PASTOR’S UPDATE

It’s been hot! I guess there is something right about that. It is summer after all, and summer brings warm air. Last Saturday was something though. There are those days when you really get hit with those high humidity days and literally swim your way through the air. Even my mom said it was hot on Saturday! Now in case you didn’t know, if Lucy says it’s hot...oh my, it must really be hot. That gal just starts living when the temps hit 95 so, for her to tell us that it was too hot is news folks! July is done! August awaits us and this crazy year we call 2020. I am so tired of all the things, but fight on we must. I have come to realize that these battles are just a part of world’s wonder. They have always been there. Sometimes more difficult than other times, but it is always there for us. I am still clinging to Jesus and His kingdom. I like that place so much better.

Sunday was a new experience for us. A quick change of plans you might say! These things can happen and when they do, it happens quickly. You did a great job of being flexible Community. We only had a handful of cars show up so, we did a good job getting the word out! It was a decision that needed to be made considering the present environment we are in. I didn’t feel like I had any other choice. We have done live stream before so, we know how to get that ready and we know it works. To explain how this “mess” happened, let me explain what happened and leave all the names out of the story. Here is the scenario I found myself in. Person A who I did not know and did not come in contact with had COVID. Person B who I do know, and I did have contact with spent time with Person A. So, person B had to get tested. I, being person C in the story, was caught in that place of not knowing for sure what my condition was until person B’s test came back. It didn’t seem right to just walk up in front of people and start speaking a big voice for an hour when I don’t know person B’s test results. I hope you can see the dilemma. In the present environment that we find ourselves in that can get messy in a hurry. I realize these things can happen at any time. I am trying very hard to not put myself in those positions, but you can’t do everything. Thanks again for working with me on this.

I mentioned during Sunday’s message that when these things happen, I try very hard to see the Kingdom view. What looks like a bad thing or wrong thing...God can use for good. Who did God protect on Sunday? Not from COVID necessarily, but something else altogether. Those are things we may never know, but I trust my God in the midst of all of those things. He is always working for good! Live in that space folks! It is a life that keeps revealing how awesome God truly is no matter what is going on. I know there are days that knock us down and seasons that get the best of us, but as we heal...watch for the Kingdom of God begin to come forth. It does!

Sunday is week 9 of the series and that means chapter 9. This chapter is one of the best descriptive chapters in the entire Bible of the connection of the old Hebrew system and the new Christ centered covenant of salvation. I hope you will take time to read through it. It will give you a great understanding of the temple system and then see how Jesus fits into all of that. God has done a new thing! We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
To start my article this week, I want to explain what happened last week with the Covid-19 exposure. I think my dad wrote about it in his article too, but it’s never a bad idea to write the same thing a couple of times! ☺ This is the best way to describe what happened:

- Person A had no symptoms and felt healthy but tested positive for Covid-19.
- Person B had contact with Person A before Person A knew they had Covid-19.
- Clyde and I had contact with Person B before Person A had tested positive for Covid-19.
- When Person B found out Person A had Covid-19, Person B had to get tested for Covid-19.
- Since Clyde and I had been in contact with Person B, we felt we should not be with church people until we knew for sure that Person B did not contract Covid-19 from person A.
- Good news! Person B tested negative, so neither Clyde nor I need to get tested!

This whole situation was really great practice for what to do when a staff person is potentially exposed to the virus. We know we took it a step further than we needed to, but we didn’t want to risk the health of any of our church people when it was so easy to switch back to online only for one week. Thanks to everyone for being so flexible about all of this! We truly appreciate you all!

Last week, I wrote about many things I’ve learned from my grandma about the value of work. And I got several emails from church people agreeing with that article! I promised I would write about “rest” this week. So, as promised, let’s talk about rest.

As good and necessary as work is to our physical and mental health, we can’t forget how important it is to balance our work with rest. This is often where we get into trouble. We get so focused on our work, or we think that the world cannot function without our work that we forget, or even refuse, to rest. It sounds ridiculous to say it that way, but I know that most of us have been guilty of not taking life-giving times of rest.

Here’s something I’ve learned from my grandma recently about rest: Sometimes, rest looks like sitting down to a cup of coffee (or Diet Coke!) and a cookie in the middle of the afternoon for a 30-minute visit with a friend who has stopped by. It might mean stopping work right in the middle of the work to make time for some unexpected “rest!” But that stopping and resting creates an intentional, powerful, open, and caring space for the guest who has joined us. I admit, I’m not good at this yet. When I start work, I’m focused to the finish, and I don’t want to be bothered. What my grandma has taught me is that the “bothers” are often the rests. And the “bothers” are usually the biggest blessings of the day.

So, when something unexpected happens in the middle of my work, I’m working on the practice of stopping my work, and “resting” with whomever has stopped by. My grandma is the queen of this practice! I don’t know how many times I’ve seen her put down her garden hoe and invite someone in for coffee and a visit, or get off her riding lawn mower and invite someone to sit on her deck and share a Diet Coke, or even stop cutting cucumbers for making pickles and invite someone to come in for a cookie or a piece of pie. Even when she was working a full-time job as the secretary for the Gregory County Highway Department (that woman can run a radio like nobody’s business!), she always made time to have a quick chat with whomever stopped in. She’s good at this. And you know why she’s good at it? Because she’s been practicing this type of “rest” for decades. Now, some of you might call it hospitality. And I wouldn’t disagree. But the fact that it’s taking place right in the middle of her work makes me want to call it “rest.” And boy, does God do good work in those times of rest!

So, this week, I challenge you to work hard! But I also challenge you to keep your eyes open for unexpected times of rest too! You might be surprised at who stops by. ☺

Have a great week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
DOYLE’S UPDATE

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

It’s hard to believe, but our final Wednesday night for summer is this week! Things have been different but still great as we have gotten to meet in person for a few months now. This week we will be having a few yard activities as we finish up the summer together. Middle school will meet from 6:30 – 7:30 and high school from 7:30 – 8:30. Again, unless it is extremely hot or raining, we will be outside for our final meeting.

Our middle school and high school retreat was this past weekend. We were fairly small which is probably a little better with the current state of things right now. It was still a great weekend and I was really impressed with how the group handled themselves and the combination of the two groups. Our weekend was centered around Courageous Faith as we focused on God’s promise to be with us. So often, we forget that courage is not something we need to muster up on our own! God has promised to be present and active as we journey through the good and bad times.

In August, we will not be meeting regularly as we prepare for the upcoming fall and as students get ready for the start of school. However, we will still be fairly active in communication as we are in the middle of our Disney/Pixar movie bracket. We started out with 64 movies and students and parents have narrowed it down to 16. In the midst of our bracket, we also started up a Community Youth YouTube page. While the majority of our content will be focused on the bracket, we will be having a lot of fun with the channel in the months/year to come. If you want to check it out, see what’s left in the bracket, and hear from a few of the students you can check out the page at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8qS51mFlPIAP0heW677rhn&view_as=subscriber

That’s it for this week. Let me know if you have any questions.

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, Aug 2: 8, 9, 11:00am – In-Person and Online services
Tuesday, Aug 4: 7:00pm – AA Meeting

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

BAPTISM DATE
The Aug. 23rd baptism is postponed. There will be a baptism service this fall but that date is to be determined. If that is too long to wait, please contact the church office to determine a date for a private service for you and your family.

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 – AUGUST
Feeding South Dakota – Backpack Program

FINANCES
Sunday, July 26, 2020

General: $8,133
Vision: $400
Missions: —
VBS: $120

General YTD: $444,602
Vision YTD: $87,485
Vision Account Balance: $124,939

Thank You

Dear Community friends,

A big thank you for all the prayers that have been said on my behalf and for all the wonderful cards that were sent, both before and after my sinus surgery on June 11. All of your prayers, love, and concern really helped me. I’m not fully healed yet but so thankful to be this far. I would certainly appreciate prayers for continued healing and strength, as John and I are planning to visit our new grandson in Tennessee in August.

Thanks again, and God bless the great friends at Community!

Marcia Thornton

Dear Marcia,

Marcia, I am so glad to hear that you are doing well. Your prayers and love have been a great comfort to me too. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Doyle Burnside
Hi!

Most of you have stopped by to pick up your STAYcation Bible School kits. We have a few waiting to be picked up at church with names on them ready to pick up but otherwise ALL 300 got requested! Wow!!! That’s a lot of kids learning about Jesus (and that doesn’t even count the adults!) Even if you didn’t order a kit, you can enjoy the stories and videos at: https://www.communityrc.org/vbs/

Here is what the kids are learning:

**Day 1:** Jesus’ power helps us do hard things. Trust Jesus! We learned about Ananias and Saul in Acts 9 and read Philippians 4:13

**Day 2:** Jesus’ power gives us hope. Trust Jesus! We learned about Paul in a shipwreck in Acts 27 and read Psalm 31:24

**Day 3:** Jesus’ power helps us be bold. Trust Jesus! We learned about Peter, John and Jesus from Acts 3 and read Isaiah 40:29

**Day 4:** Jesus’ power lets us live forever. Trust Jesus! We learned about Jesus’ death and resurrection in Matthew 26:38 and read Romans 8:11

**Day 5:** Jesus’ power helps us be good friends. Trust Jesus! We learned about the church uniting in Acts 2 and 4 and read John 15:12

If you are doing Staycation Bible School, please send us your photos and videos. We’d love to share them with everyone!

See you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
605-336-1475
We are excited to offer the Community Kid’s Fishing Day this year! Join us on Aug. 29th from 10am-Noon for fishing at the Outdoor Campus. We’ll have lunch provided after fishing.

IMPORTANT: In order to have more than 10 people at this event, we are REQUIRING everyone to wear a mask. This includes kids. Thank you!

Please contact the church office (336-1475) or Rick Hansen (201-5135) to sign up.

New Prayer Requests This Week:
- Clayton Bierwagen (cardiac ablation 7/29)

Ongoing Prayer Requests:
- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
- Jan McDowell (CT scan 7/14)
- Cal Klein (stent recovery)
- Galen Schoffelman (knee replacement)
- Bob Hein (injured knee)
- Marcia Thornton (sinus surgery recovery)
- Mike Boyenga’s mom, Anita (surgery recovery)
- Susan Bierwagen (broken leg)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurrey’s dad (Parkinson’s)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- 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)
- Melanie Oden’s dad, David
- Joe Johnson
- Audrey Landegents’ son, David (cancer)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate cancer)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (prostate cancer)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Vi Slecta (surgery recovery)
- Al Price (prostate cancer)
- Tami Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)
- Dave Sells
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: TBD

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
sheribrouwer@communityrc.org
Lisa Blankers
Part-Time Financial Administrator
accounting@communityrc.org
Josiah Dunlap
Part-Time IT Coordinator