



THE COMMUNICATOR

MARCH 29, 2023

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

MISSION HAITI

Love Jesus.
Love Others.
Make Disciples.

Mission-Haiti's purpose is to show the love of God by developing and equipping strong Christian leaders in Haiti for the cause of Christ

CLYDE'S ARTICLE

We are into the last week of March. I have heard that maybe by the end of this week, we might be feeling some spring-like temps. I will be most happy to see that. We are all a little weary of this cold and snow. Spring will be a welcomed sight for us. Either way the calendar keeps moving along, and this week we arrive at Palm Sunday. It gets here so quickly. This year Easter did come early on the calendar, so that does make a difference. No matter what the weather may feel like, it is Palm Sunday.

Continue to pray for those on the prayer list. There are some desert times for many in our church right now. They tell me how much they do appreciate the prayers and the cards they may get from so many of you who do that sort of thing. It is all good work that goes on behind the scenes here. That is awesome Community!

This week's scripture is from that story in the gospel of Matthew. In chapter 21, Matthew records this account of the Messiah coming to Jerusalem. The crowds were going to gather and there is excitement in the air.

Matthew 21:9-10. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

I have said many times that Palm Sunday is a troubling story in that the people, though excited now, will soon lose faith in Jesus. They will become disillusioned with his way and ask Herod to crucify him. What I find so interesting is that what they believed at one level is right on message. Yes, this is your new King. He is worthy of your praise! He is the chosen one the God came to save his people! Hosanna Indeed! However, their understanding of God was misguided. Their theology has a flaw. This week, friends, consider your God's ways. Think about what Jesus came to do then and what he does now. He is the great redeemer who still comes to redeem us and all those around us! That is who He is! Praise the name of Jesus. Amen!

We do our last Midweek on Wednesday night. We will have pizza for supper and then gather everyone in the worship center and sing! It is a night to recognize the worker, teachers, sponsors, and volunteers for another good year. This year Midweek stayed consistent with the numbers. The weather did affect us a few times, but we kept some good energy going all year. Lots of good things happen there. I will say more next week!

Sunday is Palm Sunday as I mentioned earlier. The story is well known by most of you. There are many traditions attached to Palm Sunday. The first one was actually an outburst of Jewish tradition, as well. Our theme has been "wandering". How does this story fit into the wandering theme? It does. It does...very well. Sometimes we are wandering, and we don't even know it. Our overconfidence is spurred on by traditions of the past. Any one of us can lose track of the nature of God and His ways. In their case, they will destroy the very One they expected would come and save them. There is so much to consider. We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

YOU
BELONG
HERE

UPCOMING DATES



Thursday, April 6th 7:00pm- Maundy Thursday Service

Join us at 7pm for the Maundy Thursday Communion Service!
We'll also Livestream this service.

Sunday, April 23rd Congregational Meeting 10:10am

This congregational meeting will be to draw
for consistory members. Names will be printed as
soon as the slate is finalized.

.....

WELCOME

We welcome these new members
to Community!

Abby Hageman
Marissa and Austin Baker

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 29

5:30-6:30pm- Midweek Meal- Pizza
6:30-7:30pm- Praise & Worship
7:30-8:30pm- High School Youth Group

Saturday, April 1

7:00am- Prayer Ministry
10:00AM- AA

Sunday, April 2

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45AM- Worship Service
10:05am-Sunday School

Monday, April 3

7:00-8:00PM- The Wired Word
7:00pm-WD40

Tuesday, April 4

9:30-11am- Play Group

.....

AA BIG BOOK MEETING

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.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday,
April 10 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, April 18, at 7 pm at the church. We
will be discussing The Silent Patient.

The morning book club will meet on
Wednesday, April 19, at 9 am at the Bagel
Boy on Minnesota Ave. We will be discussing
Mind of Her Own.

HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle will meet on April 18th at
7:00pm. Carol is hostess and Marjie has the
lesson.



Our Nursery Director, Sheri Brouwer, has resigned, and we are ready to choose our next Nursery Director. We are so thankful to Sheri Brouwer for serving as our Nursery Director for the last 12 years.

The **Nursery Director** keeps the big picture in mind as he/she leads the Nursery Coordinators and volunteers to carry out the ministry of the nursery. He or she is flexible and creative in problem solving and supports the team with encouragement, joy, and a vision for the ministry in the nursery. He or/ she works to ensure that Jesus stays the heart of the nursery and that all parents and children feel welcome, safe, and loved.

The hours this position requires are somewhat flexible as the Nursery Director works with Coordinators to create a schedule for Sundays and Wednesdays.

This position is paid hourly.

If this job interests you, please let us know by emailing: Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org.

.....



There are two new mini-sections in the library for a while. These are housed on the wall shelves just below the "new in a series" books. One of these is on the subject of grief and loss. One of these is on the subject of cancer. Each contain a variety of genres (nonfiction, memoir, etc.) and topics.

Remember to ask a librarian for ideas or a "where to find it" as we love to help.



Your church librarians,
Trudi, Lois, Lorena, and Merry

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Rick Hansen (neck pain)
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Jeff Veltkamp (shoulder surgery)
- Kyle Wigg (liver disease)
- Joe Johnson (traveling to China)
- Verle Valentine (hip surgery recovery)
- Marv Sturing (new chemo for cancer)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Aaralyn Van Der Slood
- Carrie Valentine (fractured ankle/foot)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Marv Vos (double hip replacement)
- Angie Bonnema's dad (whipple surgery)
- Rick Norris (cancer)
- Cherri Price (ongoing chemo)
- Glenda Van Den Hoek
- Nicole Ryan (deployed for 6 months)
- Gina Jean Baptiste- teacher from Frederique school in Haiti (amputated leg & lost pregnancy after accident)
- Karen Johnson (heart issues)
- Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris (surgery recovery)
- Randi Van Der Slood (cancer treatments)
- Leah Reuwsaat's mom, Marie
- Marcia Groeneweg's brother-in-law (leukemia)
- Irwin Van Leeuwen (cancer treatment)
- Steve Lee (lung transplant postponed)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (transplant recovery)
- Melanie Oden's uncle, Bruce (cancer)
- 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)
- Darla Anderson's friend, Vonnie (cancer)
- Tracee Ellwein's dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Harvey & Karen Odens' great niece, Lydia (cancer)

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Ross Larson and his family on the passing of his father. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our condolences go out to Tad Boyle and his family on the passing of his step-mother, Susan Boyle. Please keep them in your prayers.

A photograph of four children of diverse backgrounds playing outdoors, surrounded by many large, iridescent bubbles. They are all smiling and reaching out towards the bubbles. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting trees or foliage.

KID'S MINISTRY

HEATHER'S UPDATE

Hello Everyone,

Last week I wrapped up my first draft of the VBS Lesson plans for craft and for the Bible lesson. I've still got quite a bit of VBS work to do, but those portions require a different kind of creativity and quiet, so it is nice to have them checked off the list as I also am needing to write next year's 2nd grade and 4th Grade Sunday School curriculum. I'll dive into VBS games and decorations soon as well, but they use a different part of my brain.

Here's the tentative plan for VBS. I think it will be good for kids AND the rest of us!

Monday- GOD'S LOVE IS FOR US- Birth of Jesus- Older kids will see us inflate a balloon using vinegar and baking soda. God's timing is always just right! Younger kids will get to do some adorable rhyming activities, play with nativity toys, and explore the Bible story together.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Tuesday- GOD'S HOPE IS FOR US- Shepherds and Magi- Hope! Now there's a word that means many different things to different people. The hope in Jesus is the kind of hope that comes with expecting and knowing that Jesus loves us! Those Wisemen showed up with gifts for a King!

Luke 2:11 "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord"

Wednesday-GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS FOR US- Jesus died for our Sins- Older kids will see a science demonstration that will show us that Jesus takes away our sin. We all sin, but Jesus conquered sin and death forever. Younger kids get to move the characters on the flannel to see what happens. The story doesn't end there! If you want to see God on the move, sharing the gospel truth with the kids is an amazing way to use your summer evenings.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Thursday-GOD'S POWER IS FOR US- The tomb is empty- Jesus is alive!- See? The story didn't end at the cross. Jesus is alive! The power of the resurrection changes us. God's power is so big! Older kids will have an unforgettable reminder of power. Younger kids get to learn a finger play/ rhyme called "Do you know the Son of God?" by Thursday, I think they'll say, "YES!"

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

If you haven't chosen your volunteer spot, I encourage you to do so right away. It takes many of us to make Christmas in July a reality. If you haven't signed up your kids yet, do so or at least save the dates on your calendar. The excitement is building, even with the snow flying. ☺

<https://communityrc.org/vbs>

See you soon!

Heather DeWit

Community Kids

Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org

605-336-1475



A top-down photograph of hands holding coffee cups and a tablet on a wooden table. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue overlay at the top where the title is located.

LIZ'S UPDATE

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

This week marks the last night of our Mid-Week ministry! It's been such a fantastic time of learning and growing together. To celebrate the end of Mid-Week, we'll be having pizza for supper, and we'll follow that with a time of praise and worship. Everyone is welcome to attend. Pizza will be served starting at 5:30, and the worship will start at 6:30. We always finish by 7:30. If you're free on Wednesday night, come join us.

I'd also like take time in my article this week to say thank you to the adults who volunteered to teach adult classes during Mid-Week. It's a sizeable commitment to prepare and teach a class every single week. Thanks to Pastor John for his Revelation class, to Pastor Clyde for his Resurrection class, and to Grace Collins for her class for young women. I love being able to offer those different learning opportunities to adults throughout the year.

This past weekend, my sister and I went to Bonesteel, SD to speak and lead worship at a women's conference hosted by Overflow Ministries, which is a local group of Christian women who are looking to bring spiritual revival and growth to that area. We were able to stay with Grandma Lucy while we were in the area, which is always a gift! Then we led sessions on Friday night and Saturday morning/afternoon. We met women from south central SD and north central NE! It was a lovely time of authentic conversations and creating space to encounter Jesus. Saying yes to opportunities like that is always humbling – we realize how little power we have to change people. And yet God is always graciously inviting us to be a part of the work HE does in people. We just bring our best and trust God to do what God wants to do. It was a blessing all the way around! Thanks to those of you who prayed for us last weekend!

Don't forget to register your kids for VBS this summer! And please bring in those Christmas wrapped boxes to help us with decorating. Anytime is a good time to bring a wrapped box! Remember VBS is July 24-27.

And lastly, we celebrate Palm Sunday this Sunday, which is followed immediately by Holy Week. At Community, we always to a Maundy Thursday Communion service. Everyone is welcome to worship with us at 7:00pm on April 6th.

Have a wonderful week, friends!

Liz

Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

DOYLES'S UPDATE

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



It's pizza and praise week. It is always a bittersweet night as it brings an end to midweek but is so great to get together and praise one last night. It also signals a new season as we celebrate Easter, the final quarter gets underway for students, the weather begins to warm up and summer plans begin to fill the calendar.

While midweek as a whole is finishing up, Sunday School continues on along with the high school group on Wednesday nights into May. For the high school group, this is a great opportunity for our 8th grade students as they are welcome to join the high school group Wednesdays on April 12th and April 19th. This allows our soon to be freshman to get introduced to other high school students here at Community. Some who they know well from time together in middle school, and some who they may have only seen in passing. There are some new times for the group as we will do a meal from 6:00-7:00 and then have our lesson hour from 7:00-8:00. Like normal midweek, students are also free to stay after for some games and conversation.

Middle school – with midweek finishing up, I do want to highlight a few things for you that will still go on before the school year ends. First, Sunday School will continue to meet through the start of May. Come join me Sunday mornings as we finish the year in some questions and books that you as students submitted at the start of the year. Then, we will have one more event at the end of April. I will be setting up the 9 square in the air that we have here and will have a meal and some fun outside (as long as the weather warms up). Finally, we will do a few things throughout the summer. I will be getting a calendar for the summer put together in the next few weeks and will get that to you all following Easter.

That wraps up things for this week. If you have any questions about the student ministry here at Community, feel free to reach out anytime.

Doyle
Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org
605-310-2561

SIGN UP!

MONDAY NIGHTS

CHURCH SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL TEAM

CONTACT DOYLE BURNSIDE.
DOYLE.BURNSIDE@COMMUNITYRC.ORG



**INTERESTED IN PLAYING
CHURCH SOFTBALL
(ON MONDAY NIGHTS)
THIS SUMMER?**

Contact Doyle Burnside
doyle.burnside@communityrc.org
or sign up at The Link in the lobby.

early childhood weekday
PLAY GROUP
free, all are welcome
TUESDAYS
9:30-11:00AM

Parents/ Grandparents/ Caregivers and Kids
younger than Kindergarten age will join together
for open play time in the
Community Nursery as they enjoy time together.
Questions? Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org
or 605-336-1475

FINANCES

Sunday, March 26, 2023

General: \$27,014
Vision: \$515
Missions: \$235
Wednesday Night: \$185

General YTD: \$187,729
Vision YTD: \$15,017
Vision Account Balance: \$29,124

CONSISTORY NOTES

MARCH 16, 2023

Attendance: Pastor Clyde, Russ, Tom VR, Robin, Tom Bosch, Shawn, Mary, Lyle, Logan, Kenny, Tanner, Grant, and Joel

Devotions regarding coaching kids, how you can represent Jesus in the way we react with them. – Lyle pinch hit for Stan.

Opening with Prayer Mary

MSA the minutes from February 9, 2023

MSA of the financial reports for February given by Lyle .

Old Business

·Address needs to discuss with congregation possible changes to nomination for consistory members. Relatively few nominations have been received. Is there a way to offer nomination process and support that process through some other way (such as a nomination committee.)

·Planning has started to form a committee to review and suggest possible updates to the bylaws, with the departure from the RCA into the Kingdom Network.

·Sanctuary lighting was delayed due to weather conditions. The process should be started soon. With hopes (but no assurance) that it will be completed by Maundy Thursday services.

New Business

Reports –Doyle, Liz, and Heather were reviewed.

· M/S/A to respectfully accept the resignation of Sheri Brouwer from her role as nursery coordinator, effective later this spring.

oSheri has held this position for 12 years!

oAn appreciation Sunday will take place, at a later time.

· M/S/A to advertise and pursue for a nursery coordinator replacement.

· Kingdom Network updates

oMary Burggraaf and Joel Blankers have been assigned as representatives to our Kingdom Network Hub, administration team.

· Discussion and approval to talk with the local chapter of “Classical Conversation” for the possible use of meeting rooms in Community for some upcoming meetings/events.

Pastor Clyde closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Joel Blankers, clerk