

Shepherd's Staff

September 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.

In Christ

On a recent walk, I saw an amazing illustration that made me think about the closeness of God to our lives. The sun was setting low and the vision that was made clear was the number of bugs, likely gnats, that could fill the air. The swarms of these little bugs was only visible when the sun was in the proper perspective. Thousands of the little bugs were filling the air making it concerning for anyone who would be a mouth breather. If these bugs can fill the air, what does it say to what God does with His Spirit?

It caught my attention that the only time I could see the massive number was when the sun shone upon them in direct angle to the sun. If the sun was off even a little the bugs would "disappear" from view without leaving. It was a real matter of being in the sun that made them visible or out of the sun that made them invisible to the eye.

As Christians we often talk about being "in Christ" while we walk in life. What does this mean to many of us though? Do we look through the space of time with Christ always in view or are we only walking in the periphery? The direct light of the love of Christ will light our way when the light is shining more directly on our path. The illumination of the glories of God will shine much more visible when we walk in the full light of Christ.

Viewing our life in Christ from the side diminishes the power of the love of Christ in our lives. What glories of God are we missing when we walk only on the edges of the love that is ours in Christ? Life can become sidetracked easily when the worries of life or the enticements of life move us from walking in line with Christ to walking on the edge. We are still in the glorious light but the strength of that light is weakened.

If we have fallen away from the full beauty of walking in Christ, it is likely time to examine our path. If we are in the light of Christ filling our vision, we are in the center of the path that leads to glory but even the slightest deviation leaves us outside of the full grace that could be ours. Knowing the extent of love that God has for us is something we should long for but the vision fades so gradually that we often do not notice until we have gone so far that we think we cannot find our way back. This tool of Satan seeks to disrupt the relationship we have with God in Christ. Simply move back into the light of God's love for us in Christ and you will again see the depth and width of the love of God for each of his children.

If the blessings of Christ seem to have come in a limited way, look more fully into the light of Christ and be ready to be amazed. God's love will outshine the shadows and let the light of his grace shine in unfiltered. Then we will know again what walking in Christ is really like.

Pastor Rus

Sunday School will begin September 8. We will follow the same format as last year with the last Sunday of the month the lesson will be during the service. Lessons from September through November will center around who God is. The lessons from December through May will concentrate on Jesus, "His name shall be called..."

Thank you parents for being the example of faithful attendance. Hebrews 10:24, "let us not give up the habit of meeting for worship".



We'll see you on the 8th. Have a friend? Bring them along.



October 11th 11:00am



Happy Birthday

9/2	Kellen Reints
9/3	Joshua Haan
9/7	Deb Prier
9/8	Bo Meester
9/8	Mike Ascher
9/9	Mark Kramer
9/12	Carol Watters
9/15	Savannah Ascher
9/16	Laura Edeker
9/17	Henry Heeren
9/22	Drake Shepard
9/24	Larry Johnson
9/26	Ellie Reints
9/26	Kenneth Meester

Happy Anniversary

9/7	Marlyn & Marcia Allspach
9/13	Mike & Stacy Ascher
9/27	Michael & Kayla Stirling



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please email it to Wendy Armstrong at wendymmulder@hotmail.com by the 20th of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	
9/1	John & Karen (N) Don & Annie (S)	Ken Johnson	Pat & Deb Paul & Darlene
9/8	Rollyn & Kathy (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Luke E.	Gene & Janet
9/15	Arnie & Kay (N) Ken & Jan (S)	Rollyn DeGroot	Irv & Amy
9/22	Joel Reints Family (N) Mike Ascher Family (S)	Gerald	
9/29	Dale & Angie (N) Marlyn & Marcia (S)	Mark Kramer	

*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.



Autumn

Word Search

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

ACORN
APPLE CIDER
AUTUMN
BONFIRE

FAMILY
HAYRIDE
LEAVES
PUMPKIN

SCARECROW
SMORES
TURKEY
THANKS