

Shepherd's Staff

January 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.

Troubled Journey

Some will tell us that life is harder today. They are quick to point to the challenges children are facing and how, to many, they are traveling uncharted waters. As parents, we believe it is our duty to protect them but is it possible to be over protective? Can we make childhood so "safe" that nothing will ever challenge our children? Is it even wise to be so protective? Would it make our children stronger if we allowed some of the trials to confront our children so they can learn the coping skills that will equip them for life as an adult?

Life without any challenge would be wonderful but as Christians, is this something we can or should expect? If we consult scripture we find Jesus speaking to this very issue in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble." How can we expect to not have trials when Jesus told us so pointedly that we will! Still we can have confidence in spite of the troubles that come our way because Jesus went on to say in the same verse, "But take heart! I have overcome the world."

It seems likely then that we will all face trouble in life but what we do with it is what should set Christians apart. We have someone who has promised to go with us no matter the danger or the ease in life. The point is that how we deal with adversity is in part whom we look to for strength. If we trust in human means of conquering the trials, we will be disheartened. If we have our hope "in life or in death in our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ" we can come away stronger from the challenge. To keep these opportunities from our children is to fail to give them a chance to grow in strength in both God and character.

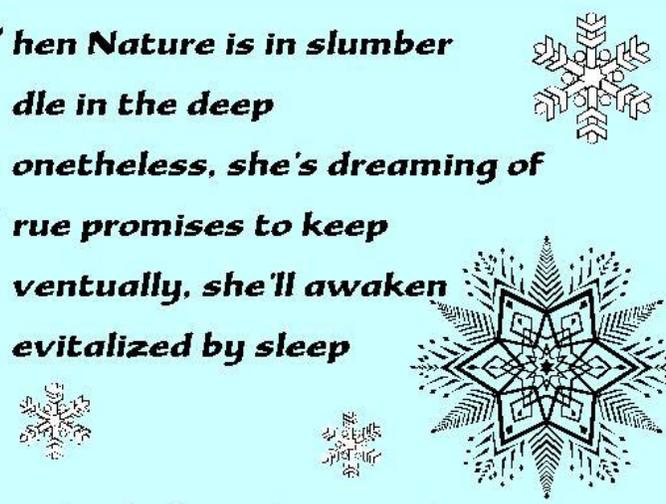
As parents (and all adults), we must also not relinquish our responsibility to raise children in safety. We should teach about dangers in life. We still want our children to know that playing in the street is dangerous. But is it necessary to "protect their feelings" so that they never face a loss in life? After all, not every competitor wins the game in sports. Winning with humility and losing with dignity goes a long way toward building strong and well-adjusted individuals. I recall reading about parents who refused to have their children given a participation award when losing at a sports game, given so the kids would not feel badly. They wanted instead to teach that trying harder next time may bring about a more enjoyable outcome.

Even songwriters understand the importance of taking life as it comes. The lyrics of such a song are: "God has not promised skies always blue, flower strewn pathways all our lives through, but God has promised strength for the day..." When we try to be smarter than God we should expect to pay the price for our arrogance. The health of our children depends on our knowing that God will always be there for us and our children, when we put our trust in God and not in our own ability. Trusting that Jesus has overcome the world should give us the courage to let our children learn the hardships in life with the promise that God cares about them and is there to see them through. What better could we offer to our children than this assurance?

The best that we can do to bring our children into adulthood is to give guidance where we can, protect from the major trials and pray that God will watch over them when we can't be there. Bruises heal, scrapes may leave a scar but through these and other trials we can see our children grow into strong believing, well-adjusted believers in God's promises.

Pastor Rus

When Nature is in slumber
Idle in the deep
Nonetheless, she's dreaming of
T rue promises to keep
E ventually, she'll awaken
Revitalized by sleep



Psalm 74:17 "Thou hast made summer and winter." dfm / dlm



"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."
- Edith Sitwell

“I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, ‘Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.’”

- LEWIS CARROLL



TOWN&COUNTRY



January Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 1/2 Mel Riebkes
- 1/6 Lila Reints
- 1/11 Dennis Mennen
- 1/16 Gerald Haan
- 1/17 Lauren Husz
- 1/18 Hermina Everts
- 1/22 Levi Hay
- 1/24 Arnie Swanson
- 1/28 Mary Boersma
- 1/30 Harold Coplen

Happy Anniversary

- 1/13 Larry & Mary Johnson

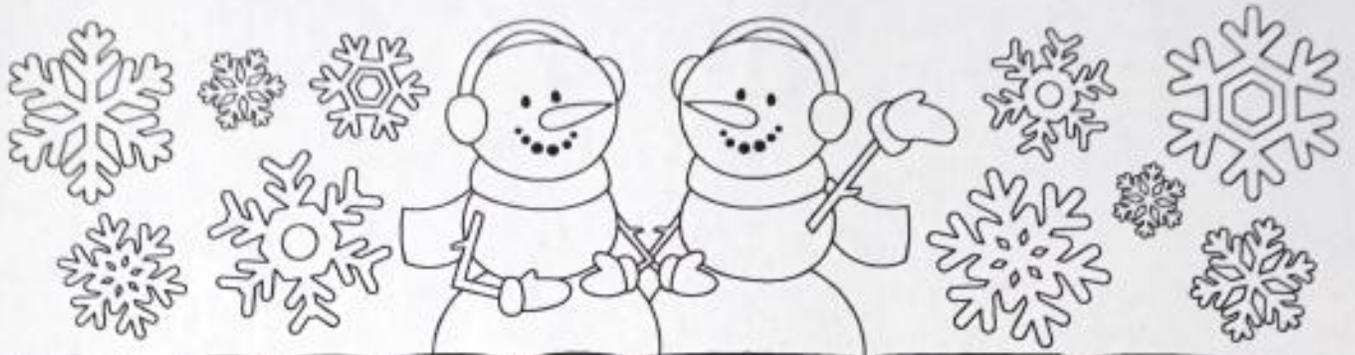


Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20th of the month.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers[#]</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
1/6	Delbert & Sharon (N)	Gerald H.	Teachers: Kay & Amy	Kevin & Shelly
	Pastor Rus & Mary (S)		Lesson: Jesus Our Light	
1/13	Mark & Lanae (N)	Ken Meester	Teachers: Stacy & Kamie	Ryan & Stacy
	Ryan & Stacy (S)		Lesson: A Little Love & Kindness	
1/20	Paul & Darlene (N)	Mark K.	Teachers: Kayla & Shelly	Dennis & Lois
	Irv & Amy (S)		Lesson: God In First Place	
1/27	Duane A. & Darrell D. (N)	Ken Johnson	Teachers: Ryan & Stacy	Joel & Brandy
	Frances V. & Marj A. (S)		Lesson: Storm Warning	

*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.



WINTER

WORD SEARCH

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

- BLANKET
- BLIZZARD
- BOOTS
- CHILLY
- COAT
- COLD
- DECEMBER
- FEBRUARY
- FIREPLACE
- FROST
- FROZEN
- GLOVES
- HEATER
- HOT COCOA
- ICE
- ICE SKATES
- ICICLE
- JANUARY
- MELT
- SCARF
- SHOVEL
- SKIING
- SLED
- SLIPPERY
- SNOWING
- SNOW BALL
- SNOWFLAKE
- SNOWMAN
- SWEATER
- WINTER