

Shepherd's Staff

February 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.

Rooted or Root Bound

As trends change with the flow of life in society, some things seem to cause more trouble than good. Take an example of house plants. The plants we bring into our homes are properly fitted for the pot in which they are planted. With the passing of time however, after we care for them by watering, feeding and perhaps pruning back the withered stems, our plants get to a stage where they no longer flourish. The trouble lies at the roots. Filling the pot with roots may sound like a good idea but too many of a good thing is in fact harmful. Such it is for the changes that come to neighborhoods. While some change promotes good growth, others will stymie the growth.

Let me explain. In the forties and fifties, houses were built with an eye for community. Front porches were an integral part of the architecture. Large and spacious porches became a gathering point for neighbors as they would pass by on the walk in front. Conversation would follow and community would be experienced. We actually knew our neighbors. We had relationships with those around us to the point of sharing items when needed to be paid back later. We also took time to communicate what was important. Sharing of views and finding solutions to common dilemmas would strengthen the community feeling. In this culture, churches also could thrive because friends would come together to worship.

Today, we have become more isolated in our intent to live as closer family on a deck or patio built on to the back of our houses where our privacy is protected at any cost. Fences that build privacy and hedges that separate us from those around us make it more difficult to "speak with our neighbors". Simply put, we avoid the opportunities to get to know those living around us.

This "going it alone" frame of mind seems to be trickling its way into our church life. We no longer see the importance of gathering as the gathered people of God! We have all the gadgets that do what we formerly would turn to our neighbors for. Advice on cooking or caring for our homes is now a quick internet search and we are on our way with professional advice. Is it any wonder that church is no longer seen as the hub of life? Search engines on a computer replace the "old fashioned" way.

Having the benefits of technology would have us thinking that we should be able to grow as a church at an enhanced pace. Still we find that the gathering of a people has been lost. Perhaps the growth of our roots has changed from being an anchor to becoming an obstacle for growth, both in spiritual matters as well as in numbers. Maybe it is time to repot ourselves so that we can use the front of our houses more as a welcoming point. Sharing a bit of ourselves can make us vulnerable but the resulting benefit will be that in sharing we can actually become stronger.

When we open our lives to the scrutiny of our neighbors, we also open the paths of communication for seeking the lost while they may be found. What would a front deck or new front porch do for reaching you neighbors for Christ? We already are tying the Care Groups for those in the church and to those who are our guests. What if we could extend this to meeting the needs of the neighbors God has given us so we can reach some for Him?

I don't know about you, but I somewhat miss the idea of a large porch on my home. A place welcoming to all my neighbors that allows me to extend my root rather than becoming root bound.

Pastor Rus

The Sunday school continues to involve the congregation on the last Sunday of the month. Here is a listing of what's to come:

February 24: **Heart Healthy.** We will be discussing what's good for the heart. We will have samples during the coffee fellowship of good things for your heart. 

March 31: **In like a Lion, out like a Lamb!** Jesus is both. King of Heaven (Lion) and Lamb of God (Lamb)
You'll be treated to hot and cold drinks

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.

We will finish with three lessons in May. One for Father's Day, Mother's Day, and Earth Day.

Thank you to the teachers, kids, and congregation for being a part of the CRC Sunday School.



God's Valentine Gift

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs



February Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

2/1 Andrew Haan
 2/7 Pat Prier
 2/8 Mackenzie Allspach
 2/10 Marlyn Allspach
 2/14 Nolan Prier
 2/16 Trevor DeBerg
 2/17 Sharon Cordes
 2/24 Rodney Mulder



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.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers[#]</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
2/3	Dennis & Lois (N) Kevin & Shelly (S)	Delbert	Deb & JoLynne #7 Prayer Power	Mike & Stacy
2/10	Dale & Angie (N) Herm & Mary B. (S)		Kay & Amy #8 Fruit of the Spirit LOVE	Ken & Nancy
2/17	Pat & Deb (N) John DeBerg Family (S)	Ken Kramer	Stacy & Kamie #9 Fruit of the Spirit JOY	Larry & Mary
2/24	Larry & Mary (N) Frank & Betty (S)	Dale	Deb & Brandy HEART HEALTHY	SS

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

#The teacher schedule 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.

Valentine's Day Word Search

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



- Gift
- Hugs
- Love
- Arrow
- Candy
- Cupid
- Heart
- Sweet
- Kisses
- Flowers
- Chocolate
- Valentine

