

Shepherd's Staff

April 2019

We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.

"You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m. ~ Life Plus Wed., 6:30 p.m.

Spring Cleaning

Yes, it is that time of the year when we see the dirt and grime that has accumulated over the winter months. We look forward to opening windows and letting fresh air fill our homes and let all that is stale be swept away. No one is exempt from the spring makeovers. Outside we see the work that must be done to ensure the lush green lawns that we hope to enjoy in the summer months. Amidst all this cleaning, do we stop to think of the condition of our lives? Do we also need to clean out the depths of our hearts and minds so we can live in tune with God through the example of Jesus our Lord?

Many of our families are looking at the scrubbing of walls, the mopping of floors, washing the curtains and so many other home freshening tasks. The result is a home free of the odors that have gathered during the winter and replacing them with the fresh aroma of spring even as we await the fragrance of flowers and blossoms that fill the air outside. We often are amazed at the amount of buildup that collects over the winter. Still the renewal is welcomed in spite of the work that is required.

The outdoors is not exempt from all the work. The lawn that has been dormant all winter can be prepared for the growing season through the efforts of removing the dead grass, feeding the soil and prepping for the battle of preventing the weeds. A little work now makes for a carefree lawn that we can watch children play in and enjoy as we move outside with the warming weather. The transformation from the brown to a lush green lawn with the landscaping flowering and gardens growing make for a space of blessing and joy.

With all the attention we spend on our homes and yards, do we give any consideration to what we might need to clean out in our lives? While this cleaning should not be left undone, until a special time of the year, but done throughout the year, we can give it some special attention when we are cleaning the things of life. If there is something that we are holding on to in our lives that would really be better if we let go, now is the time we should clean house.

Cleaning out our lives can also be a time for looking at what clutters our minds and attention that if we take the time to examine, we would see a cleaning is due. The temptations or habits that cause us to take our eyes off Jesus may need to be washed away. The freshness of renewing our relationship with the Savior will lighten our load and give our lives a new fragrance that is pleasing to God as well as spiritually healthy for us. Lingered sin can gather on the heart and mind causing us to lose the ability to see clearly what God desires from us.

This year let's make sure that we do a thorough cleaning of all that could use freshening up. Our homes and yards are easy to see but the cleaning of our hearts and lives may not be visible to others but let's not forget that God sees us for what and who we are. Clean what really matters so that we can be ready to live the good life God intends for us when we live in the newness of the righteousness that he gives through Jesus Christ.

Pastor Rus



April 28: April showers bring May Flowers. We will have a “shower” for the Church. We will be asking for donations for supplies used in the church. This could include paper towels, Styrofoam cups, napkins, copy paper, etc. You are welcome to bring them to church before April 28.

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His
foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark
domain,
And He lives forever, with His
saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Robert Lowry

InstaQuote





April Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 4/4 Kevin Meester
- 4/5 Shelly Meester
- 4/8 Mary Johnson
- 4/10 Michael Allspach
- 4/22 Paul Bruns
- 4/23 Betty Pott

Happy Anniversary

- 4/8 Arnie & Kay Swanson
- 4/30 Rollyn & Kathy DeGroot



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20th of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers#</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
4/7	Ryan & Stacy (N)	Gerald	Deb & JoLynne	Gene & Janet
	Dale & Angie (S)		#13 Fruit of the Spirit Self Control	
4/14	Mike Stirling Family (N)	Mark Kramer	Ryan & Stacy	Irv & Amy
	Gene & Janet (S)		Easter – Joy-Spring	
4/21	Melvin R./Harold C.(N)	Ken Meester	NO SS--EASTER	EASTER Coffee served before church
	Steve & Charlene (S)			
4/28	Joy K. & Mary V. (N)	Mike Stirling	Kay & Amy, Nancy	SS
	Ken & Rhonda (S)		APRIL SHOWERS	

*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.

#The teacher schedule and lessons will be in the bulletin. You can always check the website as well- the bulletin is always on there (even before Sunday!!) www.parkersburg-crc.org If you need to change a Sunday, please call one of the teachers.

Spring Flower Word Search

Can you find all the names of the Springtime flowers?

K R H A I L H A D X W G J F D
C J N Z T S A Y N O E P V A L
A A L N W U U B R K U W Q I S
M F L I N A R C I S S U S L N
E O H L L I R R O Y C I V O O
L R S Y I Y V E L R J P S N W
L S H T L C H A W D C A W G D
I Y S E E I S E N O M E N A R
A T M C A L L A L I L Y F M O
P H O K T Z O A W A O F P S P
I I S X D Z W I C D O S Y Y S
L A S O B H I U V D S N G A K
U J O L H Y A C I N T H S U M
T C L H L R Q L O U J W W W D
D J B P L M U I L L I R T P H

- ANEMONE
- BLOSSOMS
- CALLALILY
- CAMELLIA
- CROCUS
- DAFFODIL
- DAHLIA
- FORSYTHIA
- HYACINTH
- LILAC
- LILY
- MAGNOLIA
- MAYFLOWER
- NARCISSUS
- PEONY
- PHLOX
- SCILLA
- SNOWDROPS
- TRILLIUM
- TULIP
- VIOLETS

All About Puzzles
puzzles.about.com

