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.

CLYDE'S UPDATE

I am sitting in my office on this Tuesday morning reading about the snow in the Black Hills and hearing a little rain on the roof. I guess that would be a fall kind of day. It sure felt like it this morning when I stepped out of the house. There will be plenty of warm days ahead, I am sure, but it gets your attention that a new season is coming. I’m ok with that. I had a busy weekend with a wedding and the passing of our dear Clazina and her life celebration on Monday. I know that many of you were doing some last-minute summer fun things this past weekend before life gets busy again. I am reminded that life continues to move. The world does not stop for us. Moving on is an on-going theme, and that we can do.

Sunday morning church was probably the largest number of people we have seen since all this crazy thing started back in March. I guess people felt like coming to church. It was nice to see a good group. We are still not so full that is not safe. People are doing all this pretty well. I know...it’s not easy and not how we want it, but we will get it done. I have had people ask me if they think people will ever come back. I don’t look on the negative side of things very often. I am pretty sure they will. My reason? I think when this is done most people are just going to GO to anything and everything...just to do something finally. We’re here for you.

We did nursery on Sunday. I heard it went well. I know that crew got a few extra things worked out in there to do their best. I guess that will be a work in progress as well. I’ll keep in touch with those folks and keep you informed as to how all of that is going. Staff is still working out details of doing what we can for the fall. It will be different. It has to be for more reasons than you might think. Yes, COVID is a problem that keeps on giving. It’s hard to know how to do enough and yet be safe for those who really need that. It’s hard to get volunteers to commit to the unknown. I am sure you are all smart enough to see how that all can go. Remember, your opinion and thoughts are yours...not everyone sees it the same. These are interesting times.

I still don’t know much about the new street. That has actually been rather fun trying to figure out. You will just have to wait and see with the rest of us. It’s like a new adventure for each of us. We need a little excitement like that to keep us on our toes.

Consistory meets this week. We have a number of things to work through, many things around fall schedules and that sort of thing. They are a good bunch of folks. I really enjoy this leader group. I have been asked about the new consistory members. We stopped the election if you remember because of COVID. I don’t know how to get that going. People aren’t here...how do they vote? Ugh! See what I mean? COVID, the gift that keeps on giving! (That was a little bit of humor...I hope you picked up on that.). These days you have to be very careful about humor...people are a bit wound up and they don’t smile as much.

Sunday, we continue with our series on the disciples. We move to apostle number 2 this week. He will be a very simple story to share. Actually, there is very little said about him. He is from that same area in Galilee as so many of the others, but we don’t hear much about him. What kind of a message can we build around him? Why would Jesus pick him? What does this story tell us about God’s redemptive motivation in the world? We have some good questions to think about. We’ll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!
It’s the fourth week of book recommendations! This week, we’ll look at some Hard-Level Adult reads. Please don’t be put off by the distinction “Hard-Level.” What this means is that you’ll just have to turn your brains on and focus a bit more as you read through these books. And trust me when I say they are totally worth the effort! I also heard from one of our librarians, and they do have most of these books in our church library! So be sure to check it out the next time you’re at church!

**Hard-Level Adult Reads**

**The Knowledge of the Holy - A.W. Tozer**
Tozer was an American pastor who served churches during the middle of the last century. This book talks about exactly what the title indicates; the holiness of God. It’s a shorter read in which Tozer discusses what holiness is, what makes God holy, and how God’s holiness makes us holy, which in turn changes the world in which we live. Tozer is a succinct writer who is able to pack a ton of information into just a few words. His writing is challenging but it’s also incredibly applicable to our present day.

**Knowing Christ Today - Dallas Willard**
Of all the Dallas Willard books I have read, this one is easily his most complex and most complicated, but its message is desperately needed in today’s world. Dallas writes about the fact that we can actually prove that we have knowledge of God. In a culture where everything (especially God) is questioned, and it has become popular to say, “Nothing is certain,” Dallas shows us how knowledge of God can be absolutely certain. This book addresses common questions about God from “the world” and offers true and scholarly replies to these questions. I love it. ☑️

**The Challenge of Jesus - N.T. Wright**
N.T. Wright is a present-day scholar and theologian from England who specializes in Christology, which is basically the study of Christ and His impact in the world. This book will take you into the depths of how Jesus would have been received by the Jewish community in the first century, what “Messiah” meant to the Hebrew people, and how Jesus turned all of their expectations upside down as He came to fulfill prophecies and laws. It’s a scholarly read that is also powerful in the sense that you will come to know Jesus Christ in a fuller and more comprehensive way.

**A Long Obedience in the Same Direction - Eugene Peterson**
Most of you will know Eugene Peterson as the man who translated The Message Bible. He recently passed away but had worked as a pastor in America for decades. This book is about discipleship and the reality that discipleship is a lifelong process… a long obedience in the same direction. This book will encourage you to see life as a marathon rather than a sprint and will offer wisdom and support as you walk the long walk.

If you have any questions about these books, don’t hesitate to ask! Our final list is coming up next week!

Have a great week!

Liz

Liz.Teel@communityrc.org
Hello Everyone!

If I seem a little older the next time you see me, it is because I turned 40 last week! It was a really great day and weekend of enjoying life with family and I was blessed by a pretty incredible surprise birthday “event.” My husband told some friends and family that for my birthday, there would be a collection of used and new shoes and backpacks to send to the kids in Haiti. He then set up our security camera to capture the drop-offs on our front deck. Some other friends shipped backpacks and shoes or dropped them off later. This was an incredibly fun surprise! I got home from work and my front deck was covered in shoes and backpacks! He had said we'd try to collect 40 pairs of shoes and 40 backpacks to celebrate 40 years but that goal was far surpassed by sweet family and friends. The kids in Haiti will be getting almost 100 pairs of shoes and almost 100 backpacks. This was a birthday I won't forget any time soon. Another friend gifted me with a gorgeous handcrafted mug with art depicting my favorite TV show, “I Love Lucy” and a couple of friends surprised me with sweet treats and coffee. My family took me to a favorite restaurant for a meal on the patio. All of this made for a special week filled with so many of my favorites. It was abundantly clear to me that I am both known and loved by some pretty special people.

As I was talking with a friend about what a fun celebration this was for me, she noted how well my husband must know me to know exactly what would bring me the most joy on my birthday. I agree! We talked about what a gift it is to be loved and to also be understood. That conversation really got in my head as I thought about God’s love for me and for each of us. We are truly understood by our Savior, not just for the best parts of us, but for our struggles as well. Jesus not only understands us completely, but He loves us perfectly. My humanness can’t really grasp that concept fully but I am just floored by the idea that the Creator of everything knows me well enough to not just know what would make the perfect surprise on a milestone birthday, but to know what is best for me in every moment of every day and every year of my entire life. My hope in my job at Community is to be able to help kids begin to understand that kind of love. It is life changing.

See you soon!
Heather DeWit
Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
605-336-1475
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPT 13TH: 8, 9, 11:00AM— IN-PERSON AND ONLINE SERVICES

TUESDAY, SEPT 15:
7:00PM— AA MEETING
7:00PM— BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 16:
9:00AM— BOOK CLUB

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.

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.

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

MISSION OF THE MONTH— SEPTEMBER
The Banquet
It's a great time to stop at the library for some fall and back-to-school reading. We have items for all reading levels starting at board books and leveled readers. We've been adding some great kids' picture books. Some of those are on display in the library window.

Speaking of displays, we have a new theme on the big display right outside the library door. One side is tied to the sermons and the other is all about food. This includes fiction with the theme of baking, restaurants, supper clubs, catering, you name it. We also have nonfiction on food as a place of gathering that also feeds souls. This display is definitely worth checking out.

Some of those are on display in the library window.

(On a side note, we are looking for either of two copies of a hardcover book titled Delusion, one with a library card pocket and one without [librarian's personal copy on loan]. If you have either of these copies, please finish reading and return to the library. Thank you.)

Remember that we librarians love to offer ideas for you according to what you enjoy reading or viewing but you can check out items without us, too, any time that the church is open.

Great things happening here. Check it out!

Your librarians,
Trudi, Lois, Lorena, and Merry
COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH
6800 E. 41 STREET
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57110

SEPT. 9, 2020

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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John Thornton
Part-time Visitation Pastor
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Holli Jans
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