My opening paragraphs usually talk a bit about the weather. You might even get tired of this subject, but if you live here, it really is a topic that keeps on giving. This weekend…was really cold. I think maybe the coldest my birthday has ever been. So, enjoy the lack of bugs and the fresh/dry air. It is a blessing. I heard that…just passing it along. Stay warm everyone!

My mom has a birthday this week. She turns 88. Sorry mom…now everyone knows. She is pretty speedy for 88. She is still one of the finest cooks/bakers in the area. She has a very nice son, four splendid daughters, and many, many friends. I would say that is a good life. She is even learning how to navigate an iPad so she can watch church. Don’t tell her she can’t learn new things! Happy Birthday Lucy!

It has been so cold these last two Sundays. I know that is affecting the crowd size for families with young children. It will be interesting to see how the size of the church changes as the weather warms and this COVID thing slows. We are watching very closely to make it all work as well as we can. I have said many times, we are all waiting for the change. It can’t come too soon for most of us. We are trying our best to be responsible in all the ways that word can be taken. Not easy in these times we live, but you have all been doing a great job. Thanks everyone!

I didn’t want to leave the series “It’s a New Day!” I had learned so much and found those words in Isaiah so right for the place we are in right now. I loved taking a positive view of the challenges we face. What God does in crisis is far beyond anything we can imagine. I am believing for a new day in your lives. A new day for us as a church. A new/fresh message of hope. A new day in the way to think about lost friends. A new day in the way we approach ministry and church. God is not done with the church. He might however be trying to change the course a few degrees. That has happened before. Remember what Jesus said? Remember how the church responded to him? I have been praying that God will open the eyes of church to see how we might reach the world again. We have the right answer, but maybe we need to work on our message. Think that one through a few times. I’m still working on this Community. I have a new energy. It’s been very exciting. It’s A New Day!”

Lent starts this week. Easter is coming! We don’t really know how things are going to be in a few weeks. How can we know? I just know it’s time to work on this new series and see where God leads us. These are important days that we are walking in right now. I am so convinced that we have a message that can have real impact on people. I am working with all of you to make an environment that fosters a safe place for friends to discover the life-changing impact Jesus can have in our lives if we will only believe! Trust his truth! Live the power of his grace and mercy! Seek his face! God is for us, not against us because…Jesus paid it all. Paid in Full! I like the sound of that. Paid in Full! Do you believe that?
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17:
7:00-8:00PM - M.S. YOUTH GROUP
8:00-9:00PM - H.S. YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM - IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23:
7:00PM - AA MEETING
7:00PM - BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24:
9:00AM - BOOK CLUB
7:00-8:00PM - M.S. YOUTH GROUP
8:00-9:00PM - H.S. YOUTH GROUP

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

BAPTISM DATE
There will be a baptism service coming up 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.

BOOK CLUBS
The morning book club will meet at the postponed date of Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 9 am at the church. They will be discussing This Tender Land by Krueger. They will meet on Wednesday, March 17, at 9 am at the church and will be discussing Silver Sparrow.

The evening book club will meet on the postponed date of Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 7 pm at the church. They will be discussing Charm Bracelet.

FINANCES
Sunday, February 14, 2021
General, $17,187
Vision, $2,748
Missions, $610
Faith Ave, $140

General YTD: $108,650
Vision YTD: $11,872
Vision Account Balance: $181,734

NURSERY IS OPEN!
FOR INFANTS THROUGH 5 YEAR OLDS AT ALL 3 SERVICES

Nursery will be offered for all 3 services (8:45, 9:45 & 11:00am) for infants- 5 year olds.

Our team will be wearing masks but masks are optional for children. Upon arriving, your child will be checked in by one of our coordinators at the door. We ask that parents not come into the nursery. Also, as an added precaution, the toys will be changed out after each service.

COULD YOU HELP OUT IN THE NURSERY?
If you are willing to volunteer for one of the services, please contact Sheri Brouwer, Nursery Director, at 605-261-2153 or click on this link to sign up online to help. You’re help is so appreciated!
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DA4AB29A1F85-nursery

LIBRARY UPDATE
The weather is cold outside but there is warmth in curling up with a good book. Remember that you can check out items (including a great selection of videos) whenever the church is open. Spend some time looking for a good-fit book. :)

I have recently learned about the Rabbit Room. It is a community of writers and artists who were "...trying to think of other ways to draw attention to the good and true and beautiful works of art that are being made by Christians--hence, the Rabbit Room", according to founder Andrew Peterson. The Rabbit Room site includes podcasts for you to check out. We have a number of items from Rabbit Room writers--Adorning the Dark (about God-given creativity in writing and music writing) and the Wingfeather Saga (fantasy for middle graders) by Andrew Peterson. We also have the Wilderking trilogy (fantasy for middle graders) by Jonathan Rogers. I have mentioned Bark of the Bog Owl before as a good read loosely based on David and Goliath.

For legal book fans, we have new books in by favorites Robert Whitlow (Trial and Error) and Davis Bunn (Burden of Proof).

Lots to check out at your church library!
Your librarians,
Trudi, Lois, Lorena, and Merry
Last week, I mentioned how important it is to hold space for suffering. This week, I want to continue the conversation and share about a powerful and new (to me) way of interceding for one another.

Of course, no one on earth is a stranger to pain. We all have experienced suffering at some level. There is simply no way to avoid it. One of the most effective and loving things we can do for people who are suffering is to lift them up in prayer. But if you’re like me, you have probably had many experiences where someone came to mind but you just didn’t know how to pray for them. The words seem empty or always the same, or maybe it feels like you pray the same things over and over again. Of course, God hears those prayers and honors them, but it can feel a bit ineffective when we see the suffering of those for whom we have been praying.

About a year ago, I read a book by Ruth Haley Barton where she writes at length about different ways to intercede for others in prayer. One method in particular really stood out to me, and I want to share it with you. Ruth encourages us to find a quiet place where we can be attentively in prayer, focused on God and His Presence with us. It can often take several minutes before we find ourselves truly settled in the Presence of God. Think of yourself as a jar of muddy river water that needs to sit undisturbed for a time before the sediment settles to the bottom of the jar and the water can become clear. That’s what we do when we sit in the Presence of God and allow ourselves to become attentive to His Presence.

Once our “water has cleared” we can then begin to pray for others. Ruth encourages us to pay attention to whomever the Holy Spirit brings into our minds. We might be surprised at who comes to mind! When a person comes to mind, picture yourself sitting at the feet of Jesus. Whatever that looks like for you is fine. Some of you will picture Jesus in a robe. Others of you will picture Him in regular clothes or even simply covered in light. He might be sitting on a throne, on the grass, on a chair, or even standing up. Your mental image of Christ is a reflection of your own personal relationship with Him, so it will be unique to every person. (That’s probably another article subject in itself!)

Then picture the person you have in your mind and imagine yourself holding that person up to Christ. You might picture yourself taking that person by the hand and leading him or her to Jesus. Or you may picture yourself picking them up in your arms and taking them to Jesus. In whatever way you see it in your mind, simply take that person and give them to Christ. Then as you sit quietly, you can sit with that person and Jesus for a time in spirit, knowing that Jesus knows exactly what that person needs. EXACTLY. He knows them so much better than you do. And He knows their needs intimately. Simply leave that person in the care of Christ, knowing that the Holy Spirit is taking care of any words being prayed. When you have finished, you can see if God brings someone else to mind and repeat the process. Sometimes, God may guide you into praying specific words over the person, but I have found that generally there are no words. Only the knowledge that I am giving that person to God in prayer.

I absolutely love this method of intercession because I am entrusting the power of God to not only guide who I am praying for, but I am also entrusting the power of God to pray perfectly for that person. It takes all the pressure off of me and puts it on the One who can actually do something about the suffering. My participation is simply in bringing that person and his or her needs to Christ. I don’t have to check people off my prayer list. I don’t have to worry that I’ll forget someone or pray the wrong things. I intercede by bringing them to Christ.

I know for some of you, this might feel very strange and even a little powerless at first. But the truth is there is no way that we know better than God about how to pray for one another. And bringing people into God’s Presence is one of the most powerful ways we can pray for one another.

So, if you are finding yourself holding space for suffering and want to pray, I encourage you to give this a try. Or if you find that someone keeps coming to mind and you want to pray for him or her, but you don’t know how, try this method of intercession. The blessing goes both ways.

Have a good week and stay warm!
Liz
Hello Everyone!

I hope you are doing well. My updates for the week are pretty quick.
1) We have Sunday School “to go” on the Community web page. There are activities and discussion questions for you.
2) If you are interested in sending your child to Inspiration Hills for camp, Community will pay for half of the fee if you sign
up before the early sign up date.
3) We are getting prepared for VBS 2021 which we are planning for the evenings of August 1-4. Our theme is “New Every
Morning.”

As we’ve been preparing for and talking about VBS, I’ve been especially struck by the idea of “new.” Often, kids are drawn to
something new, whether that is a new toy or a new activity. When my daughters were little, sometimes I’d even tuck away a
set of their toys for a couple of weeks and bring them out again later. The “newness” was enough to make them interesting
all over again. As adults, I’m not sure that attraction disappears. I’m notorious for being drawn to something new and
exciting. If a new project is on my to-do list, I often like to jump into that before wrapping up something that needs slow
and steady attention over time. If you know me well, you know that there are few things I dislike more than cooking daily
meals. I confess, when I first got my Instant Pot pressure cooker, I was really into cooking for about 3 and a half seconds. I
researched new recipes and made a bunch of meals in those first couple of weeks but again, the newness faded. I still use it
but usually that means making the same old recipes once every week or two instead of something new every day.
Sometimes I think that is what people are annoyed by when they talk about “adulting.” As kids, we move to a new grade, we
graduate, we have new experiences often. As adults, we get to vacuum, pay bills, go to work, care for others and generally
do things that we probably did yesterday, last week, or last month. If there is something new, it often isn’t something fun or
easy. I guess real day to day life isn’t often filled with too many things that seem “new.” Life in the time of co-vi-d is
particularly strange in that it feels sometimes like we find “the new normal” each week at the same time as it feels a little
like we are in some sort of wait for change. For at least some of us, there is less travel, fewer events and more time doing
things that are the same as the weekend before. When coupled with our freezing SD weather, that can make us itch for
something new or exciting. However, God’s love for us is new every day. God packs every day with beautiful surprises and
his grace and mercy are fresh and new. They never run out and each day when we wake up, God has more in store for us.
That is the kind of power and love that rocks my world every day and makes me excited about waking up every morning.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
    his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
    great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23

Our lives are full of new. I’m watching for it and noticing it often every single day and for that I am very thankful.

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@communityRC.org
605-336-1475
We are halfway through February and are continuing on in our series on “The Struggle Is Real”. This past week I just had to go back to Clyde’s message on Chosen. I don’t know about you, but I am getting so fired up by the messages these last several weeks and even more in conversation during staff meeting! His section on being seen, heard, known and loved hit so directly our segment on not being good enough. When we take a moment to stop paying attention to the noise of the world (which is not always easy) we begin to see the value and love we have from God. I continue to pray that those I work with, live with and interact with can come to believe that Jesus is enough.

Our Wednesday nights continue to meet in person along with a Zoom option each week. This past week was so much fun as we finally had all our sponsors back from their long break from college. With our numbers slowly growing on Wednesdays, it is such a blessing to have sponsors who are present and building community within the group. Along with Wednesdays, we also continue to do our Sunday school via YouTube. The devotion/thought of the week will be coming from our reading plan for the week as students are encouraged to be digging into God’s word every day this month.

Finally, we also have our monthly event the final Sunday of February (February 28th). The middle school group will be from 4:30-6:00 and the high school group from 6:00-7:30. I’m am recreating the screen game Among Us into an in person game at church. It has been a lot of fun working on different tasks and challenges for the event and am looking forward to finally having it after postponing back in November. We will have some snacks that evening, but will not be serving food for supper.

That’s it for this week! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime!

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW THIS WEEK
- Jan Kruen
- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer treatments)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (hip replacement surgery)
- Brian Frisbee (stroke recovery/long term rehab)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS
- Jan McDowell (abdominal issues)
- Jan Sturing (heart)
- Dee Elliot (knee replacement)
- Deb Teunissen (knee surgery recovery)
- Cherri Price (stomach lymphoma)
- Troy Payne’s brother (kidney transplant)
- Ryan VanRuler (heart surgery)
- Jenny VanRoekel
- Mitch Jensen
- Jodie Jensen (new cancer treatments)
- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
- Jan Kreun’s dad (surgery recovery)
- Abby Brost (breast cancer)
- Connie Tiggelaar (hospice)
- Kara Schouten
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Tracee Ellwein’s dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Kim Becker’s mother-in-law, Amy (colorectal cancer)
- Joe Johnson (severe headaches)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Tamie Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)
- Laura Maloney’s brother-in-law, Bruce (lymphoma)
- Gary Jensen (cancer)
- Wade Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Tami Harm’s cousin (colon cancer)
- Melanie Oden’s dad, David

THANK YOU
Thank you for your concern, cards, calls, tears, love, prayers, encouragement and extremely generous gifts. Our church family is very precious to us. We love you. God bless you.

Susan Bierwagen and family
So many at Community jumped at the chance to sponsor a child from our school in Haiti that we ran out of kids to sponsor before we ran out of interested people! That is such a great problem to have! We have another opportunity to impact lives in Haiti in a unique way.

Advocates for Elders

These photos are from the Community Reformed Church 2020 trip to the SAM Home in Haiti.

If you sponsor an elder, you provide:
- a safe & love filled home, top notch care, 3 meals daily, health care,
- activities to continue growing as a child of God,
- a dignified burial when that time comes.

Each elder needs 8 advocates to have their needs fully met.

When teams from Community visit Haiti, they are blessed to make quick friends with the amazing folks at the Sid & Marie "SAM" Home for the Elderly. A visit usually involves worship and great stories with these precious brothers and sisters in Christ.

Advocates for Elders is Mission Haiti's sponsorship program for the members of the Elderly Home family. The goal of the Advocates program is to build relationships between supporters and elders while providing spiritual and financial support needed to enable them to live the rest of their lives with as much joy and dignity as possible. The lives of these beautiful people continue to honor and glorify God.

Each Elder needs 8 advocates at $35 per MONTH or $420 per year to provide support.

To learn more about the mission and ministry of the SAM home visit:
https://www.mission-haiti.org/what-we-do/elderly-care
Attendance: Clyde, Robyn, Tom, Shawn, Curt, Mark, Mike H. Bob, Matt M., Chad M., Steve, Rick, Duane, Logan, Dustin, Mike D. and Chad O.

Opening Devotional and prayer – Curt Zwart

MSA the minutes from January.

MSA of the financial reports for January given by Matt M.

Old Business

Faith Avenue
· No updates this month

New Business

Reports - From Liz, Heather and Doyle were reviewed.
· Midweek is still up in the air right now. We keep watching the numbers.
· VBS is being planned out and is looking like it will be great.

RCA Update
· RCA meets in June to decide how to proceed as a denomination.

Church Capacity – When should we add more chairs?
· This issue will be discussed every month to assess conditions at that time.

Other

Maundy Thursday will have Communion. We are still working out how many services there will be.

Clyde closed in time of prayer

Respectfully submitted:

Tom Jacobs, clerk
COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH
6800 E. 41 STREET
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57110

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

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

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.

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