

Shepherd's Staff

November 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.

Time for Change

Sitting at my desk, I am watching as the leaves from the trees fall gently to the ground. The frost from last night took its toll on the plants and trees. The crops are coming out of the fields and the harvest is again in full swing. The leaves that were a sign of life and growth react to the shorter days and now create more work for all of us who enjoyed the shade from the trees all summer long. Change is happening all around us in many ways and we are powerless to make it stop.

Our bodies' change over time is easily seen in the way our once tight skin seems to droop a little in all the wrong places. Our vision and hearing have fallen victim to the effects of time and abuse, likely from our youth when we thought we were invincible. Yet time marches on and the change of today will bring about even more change in just a few short weeks.

Change does not only affect us personally, it also changes the very institutions and organizations to which we belong. In many ways, we are in a crisis as volunteers have become fewer in many of the social entities. The willingness of every generation to give back to the community has changed in the recent decade. Is it any wonder that churches are struggling?

One aspect of change is that we react to the change or the world will march on without us. What have we done in preparation or in reaction to the inevitable? If we continue to look at doing what we always have, we will be left behind. We have a history of change in our church so why are we surprised at the need to continue to be born again in each generation?

Music is one of the areas that change has been most profound. For many of us we sang only the Psalms and an occasional hymn. Today the flavor of music centers more on praise and worship with many new artists singing songs intended to move the heart in new ways. Drama has also taken a hold in many churches as the message is brought into today's context through story.

As we have come to the place where we are again at a crossroad of sorts, what should we look at changing and what should be so foundational that we must hold on with everything we have? The Reformation can give us some clues as to what is important. The foundation of grace alone by faith alone in Christ alone through scripture alone should be the non-negotiable beginning. That leaves a lot of room to change what we do. The songs and the style of worship are left open for evaluation.

If what we are doing is not bringing about growth in the Spirit or in numbers, it may be time for re-evaluating. Change can be difficult but if we want to be what God wants us to be in this day and age, we must be open to the idea of change. The world changed when Christ came and we must be ready to change to be what God wants us to be as well for His glory and honor.

Pastor Rus

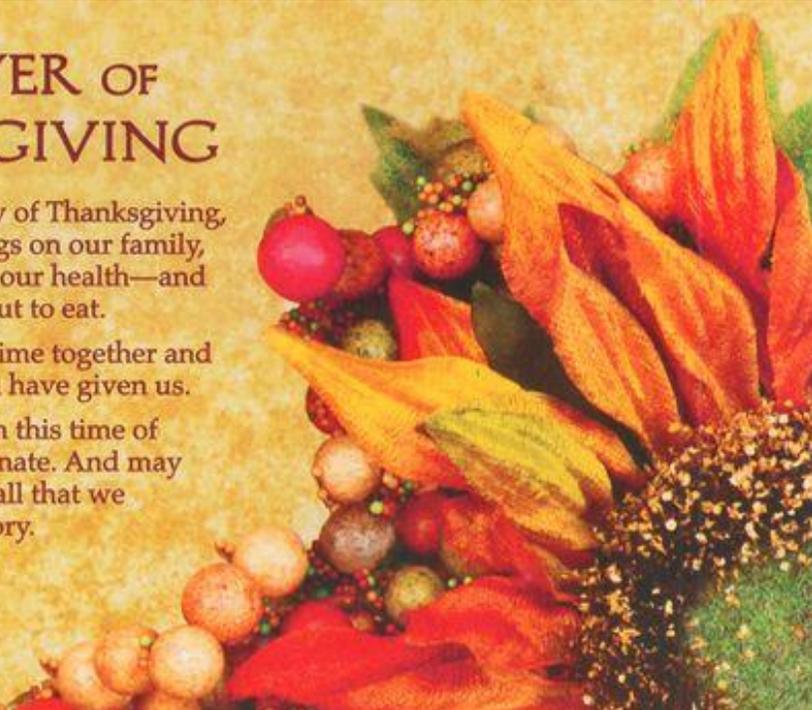
A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving, we ask your blessings on our family, our friends, our home, our health—and on the food we are about to eat.

We thank you for this time together and the many gifts that you have given us.

Help us to remember in this time of bounty those less fortunate. And may your love consume us all that we might share in your glory.

Amen.



Taste of Home

White Turkey Chili

★★★★☆

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 10 min. Cook: 35 min.

YIELD: 6 servings (1-1/2 quarts).

Ingredients

2 cans (15 ounces each) cannellini beans, rinsed and drained

1 can (10-3/4 ounces) reduced-fat reduced-sodium condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted

2 cups cubed cooked turkey breast

1-1/3 cups fat-free milk

1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chiles, drained

1 tablespoon minced fresh cilantro

1 tablespoon dried minced onion

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 teaspoon dried oregano

6 tablespoons fat-free sour cream

Directions

1. In a large saucepan, combine the first 10 ingredients; bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 25-30 minutes or until heated through. Top servings with sour cream.



November Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 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
- 11/29 Diane Roberts

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 Armstrong by the 20th of the month.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers[#]</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
11/3	Ken Kramer family (N)	Ken Johnson	Ryan & Stacy	Dennis & Sharon
	Pat & Deb (S)		God is Everywhere	
11/10	Dennis & Sharon (N)	Luke E.	JoLynne	Clarence & June
	Ken & Nancy (S)		God is a Healer	
11/17	Ken & Jan (N)	Ken Kramer	Amy & Kay	Dale & Angie
	John & Karen (S)		God is a Lawyer	
11/24	Dennis & Lois (N)	Joel & Kellen	Deb & Stacy	Paul & Gerald
	Rollyn & Kathy (S)		God is Our Provider	

*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.

Thanksgiving Word Search

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

cook
corn
dinner
fall
family
feast
food
gravy
harvest

maize
pilgrims
pumpkin
relatives
settlers
squash
stuffing
thanks
turkey

