



THE COMMUNICATOR

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH

MARCH 16, 2022

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

This morning (Tuesday) the sun is trying to break through the fog and the trees are covered with frost. I love that look. At some point this morning the sky is going to be blue and the trees white with frost. There is just something about those kinds of mornings that is so beautiful. The day is supposed to get warmer as well. It seems like spring this morning. I know... don't get too far ahead, but it is a nice day to let that thought run around in my head for a bit. The cold has been around a bit this winter. I know we could use a little rain. I hope that comes at some point as well. We live in a place where all that matters, and we are pretty good at adapting. It is a good skill to develop.

Ukraine is on our hearts. This Sunday we will do a special offering time for them. A prayer over the nation. A prayer for peace and a prayer for the people who suffer. In the name of Jesus we will enter that time. Pray for what God may be asking to offer. The Spirit will guide. God is with them. I am confident of that!

Sunday, I saw some faces that I haven't seen in some time. I know the COVID numbers have really gone down considerably in the past weeks. That change is bringing people back. Slowly, but they are coming. I know there are still many who are being cautious. We have always said, do what you need to do. We understand. I know lots of people are online and I am so glad we have that. What I have noticed is that they get to see me, but I don't get to see them. I miss that. Connections are important. I am hoping that time will put us back together again. It is exciting to think about. It has been a long season. I don't believe I need to tell you...you already know.

Easter is getting closer. It is hard to believe that we have already hit the middle days of March, but that is where the calendar is. It is an exciting time for churches because the cross and the resurrection are the center pieces of our faith journey. Without those, we are just another religion trying to figure God out. With them, we are a people forgiven and lifted up. It is a promised new life in Christ. Easter is a good time!

I have at least one more informational meeting planned. I am contacting a couple of other presenters to come and share another possible choice for us in all this denominational conversation. I have a feeling most of us are not aware that there are other possible choices. It's nothing radical, just another choice. First Reformed in Orange City has chosen this new route for their church. I think we should give it a consideration as well. There are other churches doing that as well. I'll explain more about that in next week's newsletter. I keep saying I want to give you all the information I can give you so you can make an informed decision. Keep talking with each other. Visit with me if you want. We are all learning as we go.

Sunday, the message once again is about the direction Jesus chose. He is coming to Jerusalem to give his life for people who are going to start to turn on him. He is going to be popular for a few hours and then very unpopular. A sudden change comes over the crowd. We get the Jesus who is the Messiah. We'll talk more on Sunday, have a great week!



NEW

PIZZA

& praise/worship

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

5:30-6:30pm
Pizza from Papa Johns

6:30-7:30pm
Praise & Worship

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 3
10:10am

This congregational meeting will be to draw for consistory members. Nominees will be printed in the newsletter as soon as the slate is completed.

MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY, MARCH 25 6:30PM

Voice of the Martyrs presents:
Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years is the story of how God's love transformed an ambitious, atheistic hedonist into one of the greatest Christian women of the 20th century.

Movie is rated PG-13.



FINANCES

Sunday, March 13, 2022

General: \$10,095
Vision: \$1,155
Missions: \$935
Wed. Night: \$204

General YTD: \$172,003
Vision YTD: \$16,454
Vision Account Balance: \$43,674

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

5:30-6:30pm- meal- Soup Night
6:30-7:30pm- Midweek Classes for Children, Middle School Youth Group & Adults (Nursery also provided)
7:30-8:30pm- High School Youth Group

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45AM- Sunday Services
10:00am- Sunday School

MONDAY, MARCH 21

All Day- Mazie Fundraiser (Barrel House)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

5:30-6:30pm- meal-Taco Night
6:30-7:30pm- Midweek Classes for Children, Middle School Youth Group & Adults (Nursery also provided)
7:30-8:30pm- High School Youth Group

OTHER MINISTRIES

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 meet every 2nd Monday of the month at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. **Next date: April 11.** Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

BOOK CLUB

The morning book club will meet Wednesday, April 20, at 9 a.m. at the church. They will be discussing *The Edge of Belonging* by Cox.

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, April 19, at 7 p.m. at the church. They will be discussing *Between Shades of Gray* by Sepetys (1941 Europe not to be confused with similar titles). Everyone is welcomed!



ATTENTION FISHERMAN: JUNE 10-11

PLATTE CREEK LODGE

More details to come but if you have questions, feel free to contact: Al-351-3917; Stan- 376-4148



Hi Everyone!

During this time of year, I don't usually have big updates and that is the case again this week! Sunday School and Midweek continue to go forward smoothly. I'm so thankful for our many volunteers in Children's Ministry. They really are making a huge impact.

As I look ahead on the Children's Ministry calendar, Vacation Bible School is coming up quickly! We decided to try out a week that is earlier in the summer this year and we're also testing a Monday through Thursday schedule to see if it works better for families. That June 20 start date will come before we know it! The first set of volunteers I'm hoping to connect with is a team of decorators. This year, our theme is LIGHT! We've got a lot of Christmas lights and some ideas, but we really do need a team of you to make this happen. If you are creative and/or handy, this is a great project for you! Do you think you could create a giant light bulb? Do you want to make the sun? How about a scene with fireflies everywhere? This will be a fun one! Let me know if you have any BRIGHT ideas and are willing to PLUG IN! ☺ Decorations help make the week unforgettable for the kids.

See you soon!

Heather DeWit
Children's Ministry
605-336-1475
heather.dewit@communityrc.org



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**MAZIE BOYLE FAMILY
MEAL TRAIN/ FUNDRAISER**

A group of friends started a meal train to support Mazie, a 6 year old, and her family through her cancer journey.

If you would like to help the Boyle family by providing them with a meal, please take the time to sign up for the meal train. <https://mealtrain.com/3doe5l>

Also, mark your calendars for **Monday, March 21st and come enjoy a meal at the Barrel House**. 10% of the proceeds from the WHOLE day will go to help pay Mazie's medical bills.

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Miracles FOR MAZIE

EAT THE BARREL HOUSE ON MARCH 21 ALL DAY
A PORTION OF PROFITS SUPPORT MAZIE'S BATTLE WITH CANCER.

TO GIVE TO ARISE UKRAINE
ARISEUKR.COM/GIVING

Arise! Ukraine
"Arise, shine; for your light has come..." Isaiah 60:1

THE GIVE

Check out THE GIVE wall in the lobby. It's a place to donate to local ministries.

East River Foster Care:
 New kids underwear

Mission Haiti:
 Boy/Men Shoes

Reach Literacy:
 Gently used books

Bishop Dudley Hospitality House:
 Toilet paper

NEW

PRAYER REQUESTS

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Gary Holmgren (stints placed)

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Brian Frisbee (blood clot/ long-term stroke rehab)
- Elaine Deelstra (infection)
- Connie Tiggelaar (hospice)
- John Thornton
- Melanie Sittig's mom, Marcia (broken leg)
- Merlin Klein (congestive heart failure)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn (liver)
- Jean Nollman's brother-in-law, Jim (growth in abdomen)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)
- Mazie Boyle (chemo)
- Cleon Groen
- Vi Slecta
- Jan Kreun's dad
- Mike Hays (cancer/surgery recovery)
- Jim Halling (cancer)
- Lexi Valentine (auto-immune disease)
- Randi Van Der Sloot (cancer treatments)
- Spring & Tony
- Jodie Jensen (cancer treatments/heart)
- Darla Anderson's friend, Vonnie (cancer)
- Connie Saathoff's brother, Russ (cancer)
- Ann DeYoung (dialysis)
- Marv Sturing (cancer)
- Tracee Ellwein's dad (skin & muscle graft)
- Kim Becker's mother-in-law, Amy (cancer)
- Ellen Nelson (chronic airway disease)
- Tami Boyle's dad (prostate cancer)
- Gary Jensen (cancer)
- Tami Harm's cousin (colon cancer)

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences go out to Loretta Leloux-Wollman & Brian Wollman for the passing of Loretta's dad.

Our condolences go out to Gordie Beckstrom for the passing of his wife, Delna. This is also a mother to Rick (& Bev) Beckstrom.

Please keep these families in your prayers.



LIZ'S UPDATE

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP

Attention MEN!

I am still gathering input as to the best days of the week and the best times of the day to have a group that meets for men's discipleship. The basic outline of this group would be a once monthly meeting that would start with a little food, followed by a devotional, and ending with a short time of prayer. If you weren't able to give me your input on Sunday, please feel free to email me or catch me next week. I'm also interested in your ideas about what you might like to study during this time. Please share your thoughts if this interests you!

Just a little reminder that we are down to 4 nights of Mid-Week! Our last night is April 6. It's hard to believe we are at this point of the year!

And lastly this week, I want to share another story about something my cat, Kenny, has taught me. You know, when I got that cat, I had no idea how much God would use him to show me things about my own life!

Several days ago, I noticed that Kenny's dry food dish was getting low. He has a self-feeding dish that has a large clear container to hold the extra food. As he eats, gravity feeds the new food into the dish. It's a great concept! Anyway, the clear container was almost empty, and I thought to myself, "Oh, I should fill that container so Kenny doesn't get worried that he's almost out of food." And then I stopped myself.

I realized that I was actually projecting my own worry tendencies onto my cat! Cats don't "worry" about where their next meal is coming from. Cats hunt and then eat when they are hungry. (And in the case of my cat, there hasn't been a day of his life where Kenny has had to go without food. 😊) I don't think the cat brain is able to consider the future...at least not in the same way a human considers the future. Cats truly live in the present moment. I was worried that Kenny would get worried if his dish wasn't full to the top! And I'm sure Kenny couldn't have cared less. He was too busy napping and watching birds and playing with his toys. And frankly, there was still food in the bottom of the dish!

I found myself thinking about all the times I've been worried when my "dish" wasn't full. How many times have I been worried over the potential of pain that never came to be? How much emotion and effort have I wasted on planning for contingencies that never happened? How many times have I essentially said to God, "I see my dish is almost empty, but I don't trust You to fill it (even though you have done it over and over in my life), so I'll go ahead and fill it myself."

Ouch, right?

Planning is an excellent and necessary skill. We need to plan to be productive people. Yet so often, especially when we happen to be exceptionally good at planning, we don't leave any room for God to fill our "dishes." We get so caught up in all the doing, that we don't leave space for God to care for us. No wonder we get tired and worn down and worried. We're trying to do it all! So, this week, I challenge you to take a look at your life. Is there a "dish" that you've been controlling in your life that maybe God should be controlling? Money? Relationships? Work? Do you need to step back and let Him fill your "dish" in His perfect time? It might get dangerously empty! At least to your eyes. But if you give it to Him, He'll do something good with it. I know it. I will be joining you in this challenge too. 😊

Have a great week and give God those dishes!

Liz
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COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH
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MARCH 16, 2022

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.**

Pastor Clyde Teel

pastor@communityrc.org

Liz Teel

Director of Discipleship & Worship
liz.teel@communityrc.org

John Thornton

Part-time Visitation Pastor
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Holli Jans

Communications Coordinator
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Heather DeWit

Director of Children's Ministries
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Doyle Burnside

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Lisa Blankers

Part-Time Financial Administrator
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Josiah Dunlap

Part-Time IT Coordinator