A new year! A New Day! I have been on that for some time now. I am hoping for better things all around in this new year. I never put much effort in new year’s resolutions, but I do like the thought of resetting and starting with fresh eyes. Something about that does work for me. It is January now and it does feel like that. A little snow cover, cold mornings, and all the typical things that make for winter. I think we can do this pretty well as long as the wind doesn’t blow 50 mph. That’s the deal breaker in this state. Winter is here folks, and on we go.

I hope you all had a nice Christmas with your family. I know lots of folks did do some adjusting to how that all got done. We did some of that as well. Still, we had a nice Christmas. I want to get back home to see my mom. It’s been a while now and I am her favorite son. (I am the only son!) I also want to thank the many of you who sent cards and some fun gifts. I get lots of cards and I have told you before, I do read them all. I have to admit, I don’t always read all of your family history letters for the past year, but if you write some note in there…I read every one of those. Thanks everyone!

Getting to some business things this week, we are having a congregational meeting this coming Sunday afternoon at 4pm. I know we have always done these on Sunday mornings, but I am sure you can understand why we had to change that. I know it is not the perfect time…I don’t even know what that means these days. It is a time that should work to get the business done. We have to approve the new budget for the upcoming year. We also have to do the “drawing of lots” for the new Consistory. I am also going to install that group with a prayer with all of you. Obviously, we can’t lay hands on them or even gather around them…we just have to do the best we can. I don’t really know of any other way to do it. It is all new territory.

People have been asking about MidWeek. We really don’t know much more than we ever did before. I know we won’t be starting in soon. We have put it all on hold till February, and after some discussion this week we are looking to maybe doing a plan that might be a kind of 4- week run later this spring. That all depends on all the same factors we have been dealing with for almost a year now. I know there has been interest in just having a MidWeek class or two for those who can come. We are exploring that idea. I’m not sure about all the logistics of that. How many would come? All the same things. By now, you all know how that goes! Ugh! We are all anxious for a change.

The new series is all about God working in the middle of all the things I just mentioned. We might be struggling to get through things, but that doesn’t mean that God has left the building. I am convinced this is a challenging time that God will use to bring glory to His kingdom. The church has an opportunity to be at the front of that line. I am very encouraged when I work on that perspective. Isaiah was written at a time of great struggle and discouragement. Out of that darkness God moved! Words were spoken. A direction was set! A course of action was put in place. Jesus would be the end result of that amazing plan. God had left his people...He prepared them! I love that! 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.

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CAN YOU HELP?
RANDI VANDERSLOOT FUNDRAISER

If you haven’t heard by now, Randi Wallenberg VanDerSloot has been diagnosed with cancer for the second time. She’s in the fight of her life. The VanDerSloot family is still recovering financially from the first go around so there is a group of parents from RHS and Harrisburg who are putting together a fundraiser which will include a live in person and virtual silent auction. THEY NEED YOUR HELP.

The event is at Shenanigan’s on January 9 so getting items is on a pretty fast turn around. We want to help the family not worry about finances and concentrate on being warriors against this cancer. Be creative, join with friends... please consider helping this outstanding music educator, mom, wife and friend.

Please contact Jamie at Randiswarriors@gmail.com if you have questions. The silent auction is now LIVE. Go to www.32auctions.com/randiswarriors to check it out!

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NOMINEES FOR CONSISTORY

Nominees for consistory members are as follows:
Elders:
Joel Blankers
Tom Bosch
Shawn Blom
Robyn Niewenhuis
Russ Hoogendoorn
Tom Van Roekel

Deacons:
Steve Bonnema
Kenny Hartzell
Logan Veurink
Grant Boltjes
Daune Niewenhuis
Corey Feenstra

There will be a January 10th congregational meeting at 4:00pm where these people will draw lots to see who goes on the board in January and who goes on in May.

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FINANCES

Sunday, January 3, 2021

General: $3735
Vision: $865
Missions: $125

General YTD: $3,735
Vision YTD: $865
Vision Account Balance: $178,120

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6:
7:00-8:00PM- M.S. YOUTH GROUP
8:00-9:00PM- H.S. YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10:
8:45AM, 9:45AM & 11:00AM-IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICES
4:00PM- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12:
7:00PM– AA MEETING

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

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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.
I’d like to start my first article of the year by thanking everyone for making the Christmas Eve services run so smoothly. It took many people working together to accomplish everything safely. From elders to decorators to those of you in attendance, thank you for all you did to make Christmas Eve a meaningful worship experience.

I was able to take some vacation days last week, and it felt good to spend some time away from the church office. Most of this past year was spent trying to figure out new and significant ways to do at least a few normal church type activities and ministries. Having to be creative all the time is certainly a wearing type of work, and I was grateful for the break. I was able to take care of several small things around my house as well as work on a couple of knitting projects. It took me a couple of days to wind down from the din of pre-Christmas preparation, but once I was able to let the dust settle, it was lovely to take each day as it came and enjoy each moment without planning, striving, or accomplishment. I hope all of you were able to find a few quiet moments last week too.

As I look into 2021, I’m trying to plan without planning, which sounds ridiculous, but let me explain what I mean. We can’t make all the plans in case Covid makes it impossible to do these things, but we also have to make some plans in case we are able to get back to some normal activities soon. I’m still working on the possibilities of an Easter choir experience, a shortened Mid-Week study of some sort, an Enneagram workshop, and of course VBS! Just keep an eye on the newsletter for more information as it becomes available.

I’d also like to remind anyone who might be newly attending Community either in person or online that if you have any questions about ministries or other things here at church, I’m your contact person. Feel free to email me with questions about programs, membership, and anything else you might be wondering about. My email is liz.teel@communityrc.org. There is no such thing as a dumb question. I promise.

And lastly this week, I want to say that I can hardly wait for the day we will be able to meet in person with no restrictions. I want to see your faces, hear your voices, chat with you in person, and celebrate worshipping together. I am looking forward to being able to open The Corner again to welcome new people and to help you all connect in new ways at church. I believe with all my heart that God is up to something good in the midst of this mess. He has plans for our church, and He is using this time as a refining time for each one of us individually as well as for our church as a whole. Get ready, Community. I think God is about to astound us!

Have a great week, friends!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
Hello Everyone!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. It will be a busy week for me as I work on Sunday School for the beginning of this year. I'm planning on doing a similar format to what we did this fall with a short video, some discussion questions, and a few activity ideas. I'm not planning to do bags this time around but instead will write activities that allow us to use supplies that most of us have around the house or can easily find.

Our first Sunday School lesson “to go” for 2021 is 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 in a way we can’t even understand ourselves. That’s a good reminder. We’ll talk about that for the first couple of weeks and then continue talking about the life of Jesus here on the planet.

I am starting to think more about VBS for summer 2021 and have a strange request. If any of you happen to have a bit of extra storage space at home and want to start saving empty cereal boxes, I'd sure appreciate it! We will use them for VBS decorations, but we don't have a lot of extra space here at church for storing them. I'm not much of a cereal eater myself so if you are and want to collect a few empty boxes, that would be great.

I enjoyed a little break over Christmas time and loved the extra time with my family. It is amazing what a few days of unwinding can do. We spent some time playing games, doing crafts, catching up on house projects, cleaning house, going for drives, being outside and just being together. I'm also thankful to be able to come back refreshed for writing and planning lessons and fun for the kids here at church. I was so excited for work this morning (I'm writing to you before 8am on Monday morning) that I had a tough time sleeping last night! God must have big plans for 2021.

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@communityRC.org
605-336-1475
As we enter into the new year, the youth group is going to be starting up once again. This will be our first week together and I am so excited to be back at church with one another. The middle school group will continue to meet from 7:00 – 8:00 Wednesday nights and the high school group will be meeting from 8:00-9:00. Our first series this year is title “The Struggle is Real” as we dive into some struggles our youth shared back in September and October. This could have been anything from sins/temptations, broken relationships with friends and family, to mental health and anything in between. Our students were very open as they submitted notecards and we are now going to be diving into some conversation and scripture to hopefully bring some encouragement, hope and love through our struggles. While this is not a series to cure all, it will be a great opportunity to bring some light into areas of our lives that we do not always talk about.

While our Wednesday nights will be up and going, our Sunday School time will look very different. With services going to 8:45, 9:45 and 11:00 we don’t have time between services to jump on zoom and connect. So, to start this year, I will be putting some material up on our youth YouTube page. These will be short devotionals that come with a challenge, an encouragement and or a story from scripture. While I will be starting things off, we may be pulling in some students to help add to our content as we move into the new year. To go along with Sunday school, I will also be adding monthly overviews, some fun short videos, and announcements for our student ministry to the YouTube page. If you are interested in what the students are doing you can check at the page here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8q5StnPitPA0heW. There is not a ton on there right now, but we will be starting to build it up as we enter this new year!

If you have any questions about the youth ministry here at Community, please feel free to reach out anytime!

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

NEW THIS WEEK

- Clayton Bierwagen (heart & colon)
- Jodie Jensen (broken arm)
- Marilyn Bosch’s mom (hospice)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer)
- Cherri Price (stomach lymphoma)
- Denny Robinson (heart)
- Glen Hoekstra (hospice)
- 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 (colon 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)
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.