

THE COMMUNICATOR

MAY 6, 2026

THIS WEEK

MAY 6- MAY 13

Thursday, May 6

7:00am-7:00pm-
National Day of Prayer

Saturday, May 9

7:00am- Fresh Encounter

Sunday, May 10

8:00, 9:00 & 10:45am-
Worship Services

Tuesday, May 12

9:30am- Play Group

**COMING SUMMER
2026**

Starting in June, Clyde will be offering an evening study on Romans and Psalms. Stay tuned for more updates.

Clyde's Update

It's May! Another month has past and here we are in the month of lots of extra things going on. Mother's Day will be coming up this Sunday and then of course, graduation times throughout the area. Most of the schools finish the year during this month as well. We are all hoping for some nice spring weather too. It is spring. I like the sound of that. When I came to church early this past Sunday, it was already light out and that's a change. That is always a good feeling. Enjoy the month everyone!

Thursday, this week, the church will be open from the 7am to 7pm for the National Day of Prayer. We will have the chapel available to anyone who would like to come in a spend some time with God in that room. We will have some Bibles set out and other prayer words for you as you arrive. That is a nice setting in that room for you if that works for your day. That day is a good day to set reminders out for yourself that there is a God who is always listening for us to join him in conversation. We don't always have to be ones who are speaking, you might consider just spending time in prayer listening for what God may be speaking to you.

The kids fishing day is coming up on Saturday May 16th from 10am to noon at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls. Rick Hansen has lined up all the necessary arrangements for us that morning and we would love to see people come out for that. The fishing there can actually be pretty good so, if catching fish is something you would enjoy with your kids, that is a day you need to consider joining us for that event. We need you to sign up for that as we need to give our hosts there a number for them to prepare for. If you have questions, you can call the office.

Mother's Day is this weekend. I was back in Burke, this past week, visiting with my mom and of course, I got her flowers for the occasion as well. I am very fortunate to call that lady my mom. She is a pretty special lady in my life. She is still actively living in the same house for almost 60 years which is just crazy to think about. She will still do a garden this year and she will still have more flower gardens than one can even imagine. When the weather is nice this summer, that is where you will find her. Outside playing in the garden. There is just something right about that.

This coming Sunday's message will be part two of this part of the series on "Idolatry". It is another message about life's distraction that take us away from what God is seeking to do in our lives. I want to make this week's message one of joy and bring a word of hope all of this. Yes, we know that we get distracted, and most of us want to not get caught up in the world so deeply that we forget about God, but what is the best way to win that battle. I believe one tool is to be in awe of who God is. Make God better than anything the world can offer. As a church to lift up His name and exalt the King of Kings. We'll talk more on Sunday. Have a great week!

PRAYER REQUESTS

"Listen, Lord, a mother's praying
Low and quiet: Listen, please.
Listen what her tears are saying,
See her heart upon its knees:
Lift the load from her bowed shoulders
Till she sees and understands—
You, who hold the worlds together,
Hold her problems in Your hands."
Ruth Bell Graham

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.

FINANCES

Sunday, May 3, 2026

General: \$12,697
Vision: \$635
Mission: \$505

General YTD: \$311,814
Vision YTD: \$25,416
Vision Account Balance: \$4,669

In need of prayer or want to share your prayer request?
Email Pastor John at prayerline@communityrc.org

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- Lloyd VanEssen (bladder cancer)
- Dorland Schuld (stroke recovery)
- Elaine Deelstra (eye sight changes)
- Carol Baker (cataract surgery)
- Anna Halverson (seizures)
- Jayne Knockenmus's friend, Shelly
- Adam & Julie Brown's son, Austin (hospice)
- Kailee Taborda (Leukemia)
- Ken Stellinga (Whipple surgery-1/27)
- Jodi Ackerman's mother, Karen (aortic aneurysm)
- Leroy Thill (infant son of Katie & Trevor Thill)
- Gracia Harmsen (surgery recovery)
- Al Price
- Jan Sturing
- Tim DeLoof (ALS)
- Steve Lee
- Gracia Harmsen's dad (esophageal cancer)
- Matt Meyer's fiancé Lynnette's dad (tumor)
- Ellen Nelson Garner (chronic airway disease)
- Brian Frisbee (ongoing rehab)
- Jerralynne Tjeerdsma's daughter, Deb (cancer)
- Jordan Lipp's mom, Becky (dementia)
- Kristy Mouw's sister-in-law, Mindy (cancer)
- Susan Bierwagen's uncle, Darrell (cancer)

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.

<https://bradymartz.zoom.us/j/87440575632?pwd=RwtTfrMNRbOXcg9KlhafbrdoMWC2Cb.1>

Meeting ID: 874 4057 5632

Passcode: 052482

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,87440575632# US

+12532158782,,87440575632# US

+1 346 248 7799 US

Questions?

Call Shawn Blom

605-940-6702



THURSDAY, MAY 7TH

National DAY OF PRAYER

7:00AM-7:00PM

THE CHAPEL WILL BE OPEN
THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Kids SUMMER STORYTIME

In the church Library

2nd Sunday of the month
10:10am-10:35am
Starts May 10

Come enjoy storytime with our church librarians.

FREE

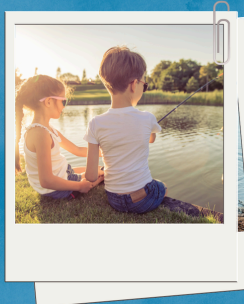
KID'S FISHING

AT OUTDOOR CAMPUS

SATURDAY, MAY 16

10:00- NOON

Hotdog lunch provided & drawings for door prizes!



Sign up at The Link or email connect@communityrc.org

ONGOING MINISTRIES

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, **May 11** at noon at the East 10th Pizza Ranch. Questions, please call Connie Parmley, 605-275-0030. Everyone welcome!

NO AA MEETING

These Tuesday evening meetings are paused at the moment. Here are other options for meetings in the area. <https://sober.com/aa-meetings/south-dakota/sioux-falls/>

WD40

Women of all ages, join us for WD40 on Monday, May 4 from 7-8pm. Led by Liz Teel.

HOPE CIRCLE

Hope Circle will meet on May 19th at 1:30. Helen is hostess and Carol has the lesson.

BOOK CLUBS

The evening book club will meet Tuesday, May 19, at 7 pm at the church. We will be discussing *The Wager* by Grann.

The morning book club will meet Wednesday, May 20, at 9 pm at the Bagel Boy on Minnesota Ave near 33rd St. We will be discussing *Hello, Beautiful*.

CHURCH SOFTBALL

Come cheer on the Community coed softball team Monday nights at Sherman Park by the Zoo

MONDAY, MAY 11

6:30pm- Diamond C
7:25pm- Diamond C

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP & WORSHIP



If you recall a couple of weeks ago, I shared 3 books I have recently read that were deeply impactful for my spiritual journey. This week, I want to talk about 2 books I read that I absolutely hated. 😊 Stay with me on this!

Recently, I read a book that was recommended for a group gathering. It was just alright. 😊 To be fair, there were several sentences in it that did make me stop and think and helped me to consider my spiritual walk in fresh ways. But I found most of it to be tedious and arguably divisive. I finished it anyway and then bought a different book, which was referenced by the author through a wonderful quote.

I had high hopes for the second book. But boy, was I surprised. I got about 2 pages into the book and literally wanted to throw it in the garbage. I deeply disagreed with nearly every paragraph this man had written. And I was dumbfounded that it had been referenced in the first book I had read. Where was this book going? Why were both of these books so bad (in my opinion 😊)? And what was God up to in my world??

I decided to stay with the second book and keep reading it for a few reasons:

1. When I start a book, I finish it. I can count on one hand the number of books I just stopped reading in the middle and never finished. I'm not sure why I do that, but I do. So, I kept reading.
2. There were just enough tiny gold nuggets in the paragraphs I had read to make me think that there was potential for this author to eventually write something that might be challenging to me in a good way. I'm not kidding when I say that of the sentences made me want to toss that book in the trash. But there were also these little nuggets of gold that were promising. Maybe it would improve.
3. I tried to remind myself that an effective (yet challenging) way for me to grow and learn is to interact with people (in this case through writing) with whom I disagree. This is helpful for a couple of reasons. First, it helps to refine what I actually believe. Do *my* ideas make sense, or do they need refining? And second, if I can understand what's going on in these people's lives, if I can learn about their life story, then I have a better context for why they think (and write) the way they think (and write). Even though I might still disagree with them, I can do it from a place of compassionate understanding. And we all know the world needs more of that. So, I wanted to stick with this book because I thought there might be a chance that I would learn more about the life story of this author, which would then

enable me to understand his writing even better. I realize this might sound condescending, but I don't mean it in that way. This is only possible when we humbly ask God to help us understand and to give us a compassionate heart to really listen to what is being said.

Well, sure enough, a huge part of the book was actually the author's personal story. His pain, his failures, his growing up years, and his adult years were recollected throughout each chapter. And it *did* give me a clearer and more compassionate understanding of what he was trying to say. I was even able to take some of what he had written that I initially disagreed with and come to agreement with him! I understood what he *meant*, even though I might not have said it that way myself. 😊 That was all because I was working by the power of the Spirit to try to understand him as a person, not just as a faceless author.

Ultimately, there was a great deal of spiritual growth waiting for me in the experience of reading those books. I'm glad I didn't throw the books away, although I probably won't recommend either of the books to anyone. 😊 I am a better person for having read those words, even the words I disagreed with. And God used the books to grow me in multiple ways.

I share this with you because I think it's a good reminder for all of us in today's world. Please don't fall into the trap of only looking for people who think like you or write like you or tell you what you already know to be true. Further, don't single yourself out to only hang out with people who always agree with you. If you do that long enough, you'll find that your life becomes very single faceted and shallow. We need to be in community with people who challenge us in love and help us to grow by God's grace. We do well to engage with others fully and compassionately as God brings them to us. Get to know them. Get to know who they are and what their life stories are like. Try to understand what they are saying...not just the meaning of the words but the meaning *behind* the words. You may find that you have a lot more in common with a lot more people that you realized.

Of course, I'm not suggesting you bend to every current and wind that comes your way. It is imperative to stay fully connected to the One who can truly keep you grounded in all of this. And in that process, be open to genuine community with others God may bring into your path. You might be surprised where you find a little gold nugget. 😊

Have a good week!

Liz
Liz.Teel@communityrc.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL



HEATHER'S UPDATE KID'S MINISTRY

We are drawing near to the end of the school year! With that, we will also be recognizing our High School Seniors on Sunday mornings.

Seniors/parents, if you would like to be included in the slideshow this year, please email me the following information -

- A Senior Photo
- Name as you prefer (e.g., Thomas Burnside or Tom Burnside)
- Where you are graduating from
- Plans for next year

The slideshow will run a few weeks starting May 17th. Please send that in by Thursday May 14th so it can all get added in. Congratulations seniors! You are almost there!

Now that midweek and Sunday school are done for the year, all attention goes into summer and fall planning. This next week I will be getting dates for summer events for the middle and high school group. Wednesday June 3rd will be our first time back together. It will also be our incoming 6th grade student's first official invite into the middle school youth group. Both the middle and high school group is invited for a night around the fire with hotdogs, s'mores and yard games. Details and the rest of summer plans coming soon!

That's it for this week. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out anytime.

Doyle
doyle.burnside@communityrc.org



MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER EVENT

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
6:00-8:00PM**



This week, I'm writing to the Sunday School teachers and helpers. Thank you so much for your dedication this school year. We've wrapped up Sunday School for the season, and I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for all of you. I am especially thankful for the relationships you built with students, the enthusiasm you cultivated, and the way you showed them Jesus by bringing who you are to their classroom.

Preschool Volunteers- Thank you for showing the kids through your words, actions, smiles, songs, and lessons that Jesus loves each child!

Kindergarten Volunteers- Thank you for teaching the kids that we can worship and praise the Lord together. Your heart for their learning and growth showed week after week.

First Grade Volunteers- Thank you for taking this class on an adventure and showing them that the best path is with Jesus. Your example and love planted important seeds for their lives.

Second Grade Volunteers- Thank you for demonstrating that God's love is the best surprise ever and that we can trust God with everything we need because His thoughts are higher.

Third Grade Volunteers- Thank you for growing our kids to be fearless in all of the best ways. Thank you for coming alongside them on the year they get their Bibles from church and helping them get excited about following Jesus.

Fourth Grade Volunteers- Thank you for showing our kids that we are protected by God. Thank you for dedicating your time, energy and care to help them see God's hand in their lives day after day.

Fifth Grade Volunteers- Thank you for building up the students on their last year as Elementary Sunday School kids. It brings me joy that they know they can face challenges with God at their side as they head off to Middle School. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Mary, Thank you for praying for Sunday School and visiting the classes to hear their prayer requests.

Heather DeWit
Community Kids
605-336-1475



**COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH
6800 E. 41 STREET
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57110**

MAY 6, 2026

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
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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.**

Pastor Clyde Teel

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Liz Teel

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Doyle Burnside

Senior High & Middle School Youth Director
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Lisa Blankers

Part-Time Financial Administrator
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Josiah Dunlap

Part-Time IT Coordinator