

Shepherd's Staff

October 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.

The Prodigal Dog

I always said that our dog has it too good to ever run away. After all, he sleeps on a bed, eats table scraps, gets regular walks, and is just plain pampered. So how could it come about that on one of the walks, done without a leash, he became so enamored with a "girl" that he lost track of me as I was attempting to change up the route? Yet that is what happened. Being a smart dog he went back to where we were last together to find me. The bad news is that I was not there any longer. Seeing him in this anxious state, I called out to him but the distance must have been great enough that he was not able to be sure it was me. Thus, instead of running to me he ran away. Dogs run faster than old men! He was out of sight before I could get him back beside me.

I knew on foot I would never be able to catch him so I hiked back to home so I could chase in my truck, a vehicle he rode in earlier that day and was familiar with. The time lost in getting the truck seemed worth it for the recovery. Still the effort to find him proved futile. Standing corn did not allow a scan of the fields or give any clues as to his whereabouts. Persistence until night fall ended with no dog in sight.

Maybe it is that he knows how good he has life or maybe it is simply part of their nature, but after about four hours on the lam, the prodigal dog showed up at the door at home. No worse for the wear but obviously still anxious from the panic from being alone, he was happy to be safe inside where he belonged and felt at home.

Marley's little run on the wild side of life started me to thinking about our life experiences in comparison. We often like to think we are walking with God and everything is good. It is only when we stop to look around that we notice that one of us ventured away from the other. We panic, running to the last place we knew the companionship with God only to find that what we had is not there. We look around and cannot recognize God because we have lost our closeness, distorting our vision of God.

We run after what we lost but often times in the wrong direction. Trying to find our way on our own may be a logical thought, but logic is not always in keeping with God's way. Still, through it all, God never loses sight of us. He is ready to be found when we are ready to find Him. Calling out to God with a repentant heart and humble spirit is what God desires. Still God has planted in our being the desire to be with Him. Apart from God we can do nothing, but when we are in step with God we can do all things.

Is it possible that a church can also have a loss of vision? Can a church, the family of believers, lose sight of God and his will for us? If that is the case, what might that look like? Losing the sight of God in the activities of those gathered is one way. If a church becomes nothing more than a social gathering, the purpose for being is changed, if not gone. While the family or social aspect is important, it must always be centered on what God communicates to us. Loving God and loving each other as God has commanded is vital to being a true church.

Only when we see the beauty in others and also recognize our responsibility to one another will we be in step with God as we travel in this life. Only when we realize our best is when we are bound together will we be in step with the one God who calls us to faith and love. Only when we see the glory of God in those around us can we see the glory of God. If you are not seeing God's glory, perhaps it is time to look outside of ourselves and see God in those God has placed around us. Show your care and see what God can do through you for His glory. Then we will know we are on our way home where we can live at peace and in safety with our heavenly Father.

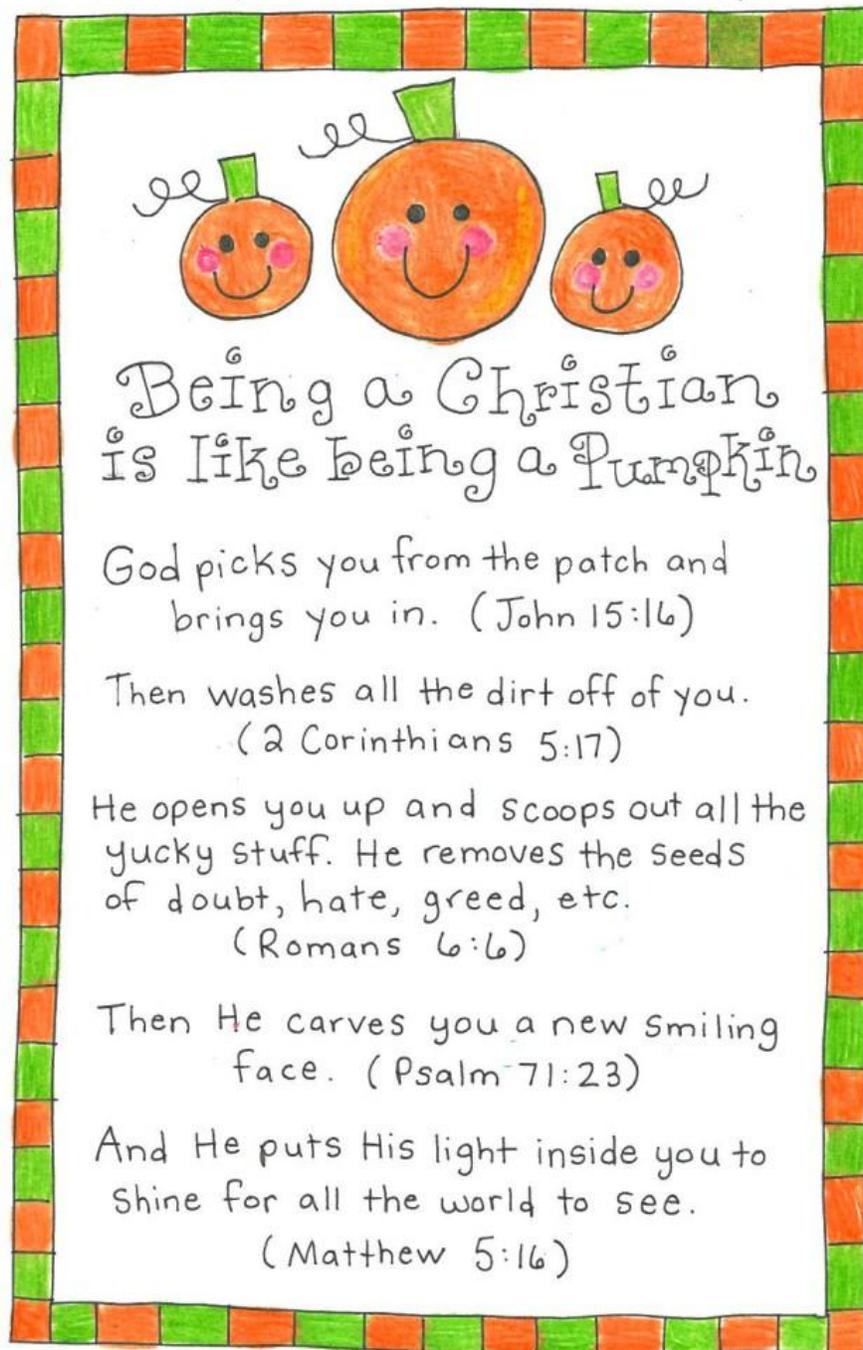
Pastor Rus

October Food Pantry Sunday will be October 28. Please follow the bulletin announcements for more information.



The Sunshine Circle Needs Your Help!

Brothers Super Market has offered a way for us to **earn extra cash!** All you have to do is buy their **"Best Choice"** products and cut out the **UPC code symbol** and place them in the box in the fellowship hall. We will earn three cents for symbol. There are more than 3200 "Best Choice" items to purchase. Check your mailbox for more information. Thanks.



Happy Home Fairy



October Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

10/7 Twila Jansen
 10/8 Janet Venenga
 10/15 Jodi DeBerg
 10/21 Aiden Merrill
 10/21 Tyler DeBerg
 10/23 Abbie DeBerg
 10/23 Ken Mehmen
 10/23 Chet Hay
 10/24 Madeline Geiken
 10/24 Ken Kramer
 10/28 Ivadell Primrose

Happy Anniversary

10/15 Ken & Rhonda Meester



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>
10/7	Joy K./Mary V. (N)	Joel & Kellen	Teachers: Stacy & Kamie	Mary V. & Mary B.
	Steve & Charlene (S)		Lesson: New Beginnings	
10/14	Gene & Janet (N)	Delbert	Teachers: Ryan & Stacy	Marlyn & Marcia
	Clarence & June (S)		Lesson: Jesus, Our Shepherd	
10/21	Ryan & Stacy (N)	Dale	Teachers: Kayla & Shelly	John & Jodi
	Pat & Deb (S)		Lesson: A Little Man's Big Change	
10/28	Ken Kramer Family (N)	Gerald	Teachers: Kay & Amy	Ken & Jan
	Ken & Nancy (S)		Lesson: Food Pantry Day	

*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.

Fall Is Here

BY LINDA MAHOOD MORGAN

This family is celebrating the arrival of fall. See if you can find and color these items hidden in the picture: adhesive bandage, balloon, banana, bowling pin, candy corn, feather, fish, football, heart, hot dog, ice-cream cone, kite, ladder, maze, mitten, ruler, safety pin, sailboat, toothbrush, traffic signal, wishbone, and worm.

