

CLYDE'S ARTICLE

As the end of July is fast approaching, we are feeling a little more of that summer heat and humidity. I know we all expected that would be coming before summer was finished. It is what summers are all about, friends. We have been getting some those little showers that seem to find their way into our area. Hopefully we can keep that going into August for a bit. So far summer has been a good one. As I say each week, I know that many of you are out there enjoying it a bunch. I still see vacation phots and ballgames still happening. I have seen a little more activity around the schools here lately, so I know some of that planning is coming as well. Enjoy summer friends because it will be gone before you know it.

Monday evening, we started Bible School. It was a record night! That's right...a record night! It was the most kids on the first night ever. That was so much fun to see. Over 200 kids and I don't know how many adults, but the room was pretty lively. We certainly do have some great volunteers who make all of that at happen. Heather had it all organized so well. That is one of her best attributes as a children's ministry director. She is detailed and that matters when 200 plus kids hit the room. Liz of course is doing what she does so well from the front of the room, leading all the opening music and sharing. The two of them make a pretty great team! Again, let me just say, the two of them could not do it without all the workers who do so much to make the real nuts and bolts of VBS work. We are blessed and we know it! Great job Community! Christmas has indeed arrived in July! The kids are loving it!

Our family has been doing a little bluegrass music around the area this summer. We don't do it all that much, but it is something we do enjoy putting together. I don't generally talk about that so much from the front of church or even in newsletters. I am trying to keep all that separate from what I do here, but music is a big part of my life and always will. Dalton and I have been working on a new record in my basement. We have been working on that for a couple of years now. Gathering song ideas and doing some recording. If you are going to do it right, it takes time and everyone has jobs so you can't just go at it 100%. Still, I am looking forward to getting that project finished. I think there is going to be some of the best things on there we have ever done. I'll keep you informed.

I have been working on some of the planning for a couples retreat this coming year. I did get some feedback and I do think something like that would be a great thing to do. I am looking for a guest presenter and trying to give some thought as to the best time to have that. I think that stretch in late January through February is a good time. It's usually just cold then. I think we all remember last winter. I'm sure you all haven't forgotten that. I'll be in touch as time moves along.

I was also planning on some of my vacation time for the fall. Actually, for me, that means hunting. I start getting excited for that even now. Sunday will be a surprise as far as the message goes. That's all I will say about that for now. We'll talk more in a couple of weeks. Have a great week!

Wednesday, July 26 6:00-7:45pm- VBS

JULY 26- AUG 2

Thursday, July 27 6:00-7:45pm- VBS

Saturday, July 29

7:00am- Prayer Ministry 10:00AM- AA (via Zoom) See details page 2 for details

Sunday, July 30 8:00, 9:00 & 10:45AM- Worship Service 10:10am- Adult Sunday School

> Tuesday, Aug 1 9:30-11am- Play Group



MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

SEPT 16

Saturday, September 16 9am-3:30pm @ New Life Church in Sioux Center, IA

Dr. Gary Chapman, author of the best-selling book The 5 Love Languages, will be in person to lead "The 5 Love Language Marriage Conference." Cost: \$59/ couple or \$39 for a single person Includes lunch and all materials

This one-day marriage conference is for couples of all ages, whether newly married or married for many years. The primary purpose is to help bless and strengthen marriages in our surrounding communities. Dating couples, engaged couples, and single people who want to know more about the 5 Love Languages are also encouraged to attend.

To Register: nlrchurch.org/events.

SUMMER ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The adult Sunday School class will continue to meet throughout the summer months. Everyone welcome! Sundays @ 10:10am in the Chapel

FINANCES

Sunday, July 23, 2023

General: \$20,129 Vision: \$305 Missions: \$130

General YTD: \$545,166 Vision YTD: \$38,271

Vision Account Balance: \$22,800

ONGOING MINISTIRES

•••• PRAYER MINISTRY

Join us for prayer on Saturday mornings at 7am via Zoom or in person in our chapel.

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 Password: 853781

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

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Feeding South Dakota Backpack Program

.... AA BIG BOOK MEETING

For the summer months, AA will be meeting via Zoom on Saturdays at 10:00am.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87467618339? pwd=N1Niems0MG5vdk0reVZUTHIIWkgx Zz09

Please contact Tom Jacobs (tjstonegate@gmail.com) for meeting access.

•••• SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, August 14 at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

•••• BOOK CLUBS

The evening book club will meet on Tuesday, August 15, at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing The Dutch House by Patchett.

The morning book club will meet on Wed., Aug. 16, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave. We will be discussing Nightingale by Hannah.

' HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle will not meet for the summer. We resume in September.

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS

SEPT. 24



PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- · Betty Kelley (heart stents)
- · Jon & Jane Klemme's son, Josh (heart valve replacement 7/11)
- · Holli Jans' dad, Milt (cancer)
- · Larry Oostra (heart surgery recovery)
- · Junella Wesselink's sister (cancer)
- · Barb Klein
- · Kathy Klein
- · Kyle Wigg (liver transplant recovery)
- · Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- · Leah Reuwsaat's mom, Marie
- · Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- · Aaralyn Van Der Sloot
- · Angie Bonnema's dad
- · Rick Norris (cancer)
- · Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris
- · Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer treatments)
- Irwin Van Leeuwen (cancer treatment)
- · Steve Lee (awaiting lung transplant)
- · Jenna Hoogendoorn (transplant recovery)
- · Marcia Groeneweg's daughter, Rhonda (chemo)
- Kristy Mouw's sister-in-law, Mindy (cancer)
- · Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)
- · Jodie Jensen (cancer treatments/heart)
- · Tracee Ellwein's dad





Hello Everyone!

Well, I don't think I can quite put into words how Vacation Bible School is going so far, so I'll try to show you with a few pictures. If you are reading this and haven't come to a night of VBS yet, please stop out and see the action. You won't be disappointed.

If you'd like to help the kids with their offering goal of helping to furnish homes for people displaced by the war in Ukraine, please feel free to make your donation either directly to Arise Ukraine or through Community. The enthusiasm the kids have for this ministry seems to be contagious and I'm thankful for their hearts for Jesus.

Please remember to pray for the high school students at Rocky Mountain High as they drive back this week and return to "normal life" after a special experience together.

I'll share more pictures from the rest of VBS next week as well when we get photos from our wonderful volunteer photographer.

See you soon!
-Heather
<u>Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org</u>
605-336-1475





VBS is in full swing, and as of opening night, we have a record number of kids participating! If you are free Wednesday or Thursday night from 6:00-7:45, I encourage you to come out and watch over 200 kids worshipping God and learning about His love for us. It's a powerful time!

Early in the summer I mentioned that I always do a lot of reading during these months with the intention of choosing topics for adult classes as well as having books to recommend to those of you who like to read. This week, I'll share three of those reading recommendations.

George MacDonald by C.S. Lewis – This is a very different book from Lewis' other books. In it, he has chosen to compile 365 quotes and short writing pieces by George MacDonald. MacDonald was hugely influential for Lewis to ultimately come to know Christ as his Savior. And Lewis felt that a compilation of this type would be enjoyed by his readers. The introduction to the book gives insight into the many ways Lewis was influenced by MacDonald. And the quotes are listed by subject area. MacDonald was a brilliant man who understood his Christian faith in a powerful way. I really enjoyed reading all of the entries. After I read that book, I was surprised at how many other authors quote MacDonald, but I had never noticed before!

Collection on Prayer: Humility, Absolute Surrender, The Ministry of Intercession, The Power of the Blood of Jesus, and Others by Andrew Murray – This is a collection of several of his books. Andrew Murray was a South African teacher and pastor who was born in 1828 and died in 1917. His writings on prayer are some of the best I've ever read. And his writings on humility and the sin of pride will stop you in your tracks. In my opinion, they could not be more appropriate or applicable to our culture. His writing is direct yet loving and extremely applicable even for our time.

Joyful Surrender: 7 Disciplines for the Believer's Life by Elisabeth Elliot – Elisabeth Elliot was the wife of a missionary (Jim Elliot) who was killed by the very people they went to save. She was an exceptional teacher and writer and impacted many people. Her writings are direct, and she doesn't mince her words. This was an interesting read for me because although I agree with about 90% of what she says and how she says it, I disagree with the other 10%. ©It was good for me to read those parts because it forced me to ask myself some deep-thinking questions. Why do I disagree with this? Do we actually agree but I would have said it differently? Is there room for a different scriptural interpretation about this issue or not? Etc. Please note that we do not disagree on the fundamental issues of faith (We would both say that Jesus is God and salvation is by grace through faith, etc.). I just have some different thoughts than she did about other life circumstances and callings. She was an excellent and honest writer, and she clearly knew Jesus with her whole heart. This book will be worth your time.

As the rest of the summer carries on, I hope to have a few more recommendations for you before we kick off fall activities!

Have a good week and stay cool out there!

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JULY 26, 2023

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REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM...

If you would like to request membership or baptism, please e-mail the church office at connect@communityrc.org.
We are doing individual family baptism after the 10:45am service until further notice.

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.