Sells

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INFO YOU MAY NEED TO KNOW...

Temporarily Suspended

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, Aug 23 @ 3pm.