

Shepherd's Staff

March 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.

Looking Ahead

I don't know about you but I am delighted that the winter is nearly over! I am weary of the cold wind and the snow and look forward to the return of the signs of spring. You know the signs, the snow melting away to reveal the grass that will start to turn green again, the leaves on the trees beginning to sprout leaves returning to life that lay dormant during the winter. These are all the signs of new life that I love about spring. Spring is a time of anticipation as we look forward to the blessings of a planting season that turns into the growing season where we harvest the tasty vegetables that add to our palates a fresh taste like no preserved food can offer. This also goes along with the smells that flood our senses with the flowers and trees in full blossom. It is just this anticipation that got me thinking about looking ahead.

We often get caught up in the short term and lose track of the long term features of life. How many of us spend any time thinking of the blessings of waking up in eternity? This is the one thing that we should likely think about rather than the short term looking ahead to spring. After all there is nothing we can do to bring about the seasons one day sooner than what God has planned for. This is different than looking forward to what comes at the end of life.

How we live and what we think about in this life will have an effect on what happens in the future. What we dwell on in our minds will leave a lasting influence in our closeness with God. This is simply because we cannot think about heaven without thinking about the way we are given the hope that is ours. This time we spend in anticipation will make us desire the heavenly joys over the best this world has to offer. The best of this world will begin to fade in relation to the glory we can never fully know of heaven until we reach the full realization when we are welcomed there by Christ himself.

The Bible does give us some insights about what we can expect. Imagine streets of gold and walls of jasper as only the beginning. The sounds and sights will be breathtaking, hearing the heavenly music that floods the air and will be mind boggling. Imagine the opportunity to see loved ones again as well as the saints of scripture but most importantly to see the One who died so we might live there. Imagine a place where there will be no more crying or pain. What a blissful place that must be.

Still the joy of living there is often overshadowed by the short term things of this life. Sometimes we get so busy that we fail to think about what is everlasting. While we do need to plan ahead for a harvest of flowers and vegetables we should not lose sight of what awaits when life is over. God gives us the opportunity to see both the short term and the long term with the minds he gave us. Let's spend time in both as we live with heaven in mind as we live each day on earth.

Pastor Rus



BURIED TREASURE

Beneath the snows of Winter,
Spring treasures can be found
In seeds that lie there sleeping
Below the frozen ground.

While snow falls in the meadow,
The rose must get her rest.
Soon Spring will kiss his princess
And she must look her best.

Sleeping beauty shall awaken
And yawn without a sound
As sprigs of buried treasure
Come bursting from the ground.

All earth proclaims God's glory
When Spring is in the air.
Each bud fulfills a promise -
Each rose an unanswered prayer.

Spring is a resurrection -
Winter's stone is rolled away
To reveal God's buried treasure
Each sun-kissed springtime day.

Clay Harrison



Song of Solomon 2:11-13 ¹¹See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. ¹²Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. ¹³The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me."





March Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

3/9 Michael Stirling
 3/11 Kathleen DeGroot
 3/15 Kay Swanson
 3/26 Naomi Allspach
 3/28 Rhonda Meester

Happy Anniversary

3/19 Pat & Deb Prier
 3/21 Don & Annie Allspach



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>
3/1	Rollyn & Kathy - S Mike & Stacy - N	Ken Meester	Stacy	Paul & Darlene
3/8	Joel & Brandy Melvin R & Harold C -N	Delbert	JoLynne	Gene & Janet
3/15	Arnie & Kay-S Joy K & Mary V-N	Joel/Kellen	Amy & Kay	Mike & Kayla
3/22	Marlyn & Marcia - S Ken & Rhonda - N	Luke	Joel & Brandy	Sunday School
3/29	Kevin & Shelly- S Pat & Deb - N	Gerald	Ryan & Stacy	Marlyn & Marcia

*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.

Parkersburg CRC Name Search

Search for the names of some of our CRC family members.

G R H C Z V X A Y V C F V L Z U C B E Z
B W Q A X I D A G T C V C D L B E E L B
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AMY
DALE
DENNIS
JOHN
MARCIA
PAUL
RYLAN

CLARENCE
DARRELL
FRANK
KAY
MARY
PEARL
SHARON

CLAYTON
DEB
JOEL
KEN
PAUL
RUS
STACY