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 COMMUNICATOR
COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH
SEPT 2, 2020

CLYDE’S UPDATE

We have come to the month of September. I noticed a very strong hint of fall in the air this morning as I arrived at church. I love it when the sky is blue and that cool of fall is the air. I do hope we get a long fall. That would sure be a nice gift. Most people I know around this area love the fall and so I know most of them would agree. Schools are all going now for the most part and life is trying to find its pace amidst all the “stuff”. I won’t even venture to guess how all of that will go. I know folks are working very hard to make things work. I am hoping it all goes without too much fuss. I paid a big compliment to the medical community on Sunday at the 11am service. They are doing a great job in all of this. I am amazed at how that community responds to crisis. I believe they have done a great job. In the meantime, we will do another month and see how things go.

As we try to figure out a schedule for our fall things, we are understanding more and more how complex that planning can be. No matter how we do it, it won’t be perfect for everyone. Just know that we are giving it our best and trying to hear all of the voices that give us guidance. There will be some adjusting and there will have to be some changes...I just hope we can make the most of it. As I said on Sunday, we can do this, but we need to do it differently than the “world” does. Jesus is still on the throne. I’ll trust that first, as best as I can!

Nursery is going to start this coming Sunday for infants up to 2 years old. They are still a bit short staffed, but they would like to try a little something and see how that goes. We may have to make changes once they see how everything unfolds, but we will have to see. I am trusting those leaders in there to be very on top of whatever that situation demands. They are good folks in there.

People have been asking about choir for the fall. That is going to be a tough call I’m afraid. It isn’t just the problem of having all those people in the room for extended periods of time, it also that I know we will have a significant number of singers who are just not comfortable doing that. I respect that concern. I believe it would be best not do choir for Christmas right now. However, if things change in the next couple of weeks; we would reconsider that. I have thought about doing something very special for Easter. We have talked about doing that in the past, but never could find the rhythm of making that happen. This might be that year! So, rather than only being disappointed we can’t do it, how about being excited because now we can do something extra for Easter? I like the sound of that! We will keep you posted.

We start a new series on Sunday. I have decided to do a series on the 12 apostles. For some of them there is plenty of information. For others, the information is more difficult to find, but we do know a fair amount about each disciple. My plan for this is to look at their lives and try to find a “life-message” for each of them. I will use a Bible story that puts them in front of Jesus and then look for a word we can take away for us. They were simple men. They are a mixed group of followers. Not the best qualified. Certainly not perfect. Chosen! They are just like us! We will talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
It’s the third week of book recommendations! This week, we’ll look at some Mid-Level Adult reads. If you’re wondering where you can get these books, don’t forget about our church library. I’ve seen most (if not all) of these recommendations in our own library! Those women do a fantastic job of keeping high quality reading materials on our shelves. They are also very helpful if you are looking for something and can’t find it. Be sure to check out this great resource at church!

**Mid-Level Adult Reads**

Walking with God through Pain and Suffering - Timothy Keller  
Tim Keller is one of our present-day authors who comes to the Christian book scene as an authoritative and respected author. You will find any of his books to be incredibly well-written, well-researched, theologically accurate, and applicable to life. Considering our current challenges, I’ve chosen this particular book to recommend because I know it will speak to the many situations in which we find ourselves. Tim will not patronize you with words and Christian-ese language. He writes honestly about pain and suffering and reminds us of the Biblical truths of God amidst these challenges. It’s a deep read filled with truth and hope.

Life Without Lack - Dallas Willard  
Many of you already know of my deep love and respect for Dallas Willard. He is one of my favorite authors of all time. This book was actually published posthumously just a few years after his death. It’s based on a class he taught as well as many lectures he gave. The authors who put it together used his own teaching notes as well as recordings from his lectures. Dallas understood the power of Jesus Christ to bring the fullness of the Kingdom of God to the here and now. Life without Lack takes a closer look at Psalm 23 and shows us how we can live in the fullness of God now...living a life that is totally and completely without lack because God gives us all we need. This is one of Dallas’ more practical books, so it falls in the mid-level reading list.

Mere Christianity - C.S. Lewis  
Many of you have probably heard of C.S. Lewis or have even read a book or two that he has written. “Mere Christianity” is probably his most famous book. C.S. Lewis was a hard-core atheist for many years, but as he continued to learn more about the truth of who God is, he found himself unable to argue against the existence of God, and he found himself drawn into relationship with Him. As he said, “(I became) the most reluctant convert in all of England.”  

“Mere Christianity” is not an easy read, but it’s not impossible either. Lewis has a way of stating in one sentence what it takes most of us a few paragraphs to write. (And Lewis’ writings are a huge influence on Tim Keller!) So, if it takes you a bit of time to work through it, you’re in good company. If you are serious about your faith, and if you’re looking for a way to expound and expand what you believe, you’ll love this book.

Vanishing Grace - Philip Yancey  
Philip Yancey has found himself an accidental writer about the Christian faith. He’s not a scholar. And he hasn’t been to seminary. He is simply a guy who has been paying attention to the world around him, and then he writes honestly about that. He’s not afraid to ask hard questions about what he sees, but he is also sure to write about what he knows about God to give us hope for what we see. “Vanishing Grace” is a book about how the world is changing, but God and His grace are still at work if we only have eyes to see the bigness of God’s grace. We have to “unbox” God, so to speak, to give Him room to work. Although the title might imply a hopeless read, it’s really speaking to the truth of the hope there is in Christ in this world.

If you have any questions about these books, don’t hesitate to ask! We have 2 lists left!

Have a great week!  
Liz  
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
Hello Everyone!

My daughters are back in school and with that first day behind us, I realized that I’ve gotten a little out of practice on asking good questions about the day. Often, kids respond to the question, “how was your day?” with an answer like, “fine” or “good” or “boring.” Below, I’ve listed some conversation starters for the dinner table, car, walk, bedtime, or whenever you find your child to be most interested in sharing. You can always start with one or two easy questions and switch when those get boring. You can really ask anything you want but the best conversation starters are open-ended questions that don’t feel like a quiz or like there is a right or wrong answer. If a child isn’t feeling like chatting, don’t panic. Try again another time. Even as adults, people aren’t always in the mood to share or ready to process their day. Some people also need time to process internally before they share with loved ones. Others need time to talk it through without someone offering solutions or trying to help. Even if kids never answer the actual question, the goal is simply to talk and connect and remind each child that God and many people in his/her life love and care.

The questions are in no particular order:

Was there a time in your day that you especially noticed God at work?
What was the funniest thing that happened today?
What is one thing you feel like God was trying to teach you today?
What is one thing you are glad God taught you before today happened?
Was there a time today that you felt like you were growing or changing?
What is something that went better today than yesterday?
Were you lonely at all today? How can I help you remember how loved you are?
What was the part of your day you hope happens again and why?
Who did you notice today that might be having a tough time?
How could I pray for you while you are at school tomorrow?
Which super power would have helped you most today? (Becoming invisible? Flying? Reading minds? Other?)
Is there a moment this week that you wish you could do-over?
When did you especially need a reminder that God loves you and is for you and with you?
If your day was a movie (or book or tv show), which one would it be?
If your day was an animal, which one would it be and why? (slow like a sloth? Mean? Funny? Weird? Soft? Nice? Full of energy? Pointy?)
What songs would have been in the soundtrack of today? When would each one play?
How did God use you for someone else today? How did God use someone else for you today?
What is one thing you are looking forward to this week? Month? Year?
Who did you talk to today?
Did God give you any reminders today?
Which person from the Bible would have been able to relate to your day today?
What is something you learned today that you didn’t know before?
What was easy or challenging for you today?
Who did you sit with for lunch? (recess, bus)
On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate today and why?
If you could trade places with someone, who would it be and when?
Which room at school do you like to be in most? Least?
What are you worried or stressed about? (For some kids, they may describe worry as tummy feeling funny or head feeling full so adults can use the words they use.)
What are you proud of?
What is one thing you wish someone else understood?
What was on your mind most often today?
Who do you wish could be your friend but isn’t yet?

See you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
605-336-1475
NURSERY FOR INFANT-2 YEAR OLDS OPENING SEPT 6

This week we are excited to open 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.

Also, volunteers and families who use the nursery, please watch for a survey coming your way in the next few weeks to help us determine how to better serve you in the nursery.

THE GIVE STARTS SEPT 6

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPT 6TH: 8, 9, 11:00AM– IN-PERSON AND ONLINE SERVICES

MONDAY, SEPT 7: OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, SEPT 8: 7:00PM– AA MEETING

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, Sept. 16, at 9am at the church. We will be discussing Where The Crawdads Sing by Owens. (The October book is I Will Always Write Back by Ganda- each member finds own copy.)

The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 7pm. We will be discussing To Kill A Mockingbird by Lee.

FINANCES
Sunday, Aug 30, 2020

General: $10,871
Vision: $1,050
Missions: $365
Faith Ave: $1,674

General YTD: $515,815
Vision YTD: $95,513
Vision Account Balance: $125,576
September is here, and along with it comes the start of our middle school and high school youth group. Starting this Wednesday, September 2nd, our middle school group will be meeting from 7-8 and our high school group will be meeting from 8-9. I am really looking forward to being back together for the school year and to get going in our series this month. With everything going on, there have been a few changes including the room set up, times for both groups and some reminders for our group and interaction with COVID. While we will not be requiring masks, students are welcome to wear a mask and can know that I will be wearing a mask unless upfront teaching/leading/explaining what is going on. It will be very similar to the guidelines that my wife follows as she teaches in Harrisburg.

This month, both the high school and middle school groups will be starting the year in a series on the gospel in 3 parts – creation, fall and redemption. I start this way every year as it focuses our attention and leads the conversation for everything else we will study throughout the year. In Jesus, our foundation is set and because of His great love, life, death and resurrection we are forgiven and free in the promises God has given us. Each time I lead this it is a little different which is also really neat to take note of as new little pieces of truth seem to be revealed each time I prepare for the series.

On a completely different note, and one that is not really youth related at all – Abby and I are expecting second Baby Burnside! We are both very excited to be adding another one to our family and look forward to seeing Oliver take on the role of Big Brother! He seems to have days that he is really excited and others he has no interest in the idea at all :)

Back to youth – as we get going this year, I would ask that you join me in prayer for the start of youth group together. As we journey through the year, flexibility may be the word of the year. While there are sure to be some unknowns that wait ahead, I am looking forward to starting the year off together. If you have any questions, please feel free to send them my way!

Doyle Burnside
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW THIS WEEK

- Gary Van Den Hoek (surgery recovery)
- Helen Robinson’s son, Galen (heart stent recovery)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Darla Anderson’s daughter, Emma
- Jeanie Nollman (healing of toe)
- Tracee Ellwein’s dad (skin & muscle graft)
- 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 Van Wyhe (brain bleed)
- Holli Jans’ dad, Milt (cancer hormone therapy)
- Susan Bierwagen (broken leg)
- Clayton Bierwagen (heart)
- Jodie Jensen (cancer)
- Chelle McMurrey’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)
- Wacie Persson’s mom (cancer)
- Tami Harm’s cousin (colon cancer)
- Melanie Oden’s dad, David
- Audrey Landegents’ son, David (cancer)
- Matt Marcus’ dad (prostate cancer)
- Dree & Hawk Mayer’s sister-in-law, Beth (stroke)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Tami Boyle’s dad (prostate cancer)
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.

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