

Shepherd's Staff

June 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.

Whose Timing

My garden experience this year has been an exercise in frustration. It seemed a little early to plant in the nice weather we had in early Spring. That proved to be well founded concern when the freezing temperatures came back. Around Mother's Day is the "right" time for planting if one is to follow the customs of the past which would have me setting in a good place. That is until you have to deal with all the wet weather we have been getting. I have been told that soil that is too wet is not good for the seeds and after the wet stretch we have been in, my garden is not ready to till unless I want to carry more mud than dirt on the tiller tines.

My plan for planting would have been alright but the weatherpersons tell us that a tropical storm has stopped the movements of the low pressure system that has kept us in cool and damp conditions for the past few days. Without the storm in the Atlantic, the weather was supposed to be warm and dry, perfect for getting the seeds in the ground. It seems that just as the garden dries out more rain is predicted.

While timing is important in many things, I think that this year my garden will just have to survive with a late planting. My timing is not so crucial as long as God gives the right growing conditions once I do get the seeds in the ground. This makes me wonder if I ever mess up the planning that God has in my life? Am I so busy waiting for the perfect weather, the perfect opportunity or the perfect place to do what God has commanded for all of us to do? The command to go and spread the Good News does not come with limitations for weather or place or opportunity. So am I missing opportunity that is right in front of me because I am not ready?

God sent the Apostles out and made sure they would go by causing hardship to come upon them, taking them out of their comfort zone and into the wonders of His plan. Leaving Jerusalem and the comfort of being able to depend on one another was not what they likely wanted. Sent was not to be considered an option but a new command. The time for sitting at Jesus' feet was over and he left them to return to heaven. We do know that he did not leave them empty handed but blessed with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Emboldened with the new Breath of Heaven, they spoke with clarity about the love that God has for all creation. There is no room for keeping such good news to one's self. News this good must be shared so they were sent out to all the world. This is the garden of God. To make the matters of faith grow in the people of the world. So what are we doing to plant the seeds of faith and hope? What are we doing to bring the lost into the Kingdom of Heaven?

The command to go is for every believer. We are blessed and are commanded to bring the blessing to others. The concern about being ready is like waiting for the perfect time to plant a garden. We are reminded that we are simply called to drop the seeds. God makes the faith and hope grow. It is good for us to be reminded that His timing is always perfect even if we are not so sure. Are you ready to begin planting? God will make the crop grow if we believe in Him.

Pastor Rus

In 1983 Bob Hartman wrote this song for the group "Petra" called "Lift Him Up." Here are the lyrics. Amazing how the words are still true today.

The world is looking for a revelation
We're always under their investigation
They look at us to hear what we've got to say
They can't see Jesus when we stand in the way
They don't need no more elevated speeches
We're keeping Jesus just beyond their reaches
Can't see the forest for all of the trees
They won't see Jesus till we fall on our knees.



(chorus)
Lift him up higher and higher
Lift him up, set the world on fire
It doesn't take much theology
Just lift him up so the world can see
Lift him up, tell the gospel story
Lift him up, let them see his glory
It doesn't take any Bible degree
Just lift him up so the world can see.

Sometimes they just can't see beyond the haze
Or find their way through the religious maze
Just like Zaccheus they're trying to see
They've got to somehow see beyond you and me.

Oh, how the world needs to see him
So they can believe him
Oh, how can we ever hide him
As if we had denied him
Oh, how could we ever draw them
If they never saw him
Oh, how can they see his glory,
Without you and me.

Happy
Father's
Day!

A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.

Billy Graham

My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.

Clarence Budington Kelland

My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me.

Jim Valvano

The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.

Solomon

WE LOVE YOU



June Birthdays/Anniversaries

WE LOVE YOU



Happy Birthday

6/1 Frances VanEllen
6/14 Lillian Reints
6/18 Chelsea Meester
6/25 June Karsjens

Happy Anniversary

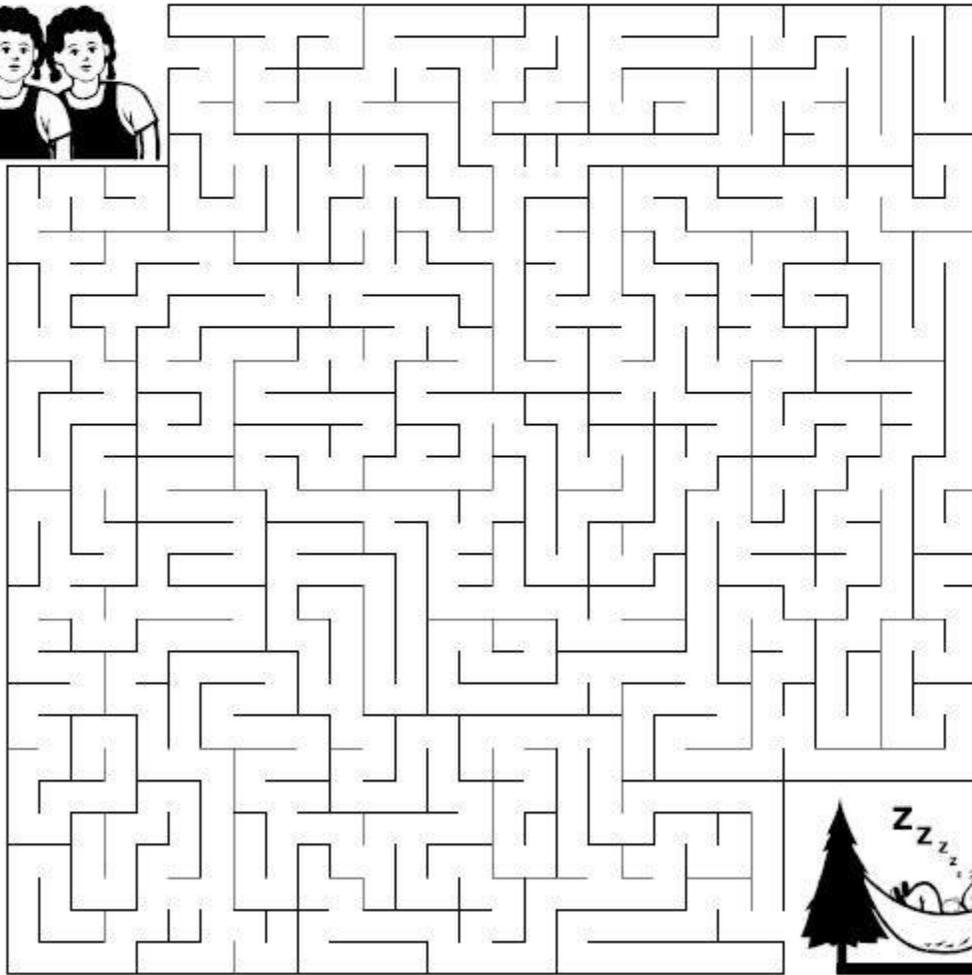
6/9 Cory & Kamie Shepard
6/20 Clarence & June Karsjens
6/28 Rus & Mary Boersma

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.



Happy Father's Day

It's Father's Day and the kids are all trying
to find Dad so they can give him a snazzy tie!
But where is he?



Get more free printable activities for kids of all ages at www.printables4kids.com.

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