

Shepherd's Staff

April 2020

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.

Are We Listening Yet

In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic many are wondering if this is a sign of the last times for the world as we know it. While it may seem that the end is drawing near we must also take into consideration that God may simply be trying to get our attention. This seems to be one case that has appeal as the Facebook posts have already alluded to. One such post noted that we can live without sports, with financial institutions losing great volumes and even the closing of churches and schools. If God is trying to wake us up, it seems like he is doing a good job of it.

It is great what the crisis has done with regards to families spending time together. Family meals are once again a place where families gather to discuss the day and other topics. The pace of life has slowed for many to the point that we can spend that quality time with loved ones in an unprecedented way. For Christians it is hard to believe that it takes something so drastic to get us to rally around the concept of family when God places such an emphasis on family.

The idea that churches can close is also new for many of us for such a reason as this. Normally the church is a place of safe haven where we can retreat for normalcy in life. When the doors are closed we are denied the context that helps to form our character and steady our course. Technology has given us options that help to get us by for the short term with worship sent out over the internet.

Is this the thing that is needed for the church to unite over the issues that divide us so easily? The difficult days that lie ahead will be challenging enough as we try to recover from the isolation of the pandemic. Are we looking at a new normal for the way we worship using technology instead of gathering when the option allows us to gather? Will we be ready and willing to step forward to volunteer when help is needed or simply remain in the shadows of technology?

How we support the church shows our commitment to God as either assign him the first place in our lives or give whatever time we have left at the end of the day. God is clear on what he expects from us. The summary of the law reminds us to love God first, before all else. We have let too many things in our lives take that hallowed spot for too long. It is a shame that we need such a sign to see what God has said all along.

How well we come out of this time in history will depend on what we do when it is finished. If we come together to ask God to be our God and to forgive us and our land, we may find a new power over evil and a new excitement for the future of the Church.

Pastor Rus

Fear is natural, faith is supernatural. Remember what God's Word says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

Even for those who become very sick -- God promises to be present with them and uphold their lives with his power. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy,
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from
your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.





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

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>
4/5	Kevin & Shelly- S	Gerald	Ryan & Stacy	Marlyn & Marcia
	Pat & Deb - N			
4/12	Mike & Kayla - S	Dale	NO SS	NO Coffee
	Ken & Nancy - N			
4/19	Gene & Janet - S	Ryan	Stacy	Dennis & Sharon
	John & Karen - S			
4/26	Dennis & Sharon - S	Ken Mehmen	Shelly & Kayla	Steve & Charlene
	Clarence & June - N			

*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.



Easter Story

Word Search

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

APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB

