

# THE COMMUNICATOR

MAY 7, 2025

## Clyde's Update

May is a busy month with all the many things that we get involved in at this time of the year. Graduations, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day all fall in this month. That usually means extra travel for most of us. Drive with care everyone! Things do look very green right now and it does indeed seem as though spring has arrived. We are not complaining. The last few days have been just lovely. I know there is always room for more rain, just to keep things staying green, and get things planted to grow. It's a part of how the seasons progress around here. Enjoy!

As I shared on Sunday, it was a pleasure to be around the college students last weekend for their CRU leadership conference. There singing and sharing were contagious. Wonderful young men and women sharing about what had taken place on their respective campuses this past year is life giving. I am so glad that we can host events like this. Hopefully, we can do more. Great connections get made.

This week will mark the first meeting for the new Consistory. I am looking forward to having them all meet each other and see how the dynamic of this new group begins to form. It is the one thing about changing a third of our board each year, there is a time of getting acquainted and learning the flow of things. It is a great group of folks in that room!

I mentioned on Sunday morning that we have had several families in our church who have lost loved ones very recently. These things have ways of coming in bunches sometimes. It is always a sad time no matter the number of them, but when they group together like this, you really see the sorrow of such things. Loss is real, and I feel bad for the folks that go through these times. Yes, there are circumstances where the individual is struggling, and we rejoice in knowing the pain is gone, but for those who are still here, the reality of that person being gone is deep. It takes time, often lots of time for that sorrow to find some balance in our lives. We are never the same. God surrounds us with grace and mercy and little by little, as the days move along, we find our stride again. Our lives have been changed because that person made our worlds what they were and now...we must find a new way. May God be near to all of you as you journey!

The kids fishing day is on the schedule for Saturday morning at 9:00am. I hope many of you are taking advantage of that outing. If you have questions on that, please give the office a call. It has been a while since we have done one of these, but our good friend, Rick Hansen, got it organized for us once again. It will be a fun day.

Redeemed! I am doing this four-part series on that word and this week will be installment number two. We have these "church" words that we all know and often just need a little reminder of what they actually mean to us. It is a great time to reconnect as it were with the things that we know but forget the deeper meaning. This week we will begin to talk about part two of this adventure which is the 'promised land' section. God doesn't just forgive, he leads us to new place, a new start, a new direction, and with that comes new life. We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

## THIS WEEK

MAY 7- MAY 14

### Saturday, May 10

7:00am- Fresh Encounter  
9:00am-10:30am- Kid's Fishing  
(Outdoor Campus)

### Sunday, May 11

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45AM- Sunday Services  
10:15am-Adult Sunday School  
(chapel overflow)

### Monday, May 12

Noon- Senior Citizens  
(E. Pizza Ranch)

### Tuesday, May 13

9:30am- Play Group

HAVE YOU  
SIGNED UP YET?

VBS

JULY 21-24

WWW.605.CHURCH/VBS

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

John Thornton will be leading an adult Sunday school class during the 10:15 time with all new materials starting on May 4th. This will be a verse by verse, in depth study of the book of James. The class will last for many weeks and use discussion questions, written by John Thornton.

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## CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies go out to Brian and Loretta (LeLoux) Wollman on the death of Brian's dad, Ruben "Pal" Wollman.

Our condolences and prayers go out to Chuck Hanssen and his family on the passing of his wife, JoAnn. Funeral details are pending.

Please keep these families in your prayers.

## THE GIVE

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



### VBS at Community (for our zoo theme)

Clean, gently-used plush or plastic animal toys

### East River Roster Parent Network

New & gently used toddler clothes

### Community Youth

Empty Ink Cartridges & old cellphones

### The Banquet

Hygiene items (Band-aids, Feminine Products  
Nail Clippers)

Also, we are once again collecting cards for nursing homes. Please put at The Link.

**In need of prayer or want to  
share your prayer request?**

Email Pastor John at [prayerline@communityrc.org](mailto:prayerline@communityrc.org)

# PRAYER REQUESTS

## NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Sharen Harms (brain surgery)
- Shanda Hays (spinal surgery 5/7)

## ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Doug DeWit (pacemaker)
- Daniel Burlingame (infection)
- Ron Hup (total knee replacement surgery 4/16)
- Jenna Hoogendoorn's grandma
- Gracia Harmsen (surgery recovery)
- Caleb Ellwein (knee surgery recovery)
- Gary Van Den Hoek
- Mike Hay's father, Duane
- Joselyn Cleveringa (seizures/testing)
- Daisy Johnston (seizures)
- Gracia Harmsen's dad (esophageal cancer)
- Steve Zimmerman
- Matt Meyer's fiancé Lynnette's dad (tumor)
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Jerralynne Tjeerdsma's daughter, Deb (cancer)
- Anna Halverson (seizures)
- Melanie Oden's sister, Amber (breast cancer)
- Jordan Lipp's mom, Becky (dementia)
- Susan Vanden Berg's mom, Marlene (testing)
- Susan Bierwagen's sister, Marlene
- Holli Jans' dad, Milt (cancer)
- Aaralyn Van Der Sloot
- Rick Norris (cancer)
- Pete & Jan Mellema's son-in-law, Chris
- Kristy Mouw's sister-in-law, Mindy (cancer)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)

**Prayer is the nearest approach to God,  
and the highest enjoyment of Him, that  
we are capable of in this life.**

**William Law**

## FRESH ENCOUNTER

**SATURDAY MORNINGS  
@ 7:00AM**

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.



## KID'S MINISTRY

Hi Everyone!

Last week was the end of Sunday School for this school year. I want to take a moment to thank each of the teachers and volunteers who made a precious impact on children and families at Community this year.

I wish you could all spend a few minutes with the Sunday School children to see what I am blessed to see each week. The volunteers are welcoming children by name. They smile and seem very happy to see each child. They are praying for kids and asking about topics each child is passionate about because they talked on previous weeks. The children and adults are praying for and with one another. They are laughing together. They are learning about God together. They are seeking God together.

This week, I got to be a substitute helper in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class. It was so much fun to hear the kids helping one another as they looked up the Bible verse. "Go to the Old Testament and find Joshua. It is kind of at the beginning but not right by Genesis. You are almost there! First, find the big number 1. Now, go look for the little number 9. Yes! That's the verse!" Those 3<sup>rd</sup> graders could certainly relate to needing to remember that God is with them, no matter where they are. As they made their crafts, they talked about plans for summer, activities, travel, family, and friends.

Joshua 1:9 **Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**

See you soon!

Heather DeWit  
Community Kids  
605-336-1475  
[Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org](mailto:Heather.DeWit@Communityrc.org)



## MIDDLE SCHOOL &amp; HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR PHOTOS  
DUE FRIDAY, MAY 9

For all seniors, if you would like to be recognized Sunday mornings, please send me how you want your name presented, a photo to use, where you are graduating from, and your plans for next year. I will be putting together a slide show that we will have running Sunday mornings.

Doyle  
[Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org](mailto:Doyle.burnside@communityrc.org)

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CHURCH SOFTBALL  
SCHEDULE

Come cheer on the Community co-ed softball team Monday nights at Sherman Park by the Zoo

**Monday, May 12**

7:25pm- Diamond B  
9:15pm- Diamond B

## FINANCES

Sunday, May 4, 2025

General: \$12,446  
Vision: \$415  
Missions: \$520

General YTD: \$269,583  
Vision YTD: \$14,371  
Vision Account Balance: \$11,877



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## MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR MAY

### ARISE UKRAINE

Arise! Ukraine is a 501(c)3 non-profit ministry established in 1997 by missionary, Paul Logan. Its purpose is to see Ukraine saturated with living communities of believers where the transforming power of the gospel is reaching every area of society—giving every man, woman and child in the country the opportunity to be reconciled to the Father and to each other.

## LOOKING FOR NURSERY VOLUNTEERS!

Come play with the kids at Community!  
You'll serve only 4 times throughout the year!  
Email Teresa at [nursery@communityrc.org](mailto:nursery@communityrc.org) or go to 605.church and fill out a form to volunteer.

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## ONGOING MINISTRIES

### SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, **May 12** at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

### BOOK CLUB

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, May 20, at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by Lewis.

The morning book club will meet Wed., May 21, at 9 am at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave & 33rd St. We will be discussing *Vanished in Vermillion* by Reguse

### FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH CLASS

The Foundations of Faith class is done for this spring.

### HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle will meet on May 20th at 1:30. Barb is hostess and Jerralynne has the lesson.

early childhood weekday  
**Play Free Group**  
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](mailto:Heather.DeWit@CommunityRC.org) or 605-336-1475

# ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP



The warm days of May certainly have summertime feel to them, and I already feel the collective pressure to plan, plan, plan in order to take advantage of summer! But friends, it technically isn't even summer yet! Are you feeling that same pressure? The pressure to plan and do and participate so you don't feel like you've wasted those precious summer days? If you find yourself in this not-so-delightful-boat, I have a couple of suggestions for you. (And by the way, I'm going to take my own advice and do these things too!)

- 1. Grab your calendar and select one day in June, July, and August to “waste.” I don't mean that you'll DO nothing. I mean that you'll PLAN nothing in advance for that day. Just plan to do whatever comes to your mind that day. Don't make reservations for something. Don't think ahead about what you might do. Just plan to do whatever you want in that moment. The idea here is that you will be taking time to focus on the present. Whatever comes to your mind ON THAT DAY, do that! Certainly, involve your kids or spouse or friends, but use it as a time to focus on the moment and enjoy the present. If any of you decide to do this, I'd love to hear about it. 😊
- 2. Grab your calendar and select one day in June, July, and August to “rest.” Now here is where you might end up doing nothing. But remember that resting isn't just about being physically still. It also might involve a leisurely walk around your neighborhood, a drive through a beautiful area, getting ice cream with friends or family, listening to a concert, or watching a movie. Taking time to rest means that the activity you are participating in brings rest to the deepest part of you. And that will probably look a little different to everyone. But think about it. If you could plan an entire day of “rest,” what might that do for your overly busy body and soul? If any of you decide to do this, I'd love to hear about it. 😊
- 3. And the last challenge is to grab your calendar and mark off ONE HOUR over the summer where you will spend time with Jesus alone. Just ONE HOUR, friends. The months of June, July, and August have a total of 2208 hours, and I'm asking you to mark off just one of those hours to spend alone with Jesus. And you can do whatever you want, as long as it's you and Jesus. Would you want to sit outside, and drink iced tea together? Would you want to read your Bible and think about what questions you'd ask Jesus if He was sitting right there with you? (He is, you know.) Would you want to go for a walk and thank Him for creation? It doesn't matter what you do as long as you do it. I'd love for all of us to take a break from the craziness of summer schedules to sit with Jesus for an hour. Who knows? You might enjoy it so much that you decide to plan another hour...and another hour...and another hour.... I promise you'll be better for it. 😊

Big challenges for you, but I know you can do it. 😊

Have a wonderful week!

Liz

[Liz.Teel@communityrc.org](mailto:Liz.Teel@communityrc.org)