

Shepherd's Staff

February 2021

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.

What Is Normal

Everyone we run into seems to have the same thought on their minds; we can't wait to get back to normal. Living in the age of a pandemic, complete with masks required almost everywhere you go, social distancing, and other restrictions that keep us from joining in the activities we love have taken an effect on us. We long for the day when we can return to what we remember as being normal. But is it even possible? Have we been living in this change too long so that we have forgotten what normal is even like? It is said that to start a new routine you need to give it twenty one days for it to take hold. If that is true, what will our society look like when all the restrictions are finally lifted?

Many things have changed in a way that what we knew will never come back the way it was. Restaurants have closed due to the restrictions placed on them. Life styles have changed as we dine out less, do more things online than ever before and even shopping with home delivery just to maintain our distance. Many have given up on assembling for worship, choosing to stay at home and catch church on line. Will we be ready to go back to gathering like we once did?

I know that the church is one place where we must rejoin in the assembly of believers if we are going to be able to move ahead. The church is one entity that relies on being able to gather so that we can hold each other accountable, as well as grow in our faith. Meeting as the body of Christ is at the heart of who we are supposed to be yet if the body is broken apart, each worshipping at home, we lose the fellowship that works as the glue that binds us together. It is the ability to talk with others who are like minded that supports our desire to grow in the grace that allows us to see others as God would have us see them.

Assembly is the traditional way of following Jesus. Jesus himself called his followers to come and follow me! The internet may be a very helpful tool for when we are unable to worship together but it should not be seen as the new normal way for worship. We are blessed to have such technology, but we must not let it change who we are. We are called to be family in the presence of God. The key word is presence. When we are in the presence of one another, we are also in the presence of God in special way. We are able to see the love of God in each other when we tell the experiences of the week. We should not even pretend to think we are smarter than God who calls his people to gather.

When things do get back to whatever normal may look like, my prayer is that the church will be filled so that we can once again be the people God intended us to be. A people united in a common goal with a common effort. Then life will at least have one place that will look like it used to in a world that is different in so many other ways.

Pastor Rus

The Best Valentine is GOD

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16



1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering. (Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)
11. Honor without fail. (Hebrews 13: 4)



February Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

2/1 Andrew Haan
 2/7 Pat Prier
 2/8 Mackenzie Allspach
 2/10 Marlyn Allspach
 2/17 Sharon Cordes
 2/24 Rodney Mulder

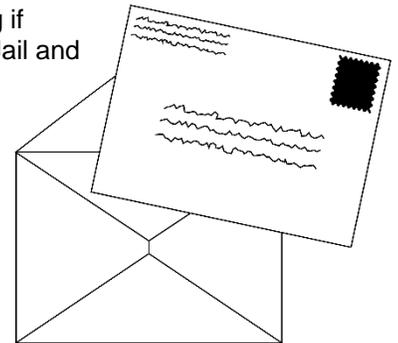


Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20th of the month.



Wanted: A "Pen Pal" Several months ago Justin Sutton sent a letter to Pastor Rus asking if anyone in our church would be his "pen pal." He currently is in the Marshalltown County Jail and his mother lives in Grundy County. He is asking for a positive support network. He said he needs people to help hold him accountable and to help teach him a better way of life. He wrote that he wants Jesus to change him and/or help him change. He is also asking for prayer.

You can write to him as follows: Justin Sutton
 Marshall County Sheriff
 2369 Jessup Ave
 Marshalltown, Iowa 50158



Please sign your first name to the letter and use this as the return address:
 Christian Reformed Church
 807 Grant St
 Parkersburg, Iowa 50665

Let Pastor Rus know if you are willing to show some true Christian love and be a good witness for Jesus. We have copies of his letter so you can get acquainted with him.

Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.



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

Is **PATIENT**

Is **KIND**

Is Not **JEALOUS**

Does Not **BRAG**

Is Not **ARROGANT**

Does Not Act **UNBECOMINGLY**

Does Not Seek Its **OWN**

Is Not **PROVOKED**

Does Not Take Into Account A
Wrong **SUFFERED**

Does Not Rejoice In
UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

REJOICES With The Truth

BEARS All Things

BELIEVES All Things

HOPES All Things

ENDURES All Things