CLYDE’S UPDATE

We had a little fun with the weather in church on Sunday. It was just amazing how every single Sunday in February was really not very nice. We had some significant cold on the first two and then snow on the second two. It’s March! Well, I guess we shall see how that goes. It will get better…I think. I was very thankful for the livestream, but I was very grateful for the folks that came out to join us. As things move along here this spring, I think more and more folks will slowly make a return. There are a number of factors that I believe will make that happen…we are following it all too. In the meantime, we will do our best to do the church the very best we can for the those in the building and those who are not there. Just so you know…being in the building together is still the goal. That day will come!

I mentioned Sunday that we are going to do multiple services for Maundy Thursday this year. I am not sure how many yet, but I will make that decision soon. I know by doing that I make the most room available for anyone who wants to come. I don’t have to worry about overcrowding anything or anyone. We did it at Christmas and that worked just fine. I see no reason why it won’t work now. I will keep you informed. We will be doing communion the same with those cups you pick up at the tables. If you would like, you can pick them up at church if you are planning to join us online. We had a number of people who did that at Christmas and they said it worked very nicely. We have them in the office if you would like.

Vision! I have been praying through and working through this new/fresh direction for us out here. I have been on that really since COVID came upon us. Having to shut things down for a time and then figure out what to do next was a push that I needed to really look at what we are called to do as churches. I look at the culture around us and the church and ask how we might make a good difference for all of that. That question and many others have led me to believe that this a great time for Christians to consider what message we are conveying. I know the world doesn’t understand us. I also know they have little capacity to see the big picture of faith, but I do know there are ways to express who we are that will catch their attention. People are looking for more in their lives. It’s a simple fact of life. All their struggles or successes move them along through each day and there are moments that all of that can get the better of them…and they know it. When they are looking, what will they see in us? What goes on in these places of worship? Who is in there? Why do they get together? What’s the point? I could ask those same questions of church folks. I wonder what those answers would be. That has led me to this “Do You Believe?” Questions. What we believe is what drives us forward or for that matter, sometimes backward. I am still working on this. I feel like it is a subject that has always been on the agenda in most growing churches, but for me it has my attention in a new way. Stay tuned…we are just getting started. I have no intention of just doing a little church stuff on Sunday. My God is bigger than that!

We do the next installment of “Paid in Full” this Sunday. We are now working our way verse by verse through the prophetic text in the 53rd chapter of Isaiah; words that many of us have heard maybe hundreds of times. I am praying for a new/live-giving perspective on them. I am hoping for you to hear them with a fresh sense of God’s direction. This week we are going to talk about sheep. We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
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)

Community Kids: empty cereal boxes

Mission Haiti: shoes & backpacks

OUR NURSERY IS OPEN

Nursery is 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.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044da4ab29a1f85-nursery

FINANCES

Sunday, February 28, 2021

General: $10,186
Vision: $2,520
Missions: $225

General YTD: $130,891
Vision YTD: $18,882
Vision Account Balance: $181,353

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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.

BOOK CLUBS

The morning book club 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 Tuesday, March 16, at 7 pm at the church. They will be discussing Charm Bracelet.
For my article this week, I want to share some thoughts I’ve had about returning to church. Fair warning, I’m probably going to talk about this on Sunday morning too, so, if you read my article and join us for church on Sunday, you might get a double dose!

It occurred to me this weekend, after we had had inclement weather for 3 Sundays in a row, that it’s probably going to be a bit of a fight the first Sunday you decide you are ready to join us for in person worship. Let me explain.

Although we have a good number of people joining us at church on Sundays, the majority of Community is still worshipping online. Please hear me say that I’m not being critical of anyone who is still worshipping with us online. I’m deeply thankful that online worship is an option for Community. I’m all for being safe and waiting until you’ve had your vaccines before you head back. Online is a truly wonderful option, especially for our friends in other towns and our friends for whom worshipping in person is simply not a viable option. So, if you are still worshipping online, that’s great! But there is going to come a point when you feel ready to head back to church and worship in person. And when that point comes, I want to prepare you to be ready for a fight, a pretty intense spiritual fight.

Many of you have talked about how much you miss seeing people and being in the physical presence of the church body. You’ve said that as wonderful as online church has been, it’s just not the same as being there. I whole-heartedly agree. But I think something we might be forgetting is that there is an enemy who is celebrating the fact that you can’t come to church in person. The enemy is loving that you don’t get to see your friends and worship with others. He is disgustingly happy that this past year has been challenging for you, and he wants to keep you in this position as long as possible. So, when you finally make plans to head back to church, I want you to be ready for things to go wrong. I strongly believe that the enemy will do whatever he can to keep you away from and out of church. And if he can make you frustrated enough to just stay home and watch online when in reality you feel safe enough to come to church in person, then he’s won.

Friends, I tell you this not to scare you or to guilt you into coming back to church. I simply want you to be aware that when you get ready to come back, it will be important to be on the lookout for ways the enemy will try to stop you from coming. And then be ready to fight against him! Also remember that God will give you the power you need fight AND to win! You have nothing to fear. When you are ready, simply come. But as Jesus said, I want you to be “as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” In other words, don’t be naïve but also don’t be a jerk. Just keep your heads up and your eyes open, and when you’re ready, I’ll see you back at Community. And I’ll celebrate with you that you fought the good fight and have been able to return to God’s House to worship with your friends and families.

Have a great week and enjoy these warmer temps!

Liz
Hello Everyone!

I hope you are having a great week! I have had a number of things happen this week that just brought me a smile. Sometimes God just brings the tiniest things into my week to fill it with joy, even when the week on my calendar in itself is a bit unremarkable. A friend stopped by church with a pattern for a fun craft for the kids and it was a great time to chat. The warmer weather always brings me a smile. Some more friends and family got their co-vid vaccine. I received a video of my baby niece giggling (I haven’t gotten to meet her yet!) I wrapped up some work projects and started some new ones. My family went for a nature drive and saw very few interesting animals but got the vehicle very muddy and laughed really hard! I also finished creating my family’s 2020 scrapbook and spent some time with a few of my family members looking at old pictures and videos from when my kids were very young.

Scrapbooking and the journaling that goes with it is a hobby that I enjoyed before I had children and while I never really "quit" scrapbooking, there were quite a few years where I only did one scrapbook page or maybe two or three. We always took a lot of photos and I often scribble down memories and notes for future scrapbooks but there was a time that making the memories and just doing life took up too much time and energy to allow me to do much artwork or crafts. As my children have reached the teenage years and I find myself with a little more time to myself, I have picked scrapbooking back up (now digital scrapbooking) and I might just be making up for lost time. I’m working my way back through the years to create one book for each year. It has been such a precious way for me to thank God for the moments that have already happened and look forward to what He has in store for us next. I realize again that each phase in each of my daughters’ lives was precious and am reminded that each phase going forward will be precious as well. It helps me not feel sad that they are growing up so fast! I am a little odd in my scrapbooking style in that I do a bit of journaling and try to be very honest about what was hard and what was fun and what was exhausting. Even if I didn’t take a photo of something, I might include it in the journaling to honor the memories of what I noticed God was up to in that time in life. I sometimes imagine that someday my daughters will look back on those books and realize that God was just beautifully present and real in those good and tough times. I think my girls hear that from us now and see that in action, but after some time, these books may be a good reminder for them and for me. However, even if they all went in the trash can after I finish them, the prayer and processing that happens while I’m making them would be worth it. Just looking back at the pictures is so fun but also so good for my walk with God. I love how God finds ways to capture our hearts and minds that are uniquely effective. He knows how we work and what we need far better than we even know it ourselves.

Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit

https://www.communityrc.org/kids2021/
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605-336-1475
We are now in March, which is so hard to believe. It doesn't feel like we have had two months back after Christmas break! Our middle school and high school youth group continues to press on. This Wednesday will be our last week in our series “The Struggle is Real”. Students have continued to ask great questions as we have gone through a lot of different things these past few months. Some of those I have kept as they will fit in to our series moving forward. As we finish our time in it this week, I continue to pray that students can find encouragement, tools and hope in the midst of our shortcomings as we stand in the promises and work of Jesus! Jesus, just as Clyde has been saying on Sunday mornings, does transform our character – I believe that!! (Clyde’s messages also have me really fired up!).

Our February event was this past Sunday and we had a really great turn out. If you have ever played the game Among Us on your phone, tablet or computer, our game went a lot like what you experience in the screen game. Some of the rounds went really well where students completed tasks, reported imposters well and had great conversation on who it could be. Other rounds had students covering for their friends, playing for the other side and some chaos in the conversations. Overall, it seemed to go well and I think the time frame was about perfect as the repeated tasks each round can get old. If we do it again, I’ll have to think up of some new tasks to keep things fresh!

Final note for this week. Our Sunday School hour is also going to be changing directions. These first few months on YouTube we have focused on Abiding in Christ as our devotions/challenges have centered on reading God word, prayer, and community with one another. As we head into March, I will be bringing in some sponsors and students to share a devotion and/or challenges. Some of our high school students are already on board and thinking through what they would like to share. While it has been fairly fun making videos for our Sunday Mornings, I am looking forward to the day we can be back in person for our Sunday School hour. Until then, I will keep using our Youth’s YouTube page. If you would like to check it out, you can go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi8q5StnPitPA0heW677rhg and see our previous videos or subscribe to be notified when new one’s come out.

That’s all from me this week! Let me know if you have any questions.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW THIS WEEK
- John & Marcia Thornton’s son-in-law, Tony (sledding accident)
- Cal Klein (heart stent)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS
- Kara Schouten (hip pain)
- Jenny Getting (stroke recovery)
- Jan Kruen
- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer treatments)
- Brian Frisbee (stroke recovery/long-term rehab)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (radiation treatments)
- Jan Sturing (heart)
- Dee Elliot (knee replacement)
- Deb Teunissen (knee surgery recovery)
- Troy Payne’s brother (kidney transplant)
- Ryan VanRuler (heart surgery)
- Jenny VanRoekel
- Mitch Jensen
- Jocie Jensen (new cancer treatments)
- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
- Jan Kreun’s dad (surgery recovery)
- Abby Brost (breast cancer)
- Connie Tiggelaar (hospice)
- 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)
- 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 Lyle Weidenbach on the death of his father. Please keep the family 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.

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