

# Shepherd's Staff

November 2018

*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.*

## His Hands

Has it ever occurred to you how much we can do with our hands? The hands that farm the fields or gardens can also be used to make a delicious dish with items grown in the garden. The hands that care for a child can be used in discipline and caring nurture. Our hands can and do fill a variety of tasks that we often take for granted. Yet what if our hands could only be used for one purpose? If everyone had only one way to be useful, how could we function?

This may be one of the attributes that we do not consider as we think about being made in the image of God. We may never think about how our hands can do the rough work as well as be as gentle as a soft breeze or as a mother's gentle touch calming a sick child. We should be reminded of David's thought where he expresses how we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14) David may have had more in mind than simply realizing the usefulness of hands, but the point does apply to the parts as well as the whole.

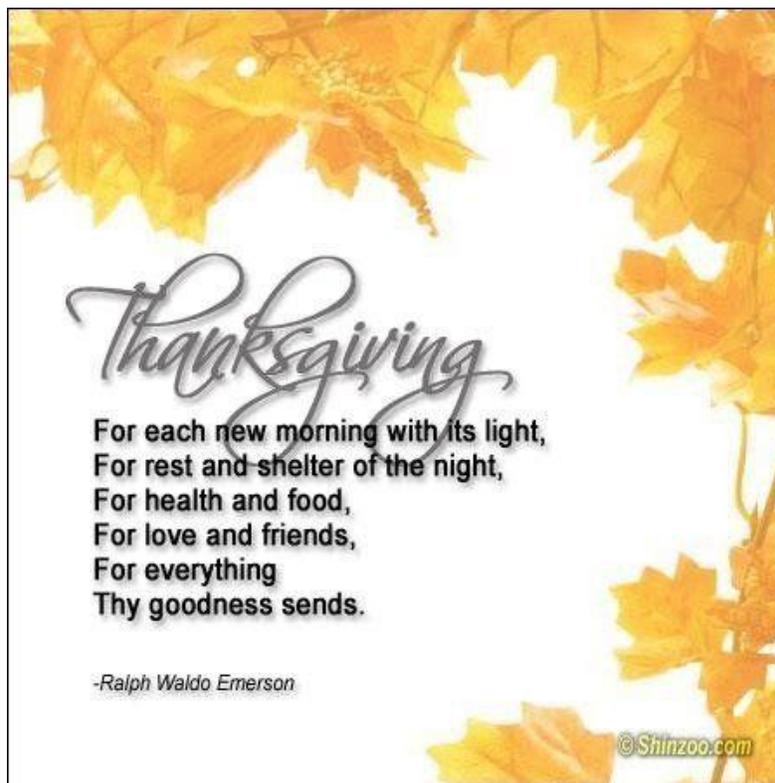
Being made in God's image we can see the power of His hands. The one who holds the future in His hands also holds the tiny birds and cares for the wild animals of the fields. The same God who has created the mountains put together the amazing wings of a fly that seem so delicate that we wonder how they can fly.

If God's hands are able to show the care He gives to the least of creation, how much more should we be amazed at what He has done for us, the crowning achievement of creation! We speak about how God leads His people with His hands and yet we know what we are saying is that ALL of God is in touch with our daily lives. God has the ability to do so much more than we can ask or imagine we often do not ponder enough the immensity of His ability to care for us.

Just as parents must be willing to use their hands for nurture and affection as well as enforcement of the moral upbringing we must see how God deals with His children. Just as parents may at times let their children make decisions that may bring consequences that will teach a life lesson, God has given us freedom to choose our way knowing His hands are strong enough to catch us if we fall. When we try to test the strength of our hands we often fall back into His powerful hands. Knowing God is always there to catch us is a comfort.

Still we must learn that God is more than a safety net. He desires our humble obedience in the first place so we can stay out of dangerous paths. God leads with a tender hand while being willing to use His powerful hands to bring us back into reality. Thinking about our hands should bring us to consider the hands of God. Thinking about His hands should bring us peace and contentment, knowing we have such a loving Father with loving hands. Praise God for the hands that guide our ways.

Pastor Rus



## We are Thankful: Thanksgiving Blessings Mix Recipe

### Ingredients

- 2 cups Bugles brand corn snacks
- 2 cups small pretzels
- 1 cup candy corn
- 1 cup dried fruit bits or raisins
- 1 cup peanuts or sunflower seeds
- 1 cup M&Ms-brand chocolate candy
- 16 Hershey's-brand chocolate kisses
- Blessings Mix gift tags



### Instructions

In a large bowl, gently mix all ingredients except Hershey's Kisses.

Place 1/3 to 1/2 cup Thanksgiving Blessing Mix in small cellophane treat bags. Add one Hershey's Kiss to each bag. Close bag with chenille stem or twist-tie.

Add a printable gift tag or bag topper, or hand-write your own tags, with the wording below.

Cut out tags, and attach one to each bag.

Makes 16 Blessing Mix gift bags.

### Thanksgiving Blessing Mix Poem

- Bugles: Shaped like a cornucopia or Horn of Plenty, a symbol of our nation's abundance.
- Pretzels: Arms folded in prayer, a freedom sought by those who founded our country.
- Candy corn: Sacrifices of the Pilgrims' first winter. Food was so scarce that settlers survived on just a few kernels of corn a day.
- Nuts or seeds: Promise of a future harvest, one we will reap only if seeds are planted and tended with diligence.
- Dried fruits: Harvest gifts of our bountiful land.
- M&Ms: Memories of those who came before us to guide us to a blessed future.
- Hershey's Kiss: The love of family and friends that sweetens our lives.



# November Birthdays/Anniversaries



## Happy Birthday

- 11/3 Erma Aswegan
- 11/3 Lois Mennen
- 11/3 Dennis Schipper
- 11/4 Brandy Reints
- 11/6 JoLynne Husz
- 11/8 Rus Boersma
- 11/14 Brooke Merrill
- 11/14 Wendy Armstrong
- 11/17 Annie Allspach
- 11/19 John Husz
- 11/20 Noah Merrill
- 11/22 Kayla Stirling
- 11/25 Nancy Mehmen

## Happy Anniversary

- 11/6 Kevin & Shelly Meester
- 11/10 Dennis & Lois Mennen



**Reminder:** If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

|       | <i>Greeters</i>        | <i>Ushers</i> | <i>Sunday School Teachers<sup>#</sup></i> | <i>Coffee*</i>  |
|-------|------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| 11/4  | Dennis & Sharon (N)    | Ken Meester   | Teachers: Deb & JoLynne                   | Mike & Kayla    |
|       | John & Karen (S)       |               | Lesson: A Father's Faith                  |                 |
| 11/11 | Ken & Jan (N)          | Mark Kramer   | Teachers: Ryan & Stacy                    | Irv & Amy       |
|       | Rollyn & Kathy (S)     |               | Lesson: What A Catch                      |                 |
| 11/18 | JoLynne & Lauren (N)   | Ken Kramer    | Teachers: Kayla & Shelly                  | Dennis & Sharon |
|       | Paul & Darlene (S)     |               | Lesson: God's Gift Of Forgiveness         |                 |
| 11/25 | John DeBerg Family (N) | Nolan         | Teachers: Stacy & Kamie                   | Gene & Janet    |
|       | Irv & Amy (S)          |               | Lesson: Giving                            |                 |

\*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](http://www.parkersburg-crc.org) If you need to change a Sunday, please call one of the teachers.



# Thanksgiving Day

Fourth Thursday of November



AMERICA  
CANOE  
COLONY  
CORNUCOPIA  
ENGLAND  
FALL  
FAMILY  
FEAST  
FREEDOM

GRATITUDE  
HARVEST  
HOLIDAY  
INDIANS  
MAIZE  
MAYFLOWER  
MILES STANDISH  
NEWWORLD  
NOVEMBER

PILGRIMS  
PLYMOUTH  
PUMPKIN PIE  
PURITANS  
SQUASH  
STUFFING  
THANKSGIVING  
TURKEY  
YAMS

