It’s February everyone! It really does seem like the time is going very quickly. This whole past year has been so very different. This is my birthday month, so I am remembering last year at this time and wondering what was ahead of us. We were starting to hear about this virus last year about now…and then the world changed. We are still at it…but there is a light at the end of this long tunnel. I can tell there is a change. People are still being careful, but they are reaching out now a little farther. We see it at church too. We are trying to keep our distance stuff working and do the best we can. One more month ahead of us now. I wonder what this one will bring. I know it is supposed to be really cold this weekend. We have been most fortunate on that front this winter thus far, but I know that can change. Again, one day at a time, and we shall see.

Sunday morning, we are opening up the nursery for all the ages. That is a big change. The gals in there have a policy of how things will look. Those guidelines are listed in the newsletter. I know getting things started again has challenges and I am sure there will be a few bumps before we get it all into place. We will be looking for some volunteers to help and we know that is not an easy ask. If you are comfortable with all the things, please lend a hand in there. It will be three times now, not just two so that means more people. We can do this people.

We have seen some increase in numbers on Sundays now. Not a huge change, but some. There are families I haven’t seen in nearly a year who have carefully come back. It was good to see them, but at the same time, so amazing to think it has been almost a year of this. What a crazy ride! We don’t mind that many of you are still at home…we get it. There is no pressure on anyone to return. We are comfortable with whatever your decision is. We still have plenty of room in there if you are wondering. 11am is still the smallest, but I could tell Sunday it is growing now.

If you remember last week, I mentioned that when we change schedules back, we are looking very seriously at making the 11am service at 10:45am. I have had a little feedback from people, and I get lots of thumbs up on that. I think there is something right about getting done before noon. I understand that as well. We are still planning, and we are still listening.

We are still not sure about in-person Sunday School and MidWeek. Those are big pieces of the puzzle here. We are looking at all of that and as I said last week, we will keep you all informed. Remember, to do those things takes lots and lots and lots of volunteers and I’m not sure that enough people are comfortable with all of this yet to make it happen. We are ok with that folks. This is no time to pressure people. We need to finish this crazy season out well. Pray it up everyone!

We have two more messages in the series left. I was ahead of myself last week…we have two more, not one. So, this week we do a little of Isaiah 61. It is that part of me that always says read a little before and little after…we are going to do that. We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3:
7:00-8:00PM - M.S. YOUTH GROUP
8:00-9:00PM - H.S. YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM - IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9:
7:00PM - AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10:
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.

MISSION OF THE MONTH – CALL TO FREEDOM

BOOK CLUBS
The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at 7 pm at the church. They will be discussing Airborne by Mills.

The morning book club will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 17, at 9 am at the church. They will be discussing This Tender Land by Krueger.

FINANCES
Sunday, January 31, 2021
General: $13,685
Vision: $2,060
Missions: $460

General YTD: $59,784
Vision YTD: 5,802
Vision Account Balance: $175,664

THANK YOU
Thank you for all the cards sent and all the prayers for my mom when she was ill and for our family after she passed. You are a special group of people.
Marilyn Bosch

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE
Are you interested in playing church slow-pitch softball this spring/summer? Call Rick Hanson for more details or to sign up. (605) 201-5135

WE COULD USE YOUR HELP
The decorating committee will be removing Christmas decorations on Thursday, February 4 at 5:30 PM. The committee is also looking for additional volunteers to be a part of the group. If you are interested, please call Bonnie at 605.359.1213

We are excited to welcome the kids back to nursery on Sunday!

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
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
Hello Everyone!
It has been a busy week in the church office and I've gotten to say hello to a few more of you in person. I hope you are all doing well. I've been spending some time thinking about what is coming for the future and also feeling really thankful. While we don't really know yet when we will do more activities for the kids that are not online or at home, what I do know is that when we can, we'll be ready! Writing online lessons is taking some extra time but I have still been able to write Sunday School lessons for when we are back together in person and VBS lessons. Depending on when things look different with covid, we may be able to squeeze in a quick kids' activity earlier in the summer, but for now I'm just focusing on Sunday School and VBS so we can be ready when it comes. For Midweek, I've always got some good options up my sleeve so when the time comes, we can hit the ground running. Besides, we'll have some celebrating to do as well.

- **Pray:** I wonder if some of you might be willing to chat with God about our kids. I'm so thankful for how patient and flexible kids have been in 2020-2021 and I really think God has helped many of them grow in incredible ways. I pray that they remember that God is with them and that His presence overwhelms them as they go through each week. They are pretty amazing people and God continues to use them in such amazing ways.
- **Sunday School:** As I said, we are still online/ at home for Sunday School. This set of lessons doesn’t require a supply bag or any special prep. Just hop on the web page and watch the video, then choose some of the discussion questions and activities from the link. There is usually a printable project as well. You can find everything at [www.Communityrc.org/kids2021](http://www.Communityrc.org/kids2021). For last Sunday, we learned about when Jesus and Peter walked on water. Coming up, we're jumping into a series of parables. I think some of the younger kids will especially enjoy telling the story of the Good Samaritan by “bandaging up” their teddy bear or doll. The older kids may be more into the origami project. I'm guessing some kids will do it all!
- **VBS:** Liz and I spent a little time this week ironing out some more VBS details. I hope the kids have as much fun with this as we are. The Bible lessons for each night are coming together and I am getting increasingly excited about what God is teaching us. Our current plan is that VBS will be from August 1-4 in the evenings from 6-7:45. VBS is for kids age three through 6th grade and we may offer an option for younger kids again as well. We are collecting empty cereal boxes for VBS decorations so if you have any, please drop them in my office. If you want to sign up early, the link is on our web page or at [https://vbspro.events/p/events/2021](https://vbspro.events/p/events/2021). We'll need a lot of volunteers too so please save the dates for a really exciting week.
- **Update:** 3rd Grade Bibles: This is just a note that we still plan to have the 3rd graders receive Bibles this year! I'll keep you posted on when that will happen. The Bibles are here in my office so we're ready as soon as we can have everyone in church together.
- **Reminder: Camp:** The church will once again pay for half of the early bird fee for kids signing up to attend Inspiration Hills camp. (Doyle also has plans in mind for the Middle School and High School Youth this summer, so keep your eyes open for that information as you plan your summer.) Inspiration Hills is one of the camp options we share with families and is the one most families of upper Elementary and Middle School kids choose so we send a lot of kids there each summer. If you decide to sign your kids up, please send me an email so I know who is attending Inspiration Hills from Community and on which weeks. [https://inspirationhills.org/summer-camp.html](https://inspirationhills.org/summer-camp.html) They offer camps for grades 1-12, Family Camps, and Grandparent Camps. Many kids from Community do their “Saddle Up” horse camp, Wilderness and Lodge camps and some do the day and other camps too. The people who have experienced Family Camp and Grandparent Camp have many good things to say as well. If you have questions about camp, I can answer them or connect you with someone who can. I've gotten to spend a little time out at Inspiration Hills, and it is a lovely place. Registration opens in February.
- **Artists:** I'm curious if someone in our church happens to be a cartoonist or graphic artist who might want to help us with a few projects related to Bible School and Sunday School. I'd love to chat if someone enjoys illustrating and drawing people to see if it might work for the project we are doing. If you or someone you know might find that to be a fun way to serve, please let me know.

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@communityRC.org
605-336-1475
As we jump into the month of February, we will continue to move forward much like we did in January. If you are interested in checking out the youth YouTube page where I post videos for Sunday School and do monthly updates feel free. The link to our page is https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8q5StnPitPA0heW677rhg I just added our February update so you can check out what we will be doing this month.

One of the highlights for this month is that we will be doing a Bible reading plan/challenge that students can join in on. I have put together a plan for anyone who is wanting to read along together and will have it ready for our gathering Wednesday night. We come to learn, grow and build upon our relationship with God as we spend time with Him. This month we begin the challenge of doing so in scripture. If anyone would like to join the youth ministry, feel free to reach out and I can send it your way as well. I will be shifting our “Sunday School” time on YouTube to the reading we are doing.

This month we will also be doing our Among Us event at church on February 28th. The last time we had this planned it had to be postponed and I am really looking forward to hosting it this month. Our middle school students will meet from 4:30-6:00 and our high school students from 6:00-7:30 as we recreate the popular screen game into an in person adventure. It has been a lot of fun creating the event and I look forward to our night together!

If you have any questions about the student ministry, please feel free to reach out anytime!

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW THIS WEEK

- Brian Frisbee (stroke/ emergency surgery)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Jan McDowell (abdominal issues)
- Jan Sturing (heart)
- Dee Elliot (knee replacement)
- Deb Teunissen (knee surgery recovery)
- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- 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)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (cancer hormone therapy)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Tami 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

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to the family of Hugh Warner. Please keep Mary and her family in your prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Doyle & Abby Burnside on the birth of their son, Benjamin William, on January 28th!
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
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Heather DeWit
Director of Children’s Ministries
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Doyle Burnside
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Josiah Dunlap
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