June 1st. That’s right, June. Somehow all the spring months have passed us by and now we are really into summer. What an interesting time/season this has been. There does seem to be a change coming. Do you feel that as well? I’m not sure what all that means, but it does seem as though people are trying to do the next thing now. Do life, be careful. I know church will be starting soon. We will do it with great prayer and planning. We do that for everything in this church. I don’t want to say a when because that is not my place. I know the opinions have been mixed in the state and in our community, but we have really tried to hear both sides and make decisions based on that. For some it won’t be soon enough, for others it will be too soon. All I can say is that you have all been so patient and kind through it all. I am most appreciative of that. It shows the character of this place. I feel very good about that. I do believe we have made the kingdom seem wise and peaceful. God is still on the throne. Thanks Community!

Our world gets a little messy at times. We see the worst in people. Things that we can’t understand. What happens? How do individuals make such decisions? What is going through their minds? Distrust, fear, hate, anger...because their skin color is different? The whole country stumbles when even just one person gets out of hand. We then try to lift it up again. That’s what good people do. Good people try to stand the fallen back up again. It is sad though. It leaves so much pain behind. Pray for the weary broken hearts of those who have lost so much. I wish I could sometimes just wave a magic wand and make it go away, but that’s not how the world works. I see that. You see that. Jesus be near!

The church office is open in the mornings again. We are working our way back into things. It is summer so the traffic out there gets a little slow, but we are doing our best to do things right. It is challenging to stay on top of it all. Actually, when you all do finally take a run out to the church you are going to be surprised. Whew! It is different out there. The access point to our driveway has changed again and it is a little tricky getting through there. When you come out...pay attention. It will get better. Right now, construction is in full swing so that must be given a little room. I am still amazed each time I go out there how the whole area is changing.

We have not made a decision on Bible School yet. I know the easy thing to do is just say no, but we do have some time and we just feel that we want to see what things will be like a couple more weeks before we decide. It is all a moving target right now. Pray about that for us. These are not easy things to do. We are doing our best.

Sunday I will start the series that will take us through the entire summer. I am going to walk us through the book of Hebrews. There is a lot in there. It is a book that has several themes going, but the primary focus of the book is the importance and power of Jesus. This new first-century church is trying to find its way into a not very welcoming world and the writer is trying to convince these readers that Christ is first. I am excited to put it all together for you! We start this week with chapter one and a brief introduction to this amazing book. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
It’s hard to believe we have entered into the month of June. What a strange spring it has been! But I find a security and peace in the rhythmic way that time moves steadily on, especially when times are unusual and out of the ordinary. Time is one of the parts of creation that helps me to remember that God is in control of all He has made. He has never left His creation unattended; not even for one second. That’s quite a thought, isn’t it? That since the beginning of time, God has been attending to that which He created.

And actually, that has me thinking about how time travels on in regard to aging. In our western culture, we don’t do a very good job of accepting aging. We fight it, and we fight hard! We exercise and try to eat right. We use face creams and hair creams and avoid too much ice cream. 😊 I hate to say it, but I think it’s fair to say that as a whole, we don’t value aging. And frankly, I think that’s a problem.

Now, I know I’m not old, but I also don’t really fit into the young category anymore. And that means I find myself thinking about what it means to age well and to appreciate the gift that is called “aging.” After my mom died, I rather suddenly realized that it is a precious privilege to get old. My mom died at 60. She was not old, and I will never know what my mom would have looked like or been like as an old woman. Old age is not something that is guaranteed. But the truth is that old age is a rare and valuable commodity.

Think about the beautiful things that can come with old age - a lifetime of incredible experiences with friends and families, wisdom and sense to know how to get through almost any situation, valuable skills that you have been refining for decades, perseverance to walk through challenges, and last but certainly not least, a lifetime of walking with Jesus Christ, which results in the transformation of your very soul. Old age is valuable, and we would do well to recognize that and celebrate it.

What I’m working on in my own life is that when I see a new wrinkle or gray hair, or when I realize that maybe my physical limitations are starting to show, rather than be disgusted at them and try to beat them back for as long as I can, I want to embrace what these signs are telling me: I’m being given a gift! This wrinkle is a sign of years lived. This gray hair is a sign of longer life. I’m being given a gift that not everyone gets, and I want to be thankful for that gift. I want to use this gift to the glory of God’s Kingdom.

Of course, we also have the option to hate our old age and become bitter and angry over the loss of youthfulness. But it is my sincere hope that we can look beyond what we are losing and celebrate what we are gaining. Proverbs 16:31a says, “Gray hair is a crown of glory...”. Yes, it is. Now, if you want to color yours, that’s fine! 😊 But I encourage you to be thankful for the gift you are being given: the gift of aging. Anyway, it’s just something to think about...

Have a wonderful week, friends!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
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.

FINANCES
Sunday, May 31, 2020

General: ......................... $5,425
Vision: .......................... $750
Missions: .......................... $15

General YTD: $286,693
Vision YTD: $44,931
Vision Account Balance: $102,836

MISSION OF THE MONTH

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!

Congratulations CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATES
Hi Everyone!

I am posting a few quick activities and ideas for kids this summer on the Community Kids Facebook page. I’ll try to include those in my newsletter article often as well. This week, the verse I’m highlighting goes with our “Exploding Baggie” activity in a graphic on this page. I encourage you to read the verse and check out the rest of the chapter to see it in context.

1 Thessalonians 3:12, NIV: “May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.”

Our Sing ‘N Sprout video of the week for the preschool and younger kiddos is a really fun one on a hot week! It is about penguins: https://youtu.be/n9MHMUHde1o It has been so kind of them to share these with us.

I’ll talk to you soon!

Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org

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EXPLODING BAGGIE EXPERIMENT

'May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.' -1 Thessalonians 3:12

Supply List:
- zip top sandwich bag
- tissue
- 3 tbsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- optional food coloring
(you’ll want extra supplies for repeats or fails)

This one is messy! Go outside.

- Put the vinegar in the bag with color.
- Wrap the baking soda in the tissue like a little pouch so it stays inside
- When you are ready outside, drop the baking soda tissue pack into the bag of vinegar and seal the bag quickly.
- Stand back to watch the bag expand, then pop!
- Vinegar + Baking Soda creates a chemical reaction that produces Carbon Dioxide which makes the bag expand.
- Talk about how God fills us up!

'May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.' -Romans 15:13
CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Steve Vugteveen and his family. Steve’s father, Sylvan passed away last Wednesday. Please keep the family, and especially Sylvan’s wife, Tina, in your prayers.

Our condolences go out to Sara Van Ruler and her family. Her father, Ron Roberts, passed away last evening. Please keep them all in your prayers.

FEATURES OF THE APP:
- Watch Live
- Watch past sermons
- Download current newsletter
- See Prayer Requests
- Community Events
- Link to library catalog
- Online Giving

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

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.

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)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Clazina Van Wyhe (brain bleed)
- Tami Harm’s cousin (colon cancer)
- Lanette Hendrickson’s dad
- Joe Johnson
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Melanie Oden’s dad, David (motorcycle accident)
- Audrey Landegent’s son, David (cancer)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate cancer)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (prostate cancer)
- David Baker (tripl bypass surgery)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Mike Bayenga’s mom, Anita (cancer)
- Vi Slecta (surgery recovery)
- Al Price (prostate cancer)
- Tami Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)
- Jean Nollmann’s sister, Joyce

LIVESTREAM CHURCH SERVICES

WATCH FROM HOME

SUNDAYS AT 9:00AM & 11:00AM

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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, Aug 23 @ 3pm.

Temporarily Suspended

Pastor Clyde Teel
guru@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
doyler.burnside@communityrc.org
Sheri Brouwer
Part-Time Nursery Coordinator
sheribrouwer@communityrc.org
Lisa Blankers
Part-Time Financial Administrator
accounting@communityrc.org
Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator