**PRAYER MINISTRY**

Join us for prayer on Saturday mornings at 7am via Zoom video. People can join via video or using the call-in number if video is not an option.

Join via phone: (346) 248-7799

Meeting website: https://zoom.us/j/862139432
Meeting ID: 862 139 432

Call Shawn Blom at 605-940-6702 with questions.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The Banquet

The Banquet serves meals to those in need. It’s a volunteer-based ministry, which means their meals are paid for, prepared by, and served by volunteer groups who come from Sioux Falls and the surrounding area.

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**THE COMMUNICATOR**

**CLYDE’S UPDATE**

Today the sky is hazy. I’m not sure if that is smoke from the fires out west or just an interesting fall sky, but it is captivating. I can feel the fall in the air these days. I do see the colors now a little more each day. I do hope fall is a long season for us. I believe we deserve a little of that after the year we have had. Maybe God will grant us a special gift of that kind of season. With all these weddings I am reminded that planning has been a challenge this year and when you get groups of people together there is always more than the event on people’s minds. It is the nature of things right now...we are all waiting for the big change to come.

We had a great board meeting last Thursday night. I do enjoy working with those folks. They do a very fine job for us. Planning would not be easy without them, and they provide a good foundation for the staff to work with. We are doing budgets for the coming year right now. Those always take careful planning. This year will be exceptionally challenging because we really didn’t spend much out of the budget. When you have to cancel events, it is a much more stream-lined expense report. We will have to go on previous year’s numbers and hope that works.

We are just now starting to put all the pieces together for Sunday school and Midweek. We have been planning as best as we could up to this point, but now we can focus on just how we might do that. Heather is going to be sharing how Sunday school will work. I know it is an online-with-packets sort of program. Midweek is probably going to be on-line classes as well, but we can’t do an hours-worth of talking...you would get bored with that very quickly. Short devotional segments. Theological thoughts. We are still working on that one. We don’t really know what will work. We are trying some new things. I guess we will see.

We have been passing word on our Christmas Choir. I just don’t see how we can do that this year. Folks are just not comfortable with all that. I completely understand. We are looking very seriously about doing something for Easter season. I do like that idea. We will keep you informed about how that is coming.

The message this past Sunday seemed to really touch hearts in many ways. It has been an amazing journey of information to discover. After going all these years without knowing any of that, it has been quite a story to find. The “Chosen” theme certainly seemed to work on Sunday. Some of your stories that I have read are truly amazing. You never know how any of these messages will go. You just say words and God works! I will keep you informed as to what more I may find with all this searching. The story there is not over. It has been a good journey during this crazy time. People have done hard things before. God is always working! Our “full-service” library has some books on those orphan trains if you are interested. They are always on the ball in that place.

Sunday it’s on to the next Apostle. Number 3 this week! He will another figure that we know very little about. He even has a couple of names. I wonder what God will do this week to prepare us? We’ll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!
I need to take a quick break from sharing my final book list to update you on what has been decided about Mid-Week and Christmas Choir during this fall Covid season. I’ll share the last list in my next newsletter article. That list includes fictional books! I’m excited to share that with you, but first, the update…

The Consistory met last week, and unanimously decided that for now, there is no good way to host in-person activities while making all of the accommodations necessary for everyone to feel safe. So, for now, we are going to start Mid-Week with online classes only. I’ve been in contact with a couple of our adult class teachers, and I’ll keep you posted about the classes that we are able to offer online. At the very least, both Pastor Clyde and I will be offering some type of online class for the fall. Then in November, the Consistory will revisit our plans and see if we might be able to bring everything back to normal sometime after the first of the year. May it be so!

Christmas Choir falls into that same category. Right now, we know that people just don’t feel entirely safe singing in an enclosed room with others. So, Christmas choir will not happen this year. However, we are really hoping that we can do a choir experience after the new year and share our music at Easter! I know this all feels a little frustrating and disappointing, but I’m really looking forward to being able to choose music that focuses on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are many great choral pieces that we don’t get to sing simply because we always sing Christmas music. So, it’s my sincere hope that this will be a new and fresh blessing to all you singers out there. Again, as I know more about that, I’ll keep you posted.

For those of you who participated in the Small Group Ministry last year, you’re just going to have to wait to try it again. For all of the same reasons as Mid-Week and Choir, we are not able to put our small groups together this fall. But as things change, I’ll be sure to keep you posted. Hopefully by next summer, we can be looking ahead at plans for the next Small Group Draw.

And lastly this week, I am going to be taking some time off next week to head to a little cabin in the hills. 😄 I think it will be a nice break away from town and from daily tasks. So, if you contact me next week, just know my reply will be delayed. (I won’t miss Sunday, so I’ll see you all then!)

If you have any questions about these updates, please ask. I know it’s strange, but it’s not forever. And we’re closer than ever to being able to meet in person once again.

Have a great week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
Hello Everyone!

I hope you are doing well! It has been good to see a few kids and wave across church and to see some familiar names popping up online too. We are still all together, even though we don’t see each other’s faces very often. I’m glad this is all temporary because I miss seeing everyone a couple of times a week, but I can be patient. Just like the weather in South Dakota, things are always changing.

I do have some updates for you regarding Sunday School and Midweek for the kids. We won’t get together in-person yet. We’re hoping to do things more “normal” in January. While we’d love to be all together like we usually are, the reality is that most of our volunteers and many of our families either have a health condition that requires them to be a little careful or they live with (care for/ closely connected to) someone who does. Therefore, we’d be missing most of our familiar faces if we did get together and just wouldn’t have enough grown-ups around to make the experience great for the kids.

However, we have some really fun Sunday School at home projects in progress so pay attention in the next couple of weeks as I gather up those things and get them ready to send your way. We’ll have some videos on the web page that you can have your kids watch as well as some activity ideas and printable sheets that kids can do. Eventually, I’m hoping to also do a bag of supplies and fun (similar to Staycation Bible School) too. I’ll be giving you a lot of ideas and activities you can choose from but I want you to know that it is okay (I’d even say probably wise) to not try to do every single thing each week. Do a little on Sunday, a little on Wednesday and skip the things that don’t work for you. Our survey showed me that you all want a variety of different things and that no two families want the exact same thing, so my plan is to give you some options from which to choose. You may even just want the discussion questions, and that’s all. That’s fine too!

I’ll have more on that coming soon!

See you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
605-336-1475
**NURSERY FOR INFANT- 2 YEAR OLDS OPEN**

We're excited to have opened the nursery for our Infants-2 year olds. It will look a little different but we will walk through the changes together. Here is what nursery will look like:

- Only infants-2 year olds and staff are allowed in the nursery
- Only coordinators will be using the iPads to check in kids
- We will be handing kids over the half door into the nursery
- Coordinators will be wearing masks at all times
- Kids hands will be washed when entering
- Toys will be cleaned if a child puts it in their mouth. All toys will be cleaned each week.
- Different sets of toys will be used for the 9:00 and the 11:00 services.
- Please don't send your child if they have a temp or if anyone in your family has been by someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to me at 605-261-2153.

Sheri Brouwer, Nursery Director.

**NURSERY FOR INFANT- 2 YEAR OLDS OPEN**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, SEPT 20TH: 8, 9, 11:00AM- IN-PERSON AND ONLINE SERVICES**

**TUESDAY, SEPT 22: 7:00PM- AA MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT 23: 7:00PM- M.S YOUTH GROUP**
**8:00PM- H.S. YOUTH GROUP**

**UPCOMING MINISTRIES**

**BAPTISM DATE**

There will be a baptism service this fall 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- SEPTEMBER**

**The Banquet**

**BOOK CLUB**

The morning book club will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 9am at the church. We will be discussing *I Will Always Write Back* by Ganda - each member finds own copy.

The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7pm. We will be discussing *No One Ever Asked* by Ganshert.

**THE GIVE**

It's back! 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

**Union Gospel Mission:** sugar, rice & salad dressing

**FINANCES**

Sunday, September 13, 2020

General: $9,667
Vision: $740
Missions: $240
Faith Ave: $300

General YTD: $556,367
Vision YTD: $99,768
Vision Account Balance: $129,831
As we kick off this fall semester and get into Creation (last week) and the fall (this week) I am so reminded of how God moves and works in the little things. One of the worst days for my son Oliver is Mondays. After a long weekend of not going to daycare, every Monday morning is filled with disappointment and sadness when he is reminded. This week may have been even worse as Monday was Oliver’s 3 year old birthday! However, the drive to daycare was one of the most rewarding Mondays as he reminded me that we need to take our deep breaths together. So, for about 2 minutes, we breathed in and out together as we drove. We then got to talk about how the very breath that we take is a gift to us from God. To see the sadness removed from my sons face as he focused his attention on that gift absolutely melts this daddy’s heart.

This is also such an amazing reminder for me each Monday as I prepare for the week. After looking at the creation story, and now this week the fall, the reminder that God has created me with value, worth and for a purpose brings this sense of awe within me. I don’t always know what that plan is - and there are times I forget about the value being created by God brings – but then it is often the little things that reminds me of the worth and the work God is doing around me.

This week, as we dive into the fall where Adam and Eve are deceived and removed from the garden, we get to know that the story doesn’t end there. We speak of sin with the knowledge that there is good news of a Savior. That the same one who breathed the breath of life into our lungs, also came to bring redemption. So while this week is not the great news we love to hear, it leads us to a love that is unfalling, unending, and never gives up on us!

I’m going to ask that you continue to pray for our students as the year continues on. There was already plenty of stress and anxieties without the added weight of COVID and the changes it has brought. As always, if there are any questions, please feel free to send them my way.

Doyle
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

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**NEW THIS WEEK**

- Brian Frisbee’s grandma, Audree (recovery from hip surgery)
- Judy Van Meeteren (recovery from hip surgery)
- Tracee Ellwein’s dad (skin & muscle graft)

**ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Darla Anderson’s daughter, Emma
- Kim Becker’s mother-in-law, Amy (colorectal cancer)
- Abby Brot (breast cancer)
- Dustin Schouten (appendix surgery)
- Gary Van Den Hoek (surgery recovery)
- Joe Johnson (severe headaches)
- Jan Sturing (irregular heart rhythm)
- Carrie Valentine (surgery recovery)
- Jamelee Van Donge’s dad, DeLyle (cancer)
- Justin Hinks’ nephew, Xavier Nygard (car accident)
- Clazina Hinks’ nephew, Xavier Nygard (car accident)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (cancer hormone therapy)
- Susan Bierwagen (broken leg)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurray’s dad (Parkinson’s)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Jessica Vander Weide (heart)
- Lindsey Vander Weide (heart)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- 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
- Audrey Landegent’s son, David (cancer)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate cancer)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)
- Jan Sturing (cancer)
- Tami Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)

**CONDOLENCES**

Our condolences go out to Sharon Spaniol and her family for the passing of her brother, Terry.
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.