

Shepherd's Staff

March 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.

God's ICU

We have been hearing a lot about the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) for hospitals lately with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ICU is where the most seriously ill patients are taken for extreme care. The attention to the needs of the patient is given top priority with the nurse to patient ratio much greater than in the general population of the hospital. It is an important feature of hospital care that these units are available for the really ill. Recovery is the goal with the patient able to live life to the fullest once again through the intense care given.

Being in the time of Lent we can see the extent that God went through to care for us. The level of care even exceeds the care in a hospital ICU. Jesus had to come to the earth in the most extreme way, taking on our human flesh and nature while also retaining his deity. The humiliation of what it meant to leave heaven with all the blessings that we can only imagine must have been massive. Then to live as a truly human, even undertaking the traditions and the rituals of the religion of the very people he came to save, added to the distance that he would have to travel to save all who would believe in him.

The most serious treatment for people is what Christ came to deliver to us. His teachings as the Rabbi lead many to consider the work of God in their lives. The twelve men whom Jesus called to be his disciples needed much work to learn the truth about who Jesus was, is and always will be. The Savior had come and was in their presence and they were often unable to see this great truth. The chief of God's intensive care unit was giving out the care that leads to everlasting life and they often failed to see in spite of the miracles that God was doing in their midst.

Bringing healing to the diseased and the tormented was how Jesus made known his identity. Only God could chase away the demons that tormented the ones that Jesus made whole. Only God could bring life back to the dead both physically and spiritually. Only God in the person of the Son could show that God not only was willing to go the distance but did in the person of Jesus. The care from God's ICU went all the way to Calvary and beyond to the grave for us. Still we have many people who refuse to accept the grace and care that is ours.

As Christians today we have a responsibility to inform the world about the care that is available to the people of the world. Jesus still offers the care that can change the most stubborn of hearts to finding the peace that can be theirs if only they would submit to the care of God's ICU. Life is restored and eternal life is assured when we accept Christ as Lord and King. The life line that infuses us with the life giving Spirit of God still comes into those most needy changing the dryness of death to the refreshing life that God gives through his Son. This Lenten Season, let's not only live as the redeemed but let's live as the ambassadors for the caregiver who makes God's ICU function in the lives of people everywhere.

Pastor Rus

Gardening God's Way

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind

Peace of heart

Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash grumbling

Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful

Lettuce be kind

Lettuce be obedient

Lettuce really love one another

No garden without turnips:

Turnip for meetings

Turnip for service

Turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience and

Cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden

Because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden

We must have thyme:

Thyme for God

Thyme for study

Thyme for prayer





March Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

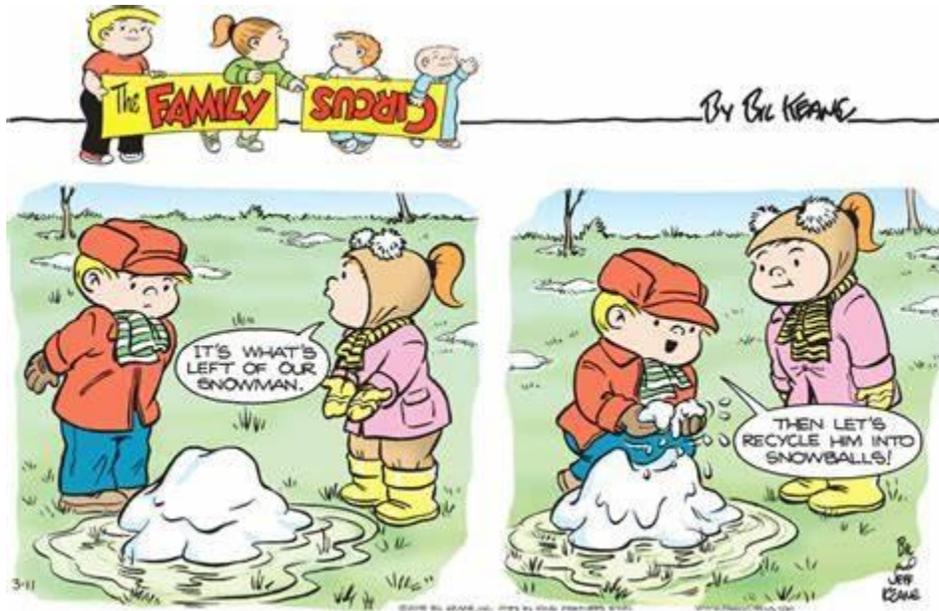
3/9 Michael Stirling
 3/11 Kathleen DeGroot
 3/15 Kay Swanson
 3/26 Naomi Allspach
 3/28 Rhonda Meester

Happy Anniversary

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



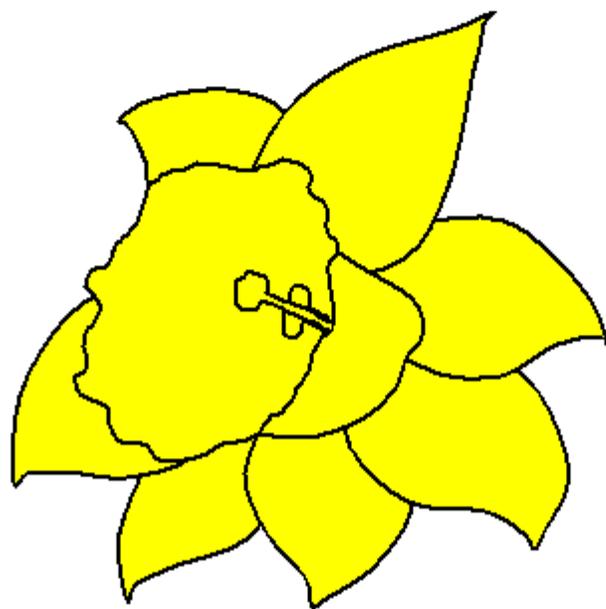
Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20th of the month.



Spring Word Search

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

daffodil
flower
gardening
green
growth
jacket
melting
puddle
rainbow



raindrops
rubberboots
seeds
splash
springtime
sprout
sunshine
tulips
umbrella