

Associate Pastor's Report

Mission: Fiercely encourage, compassionately assist, and joyfully equip others to grow in an authentic relationship with God.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:2)

God is working in and through Community Bible Church—especially during this time of COVID. More than ever, we are being reminded of His complete sovereignty, our need to rely on Him, and... patience. This has been a difficult season as we have missed fellowshiping with each other. But let us not fail to encourage one another and build each other up during this time. Let us share the love of Christ and serve our brothers and sisters.

Many plans were made for this year and many have fallen through due to COVID.

The worship ministry mission is to authentically worship God in Spirit and in Truth by focusing on God. The worship team leaders are Brenda Gortmaker, Derrick Haskins, Virginia Hanson, Barrie Sargent, Sandy Zimmerman, Chuck Hanson, Virginia Brown, and Ben Kaiser. We needed to modify our singing on Sunday mornings and it is a blessing to be back singing in person. We are looking forward to fellowship potlucks, the adult and kid's choir (Kids For Christ), nursing home singing, and much more when those opportunities open for us. Until then, every action and decision we make is geared towards authentically worshiping God in Spirit and in Truth by focusing on God.

The worship team continues to provide a place for individuals to utilize their gifts and talents to lead worship and glorify God and we hope to see more volunteers in the future (hint hint). We are thankful for the ability to livestream the services so that others may connect with us even when away—especially during this time of COVID. We have worked to make this even better for our church and will continue to pursue best practices in livestreaming.

I have continued to offer counseling throughout the year and have been blessed to walk alongside the congregation even in the most difficult of times. Appointments are made to fit the individual(s) and I am grateful for the trust that has been placed in me. I continue to lean on God for His wisdom and pray continually for those with whom I meet.

When COVID hit, we modified what we were doing with the youth ministry. During our time apart, I filmed student interviews to keep the students connected with one another and hosted an online scavenger hunt. We also had weekly livestream events where we worshipped, looked at (and discussed) the attributes of God, and played games. Additionally, over the summer, I taught through the Doctrine of the Word of God through Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology.

Finally, over the summer, a group of parents, adult youth leaders, and church leaders gathered weekly to set the direction for the youth ministry. We outlined a mission statement and five objectives that the youth ministry will continually strive to accomplish. The mission statement is, "to believe the Gospel, obey God's Word, and make disciples." The objectives we outlined were:

1. Present and teach the Gospel
2. Study the Word and train in hermeneutics (how to study the Word)
3. Develop a heart for, the knowledge of how, and the practice of doing for making disciples.
4. Know and understand identity in Christ
5. Large group instruction, individual teaching, and serving.

Now that we are back and meeting in-person, we continue to modify what we do to keep the students safe. With COVID flaring up in the high school, we've had to cancel some weeks, but we continue to pursue a culture where Youth are PASSIONATELY UNASHAMED for Christ.

I would like to encourage you to use your giftings to glorify God. If you sing or play an instrument, or would like to learn how to run sound, video, or worship tech, then come and join the worship ministry. If you have a passion for youth, join us on Sunday mornings, Sunday nights, or Wednesday nights. If you would like to serve in the church, welcome people, or help in any way, we want you here. Using our giftings grows ourselves and others to maturity (Eph. 4:11-16). Come and talk to me. I would love to help you plug into the church and advance God's kingdom in Pierre and throughout the world.

I am constantly thanking God for calling me to Community Bible Church, for the wonderful relationships that have developed, and for His work in this church. **God is moving here!**

I am truly blessed, and God has truly blessed this church. Grace and peace to all through God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Sternke", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Jesse Sternke