I have certainly enjoyed this January winter. I know we have many days left, but every day like these makes for a much shorter run through the cold. It makes everything so much easier to do. The days are getting longer and that makes a difference too. With the new year, comes a bit of resetting goals and so all this nice weather makes that seem right. I know you are all enjoying this as well. Maybe it will continue for bit. We never really know how all of that will go. We also hear of other changes with the COVID stuff. That news seems right as well. We all could use a break from that…it is coming. The world can be a bumpy place. I don’t think I need to give you that sermon. We have certainly witnessed that. It is confusing at times, frustrating at times. I would say, it is exactly what one would think. The world left to its own “way” will show itself for what it is…fallen. I will put my trust in the only Rock and foundation I know. I will do my best to be a good steward of God’s grace and love in the middle of the broken. It’s the message I bring and share with those who will listen. I can’t fix broken. Only the spirit of God working in the lives and hearts of people can do that.

We had a great congregational meeting Sunday afternoon. We got all the business of the church done. I have to say, I rather liked how that all went. Having that meeting in the afternoon wasn’t the worst thing that could have happened. What I like was that we were not rushed. We could talk and discuss and move at a comfortable speed. There was no pressure to get it done so we could start church at 11. I made a note of that. We shall see if that is something we might want to think about in the future. The budget for the coming year is 6% lower than last years. I think people were a bit surprised by that. We have paid off one of the loans folks. That’s a big part of it. Also, we do a great job of checking our spending and how we do ministry around here. I hope you can see that all of that makes a difference. That is good news for everyone. We have 6 new consistory members now…for this year. That took a bit of time to get done and we already have this new year’s ones ready to go as well. I believe that was a very good decision as well. Good job everyone!

I want to extend a word of thanks to the Consistory members who are going off the board this month. They all agreed to stay on for a bit longer as we worked our way through all this mess of things. Gerald Teunissen, Mark Koll, Jolene Larson, Nick Langerock, Jim Fischer, and Russ Robers. Thank you for your time! Well done! Blessings on you and your family.

People have been asking about MidWeek this spring. We just don’t know what do right now. I think you can all understand that. We are just trying our best to get this done as best as we can. No church has found the perfect solution to this. What looks good to one may not work in another. I am hoping that we can have some kind of a celebration sort of thing later this spring. I am not sure what looks like right now, but we are working on that. I might do a class later this spring in the big room for folks. The reason for that class would be to focus our hearts on the message of Community and one that might seek to discover what God is doing right now. I’m still working on that idea. I’ll keep you informed.

Sunday, we move on through the words of Isaiah 60. The words seem so right for what we see each and every week. I will be anxious to see what the coming days reveal. I expect God to be right in the middle of all of it. That’s what He does. We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
OFFERING ENVELOPES

Pick up your 2021 offering envelopes in the church lobby. If you do not see your offering envelope or would like to request envelopes, please email connect@communityrc.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13:
7:00-8:00PM- M.S. YOUTH GROUP
8:00-9:00PM- H.S. YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM-
IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19:
7:00PM- AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20:
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– CHURCH ON THE STREET

BOOK CLUBS
The evening book club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 19, at 7 pm at the church. The book for discussion is Peace like a River.

The morning book club will meet Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 9 am at the church. The book for discussion is A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.

FINANCES

Sunday, January 10, 2021

General: $24,009
Vision: $1,100
Missions: $330

General YTD: $27,744
Vision YTD: $1,965
Vision Account Balance: $179,220

CONSISTORY UPDATE

After our January 10th congregational meeting, the following people will be going on consistory January 2021.

Elders:
Joel Blankers
Shawn Blom
Robyn Niewenhuis

Deacons:
Steve Bonnema
Daune Niewenhuis
Logan Veurink

These people will be going on in May 2021:

Elders:
Russ Hoogendoorn
Tom Van Roekel
Tom Bosch

Deacons:
Kenny Hartzell
Grant Boltjes
Corey Feenstra
Hello, everyone!

Let's take some time this week to talk about two exciting events that should hopefully happen this spring and summer!

First of all, there's the enneagram workshop I've mentioned a couple of times over the last few months. For those of you who have been reading about the enneagram, or have seen it come across your media feeds, you might have noticed that there is a lot of different information about what it is, how to use it, and where it came from. Since it's becoming more and more popular in our culture, there is also an unfortunate amount of misinformation that can be found on the enneagram. To help combat this, I thought it might be beneficial to offer a workshop where you can learn the truth about where it came from, its intended use, and the best ways to use it for spiritual growth. At this point, I'm thinking I will host a single session workshop. This will be one 3-hour session (with breaks, of course) held in the sanctuary at church, so we can easily socially distance. We'll also provide free childcare. Here's where I need your help: if you think you might like to attend this workshop, I would really love to know if there are certain days of the week that would suit you better and/or if there are certain times of the day when you would prefer a workshop of this type. You can email or message me with your thoughts. The workshop would be free and open to anyone! I'll keep you posted as I know more.

And secondly, I want to give you a little more information about VBS this summer! I know it might seem strange to see someone in my staff position at church talking about VBS, but here's the deal: Heather and I have written an original VBS, and we're incredibly excited to offer it this summer! Heather worked on all of the teaching elements, and I have been working on the songs and characters for each day. There will be 4 brand new songs at this VBS, including all of our favorites from past years. And you will not find this VBS anywhere else in the world. It's unique to Community! Our theme is *New Every Morning*, and we're using breakfast food to talk about Jesus. 😁 I know it sounds crazy, but friends, this has come together so well! It's going to be so much fun! Our dates for VBS are scheduled for August 1-4, and based on our huge response to take-home VBS last summer, we are expecting record breaking numbers at our VBS this summer. We'll need a lot of adult volunteers for that week. So, whether you have VBS-aged children or not, please consider volunteering to help us with this ministry. I guarantee you will have your socks blessed right off your feet because the ground will be HOLY! Be watching for more details as well as how to register your kids and when you can sign up to volunteer.

It's been a long year of waiting, but I believe we are very close to being able to fully schedule and carry out these ministries. Keep an eye out for more information, Community!

Have a great week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
Hello Everyone!

We jumped right back into Sunday School “to go” this winter with a lesson about Jesus growing up. He is fully God and fully human, so He was a kid too! That is part of the gift of Him coming to us as a baby. He understands all of us and knows what it is like to experience growing up. We can talk to Him about anything and He “gets it.” Next week is a lesson you parents might especially appreciate. Jesus obeyed His parents!

I asked last week if you could collect cereal boxes for VBS 2021 and someone asked if those boxes can be disassembled a bit, flattened for storage, and then retaped when VBS arrives this summer. That is a great idea! That also means I have room for them here at church. So, if you want to pile up my office with empty cereal boxes, we can unstick the top and bottom to store them flat and then tape them into box shape again for VBS this summer.

We still plan to have the 3rd graders receive Bibles this year! We have been waiting until more of us can be in church in-person, but I don’t want the kids to think we’ve forgotten them! We will get them their Bibles as soon as we can! Please let the third graders know that I have their Bibles safely tucked here in the church office along with certificates so that they can get them personalized. However, even though we will get together to do this as soon as possible, if your child wants to pick up their Bible now rather than waiting until the Sunday that we give them in front of church, just send me an email and we can give it to them. I understand that they may just need to get that Bible in their hands and can’t wait one more day! Then, when we do stand up in front of church and hand out Bibles, they can just bring their new Bible along. All of the kids have been so patient about so many things and I am so proud of them! We’ll make up for lost time together soon.

As I was writing my monthly update to the Consistory, I realized I never really shared with the church, as a whole, to wrap up 2020. The online things we did for kids in 2020 reached hundreds of children across the country which was big surprise for me. From Sunday School in the early part of the pandemic to VBS and then everything that happened this fall, we heard stories from families who really appreciated having the opportunity to stretch their faith wings and experience God’s love in new ways. We also heard from a few other churches who are using our written materials and ideas as well as our videos to do ministry because their church doesn’t have the staff or resources to do it on their own. There is special work happening because of you, Community. In December, more than 90 kids were part of the Community Kids Christmas Program and it was so much fun! The kids did such a good job when they did their parts, and their parents were very helpful in sending the videos to me so that I could combine them. I wasn’t sure how an online program would go but I think the kids had fun, I know I had fun and I’ve heard from many people that were touched by what the kids did. I even heard from some people who don’t attend Community (and don’t know anyone here) who were touched by hearing the Christmas story in a new way this year. One person said she needed it more “than the kids can ever understand.” The video has a little over 1000 views. If you haven’t seen it yet, feel free to go to Christmas Program: www.communityrc.org/kids2020. There were some good laughs, some tender moments, and a good message. We couldn’t go wrong with amazing kids making animal noises, sharing God’s word, and teaching us about Jesus. I have to admit, I feel a little spoiled that I get paid to do this job! It really has so many moments of blessing beyond description!

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@communityRC.org
605-336-1475
HELPING CLAYTON IN HEART JOURNEY

Clayton Bierwagen is in need of a new heart. For the past 8 years he's been on the heart transplant list at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He, along with his team of brilliant health care experts, maintained his heart the best they could for a long time, but he was recently put on a heart/lung machine.

Clayton will be in the ICU until transplant and recovery, which could be five to six months. During that time, Susan (his wife) has to travel to and from Sioux Falls/Rochester and maintain bills and expenses while living in two cities at once. And she won't be able to work full-time since she needs to be there for him as much as possible. Your gifts will be used for their living, travel, lodging, food and medical expenses. Here's Clayton's Go Fund me page link.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/28u61x8v9c

HAITI KIDS UPDATE

We are excited to report that there are 181 total students at Community's school in Haiti as of today.

They aren't all sponsored by a Community person but certainly the vast majority are sponsored by people at Community. Some had sponsors before Community got connected and the sponsor has continued to support the student so they have sponsors that might not be from Community.

Go Community Go!

THE GIVE

Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby. It's a place to donate to local ministries.

The Banquet: Ground Regular Coffee & Large Coffee filters

Community Youth- old cell phones or ink cartridges (the size that fits in your hand)

Mission Haiti- slightly used or new shoes & backpacks

Community Kids- empty cereal boxes

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW THIS WEEK

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart & colon)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer)
- Jodie Jensen (broken arm)
- Cherri Price (stomach lymphoma)
- Denny Robinson (heart)
- Troy Payne's brother (kidney transplant)
- Ryan VanRuler (heart surgery)
- Jenny VanRoekel
- Hugh Warner (brain lesion)
- Mitch Jensen (COVID)
- Jodie Jensen (new cancer treatments)
- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
- Jan Kreun's dad (surgery recovery)
- Abbie Van Meeteren (surgery recovery)
- Abby Brost (breast cancer)
- Connie Tiggelaar (hospice)
- Kara Schouten (severe infection)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Tracee Ellwein's dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Darla Anderson's daughter, Emma
- Kim Becker's mother-in-law, Amy (colorectal cancer)
- Joe Johnson (severe headaches)
- Holli Jans' dad, Milt (cancer hormone therapy)
- Matt Marcus' dad (prostate cancer)
- 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)
- Cary Jensen (cancer)
- Wade Persson's mom (cancer)
- Tami Harm's cousin (colon cancer)
- Melanie Oden's dad, David
- Dree & Hawk Mayer's sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)

Our condolences go out to Marilyn Bosch for the recent passing of her mom.

Our condolences also go out to the family of Glen Hoekstra. Please keep these families in your prayers.
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.