I know it’s May, and I know I thought it was going to warm up, and I know I have been wrong many times, but I am really ready for a warm up. I bet the rest of you are as well.

I know we could use a little rain, and I am good with that, but then on the between rain days...how about a little sun? It has been a most chilly spring. I think I have said that for the last 7 springs. You would think by now I would have learned that. I am a slow learner.

Sunday, we put the chairs back in the room. Now, I know some of our folks are still being careful in rooms with lots of people, and I am ok with all of that. If you are uncomfortable, then be careful. We can do this. We are trying to slowly move forward. The chairs seemed like a good start. Coffee and donuts are coming. It feels good to see things slowly getting back.

This coming Sunday, we are bringing back the 8am & 9am services. We are moving the 11am service to 10:45am. That is a change we have been wanting to do for a long time. 8 and 9 will be like they were before all of this started, but we moved that 11 service to see if we could not attract some of that 9am crowd. That is only 15 minutes earlier, but we think getting out of church before noon matters, so we are trying this. I hope it works. We shall see.

If you are wondering about RCA things, or even if you are not, here is a quick update. Going slow is probably ok because we are trying to be sure we have some say in how this all happens. There is a process in all of this that we are following, and some of our friends in the area are learning there is a little more to all of this than they first thought. Patience has a way of bringing good outcomes if one is carefully thinking all things through. There will be more information coming. Right now, we are just fine. Don’t worry...God is on the throne!

The fishing trip for June is coming together. I sure hope many of you can join us. We have found a great place to stay just outside of Platte. I was there this week and wow, it is nice. If you have questions call the office and we will try to get information to you. I think it sounds like a fun weekend. Stay tuned for more info in the coming weeks.

I have been to some graduation parties. It is that time of year. I can’t get to all of them...I am sorry for the ones I don’t make. I can’t make all of that happen. I had the same problem when I was a school teacher, and now it seems like that is getting more difficult. Congratulations to all the Seniors. We are praying for God’s blessings on your future. “Be From Somewhere!” Cause you are!

Sunday, we do a part of this series on “Hometowns” that I hope really hits home for our church family. As I mentioned on Sunday, some people didn’t have good homes or they don’t have fond memories of the place where they grew up. They would love to find a place like that. Well, church, is that part of who we can be? Is that one of things we can do for folks? Can we be that place? Can we be those people? Are we here to redeem those lost places in peoples’ lives? Is that something God does through Jesus? We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
THURSDAY, MAY 20:
6:30 & 7:30PM- CHURCH SOFTBALL
(SHERMAN PARK)
7:00PM- ELDERS MEETING
8:00PM- CONSISTORY

SATURDAY, MAY 22:
7:00AM-PRAYER MINISTRY
10:00AM- AA MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 23:
8:00AM, 9:00AM & 10:45AM-
IN-PERSON SUNDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY, MAY 25:
7:00PM- AA MEETING
7:00PM- BOOK CLUB

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

BAPTISMS
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.

FINANCES
Sunday, May 16, 2021
General: $11,235
Vision: $2,240
Missions: $185
Faith Ave: $250

General YTD: $303,452
Vision YTD: $41,262
Vision Account Balance: $188,952

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE
With our services changing, we are looking to add more volunteers in the nursery to accommodate the increase in children at each service. In the next few weeks I will be contacting all of our past volunteers to get those who are willing added to our new volunteer list! If you are willing, please text or email me, and I will get you added to the new list.

Reminder: We have replaced the “take home”busy bags with permanent bags. Please remind your children to return the bags after the service. We will replace them with different colored bags before the next service. If you have any questions, please stop by the nursery Sunday morning or call or text me at 605-261-2153.
Thanks, Sheri Brouwer

FISHING TRIP
JUNE 10-12
THURSDAY, JUNE 10
AT PLATTE CREEK LODGE
FRIDAY, JUNE 11
FISHING EVENING MEAL PROVIDED
SATURDAY, JUNE 12
FISHING AND RETURN HOME

$65 PER NIGHT FOR INDIVIDUAL ROOM WITH BATHROOM.
ADDITIONAL EXPENSE FOR BREAKFAST.
IF YOU HAVE A BOAT AND CAN HOLD EXTRA PASSENGERS,
PLEASE INDICATE ON THE FORM.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
AL BOLTON 351-3917 OR STAN DEELSTRA 376-4148.
What an exciting week! I’m so thankful we’ve finally gotten the green light to return to some normalcy at church. I know we still have part of this road to travel to get to the end of the pandemic, but I must say that it feels wonderful to be at this point. So, let’s go over a few new and noteworthy things this week.

If you were in church on Sunday or tuned in online, you heard that we are shifting our service times once again. The 8:00 service will meet in the chapel for their smaller traditional gathering. The 9:00 service will meet in the sanctuary for normal worship, and the third service will now meet at 10:45 in the sanctuary. It is our hope that we will have evenly divided numbers of people at both the 9:00 and 10:45 services. Even before Covid, we always wanted these services to be more even in terms of numbers. And that’s why we are trying that new 10:45 start time. These changes will begin this Sunday, May 23. Nursery will be available at both the 9:00 and 10:45 services.

The new CDC guidelines also mean we will open the coffee bar in the lobby, as well The Corner in the sanctuary. And this Sunday, we plan to celebrate all of this opening with donut holes! I’ll make a few more announcements about that on Sunday. Doesn’t it feel good to be in this place? 😃

The new guidelines make it possible to actually set dates for events and ministries. Previously, we have had to tentatively set (and ultimately cancel or postpone) so many dates, that planning seemed to be a moot point. But now, I am already looking ahead to planning specific dates for meetings and events that I have had to put on hold until now. The enneagram workshop will take place early this fall before Mid-Week gets rolling. For all the worship team people, we’ll have our worship meeting early this fall as well. And I’d like to get another Vantage Point 3 Journey Group up and running, maybe even starting early this summer. It feels like our spinning wheels are finally touching the ground, and we can get somewhere. Keep your eyes on the Communicator for more details!

Have a great week!

Liz
liz.teel@communityrc.org
Hi Everyone!

As the school year starts to wind down and you start looking at your summer schedule, I want to encourage you to join us for Vacation Bible School if you can. You can sign up at church or at https://vbspro.events/p/events/2021. VBS is August 1-4 from 6pm-7:45pm. It is free and open to anyone so feel free to invite as many friends as you want. I really can’t wait until we can all enjoy VBS. God has been so generous, from the very day the crazy idea of writing our own VBS came up, to the tiniest details coming together, even today. Many of the ideas for VBS came when Liz was kind enough to help me put together the VBS “to go” bags for last summer’s at home VBS. We had hundreds of bags to put together, so Liz offered to help, which meant that we had many hours together with VBS on the brain. The “New Every Morning” theme came out of one of those days of quickly tucking crafts and lessons into train themed “to go” bags. Dreaming of Summer 2021 and what it would like for the kids to be together again was such a fun break in a time that things weren’t very normal. After some brainstorming and planning together, Liz went to work on songs and some of the introduction sessions and characters. At the same time, I was working on crafts, games and lessons. As each of us showed the other what we were working on, the excitement and momentum grew so it came together surprisingly quickly. As I always do when I’m working toward a lesson, activity or event, I am spending a little time mentally walking through the schedule and what we’ll do and thinking through what I can do to make it go smoothly. The fun benefit of that process is that I get to look forward to different parts of VBS as I plan. Today, I’m particularly looking forward to hearing the kids’ voices as they sing the songs Liz wrote for this VBS.

For those of you who haven’t come to VBS at Community yet, this is what it looks like: We come together at the beginning of VBS for worship time. The kids sit in the wildly decorated sanctuary with their group leaders and have fun. The groups are sorted by the grade the child is going into but if someone brings a friend that is in a different grade, we can certainly keep them together. We all sing and do the actions for the songs together. The songs have truth about God and about God’s love for us. There are new songs each year, but we also keep a few old favorites like the silly song about a moose! Then, after singing and prayer, the groups head off to different stations. The kids who haven’t been to Kindergarten yet all have one set of stations and the kids going into grades 1-6 have another set of stations. They are Craft, Games, and of course the Bible lesson. (We used to have a snack station too but we’re going to try a year without it to see what we think.) Each night those stations have a “big idea” that fits the theme and follows from the beginning worship, through all the stations, and right up through the wrap up worship at the end of the night. There are volunteers who lead each group and volunteers in charge of each of the stations. We take an offering each night at VBS. This year, the offering will go to Hope Haven to purchase wheelchairs for people who need them. We’ll also be collecting boxes of cereal for Feeding SD.

Year after year, God has overwhelmed me with His presence at VBS so I’m hoping and praying that this year will be the same. Even if you don’t feel comfortable joining VBS as a leader or helper or even a volunteer at all, I encourage you to come to VBS and just soak up the joy with us. You can join us for the singing at the beginning and just watch what the kids are doing and learning. God has taught me a few things as I’ve worked on the lessons, so I’m hoping we all learn more when we come together in August.
Talk to you soon!
Heather DeWit

https://www.communityrc.org/kids2021/

Heather.DeWit@communityRC.org
605-336-1475
The school year is winding down for many and has finished for some. It does feel like it, but only because Wednesday nights have been off for a week now. It will only be two weeks before we kick things back up for this summer.

Our middle school group will meet from 6:30-7:30 Wednesday nights starting June 2nd and our incoming 6th grade students are invited to join the group as they transition into middle school life. Summer is a great way for our new students to get to know others in the middle school youth group! Along with Wednesday nights, this year we will be having our first ever Community Middle School Camp (I should come up with a better name. Maybe year 2). Camp week is July 12th-15th and is for students who have finished 5th- 8th grade. Registration deadline is June 20th. For more info or for registration forms, email me anytime or catch me on Sunday morning.

High school youth will also start up on June 2nd and will meet from 7:30-8:30 throughout the summer. Our incoming freshman are invited to join the high school group (but can also do our middle school activities if they would like). Summers are more informal but are a great way to stay connected and continue to build relationships within the high school group. Our high school camp will be at Pickerel Lake Bible Camp this year and the dates are June 27th – July 2nd. Registration deadline is June 1st!

I'm looking forward to having a full summer again this year and can't wait to get starting June 2nd. If you have any questions regarding the student ministry here at Community, feel free to email me anytime!

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

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

East River Foster Care Clothing Closet- gently used clothes for kids & teens (size 2T through teen plus)

Community Youth- single bag chips, fruit snacks, cereal or granola bars (all to be used for Middle School Camp this summer)

Community Kids- New Crayons, Markers, Packs of stickers, sketch books

Mission Haiti- shoes (used or new)
REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...
If you would like to request membership or baptism, please e-mail the church office at connect@communityrc.org.
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