

Shepherd's Staff

February 2013

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m. ~ Life Plus Wed., 6:30 p.m.

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

Packed and (Hopefully) Ready to Go

I don't know about you but I am one who hates to pack for vacation. I never know just what to take and most of the time end up taking much more than I need. As I write this I have my clothes laid out for what I think I will need but who knows for sure? Perhaps part of my trouble is I am one who likes to travel without a well planned, tightly scheduled itinerary. To do so seems to be too much work on vacation! I like doing as the spirit moves me when not under the weight of being held tightly to a schedule.

I always leave with the consoling thought that where I am headed they have stores that sell whatever I may have forgotten or it is likely not that important in the first place. Still, I do like to go ready, so I take along things that are for the "just in case" category. You know the items, a cover-all and boots in case of car trouble, an extra flash light complete with spare batteries, and the ever present tool box. Yet even with these precautions I often will find something I think of that I do not have within fifty miles of home.

For many of us going through life is often the same way. We worry about what we can pack into our lives, racing from one event to the next hoping to get the most out of life. After all we have no guarantee about tomorrow. Life is for living, isn't it? So how do we pack a lifetime of living in when we have no idea what our lifetime is or includes?

This is where we can learn from our Creator! He has given us purpose and what we need for each and every day. We find this evident in II Corinthians 4, where after we learn about our fragileness as being "jars of clay" knowing God promises to "watch out for us." We also have the hope found in the Lord's Prayer of knowing God desires our asking for our daily needs. These show that we do not need to worry about the things we pack for life because God is able to fill in what we did not think about.

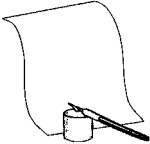
God provides our hope for today as well as our tomorrows in ways we never give any thought to. We do not always see the blessings that are in our lives or consider how they prepare us for living our lives to the fullest. These come into our lives through the most unexpected ways. Some through the good times we experience but also through the trials we face. God is able to use all things for shaping us into what we are intended to be in His plan for us.

When we go to pack our lives, maybe we should also pack lightly allowing God to fill in wherever we are in need. Open to God's leading and not our planning will open our ability to live life to the fullest in ways we may likely never have considered. Maybe Jeremiah 29:11 has more advice than we know. After all, it says, "I know the plans I have for you..." God knows the events we will enter and also the provisions we will need. We would all do well simply asking Him for everything we need, and not what we want, trusting Him to meet our need.

Of course we still need to do our part in following and using what God provides. That means I will still likely over pack and yet, inevitably, still forget something. Still we will leave tomorrow and know that no matter what we can be sure we do not travel alone.

Pastor Rus

Missionary Letter Writing Schedule

	Larry & Ann Vanderaa C/O CRWM 2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE Grand Rapids, MI 49560	Michael & Victoria VanDerDyke C/O CRWM 2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE Grand Rapids, MI 49560	
Week of:	Mark Kramer Family	Steve Kramer Family	
2/3	Ken Meester Family	Kevin Meester Family	
2/10	Ken Meester Family	Kevin Meester Family	
2/17	Ken Mehmen Family	Dennis Mennen Family	
2/24	Gaylen Mulder Family	Michael Mulder Family	
<p>When writing to Missionaries, do not ask about their work (do that when they come here) or mention missionary because it could put their lives in danger. Tell them about yourself, your family, our town and that you (we) are praying for them, etc.</p>			

Did you know...

Our Church has medical equipment available for use such as walkers, canes, crutches and more?

Our church is blessed with talented volunteers with many specialties that have improved our buildings, cared for our landscaping and brought many other benefits beyond the usual teaching and leadership volunteers.

Red Velvet Cake—Perfect for Valentine's Day

- 1 package (18 1/4 ounces) German chocolate cake mix with pudding
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 bottle (1 ounce) Red Food Color
- 3 eggs
- 2 teaspoons Pure Vanilla Extract



Vanilla Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 2 teaspoons Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1 box (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat cake mix, sour cream, water, cocoa powder, oil, food color, eggs and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on low speed just until moistened, scraping sides of bowl frequently. Beat on medium speed 2 minutes. Pour batter into 2 greased and floured (9-inch) round cake pans.
2. Bake 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Remove from pans; cool completely on wire rack.
3. For the Frosting, beat cream cheese, butter, sour cream and vanilla in large bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Fill and frost cooled cake with frosting.



February Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 2/1 Andrew Haan
- 2/2 John Hanna
- 2/7 Pat Prier
- 2/7 Lacey Hay
- 2/8 Mackenzie Allspach
- 2/10 Marlyn Allspach
- 2/14 Nolan Prier
- 2/17 Sharon Cordes
- 2/20 AnnaMae Mehmen
- 2/24 Rodney Mulder



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder 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>	<i>Coffee*</i>
2/3	Cory & Kamie (N) AnnaMae (S)	Ken Mehmen	Rod Mulder
2/10	Kevin & Shelly (N) Sylvia & Ivadell (S)	Ryan Edeker	Ken & Nancy
2/17	Larry & Mary (N) Steve & Charlene (S)	Ken Johnson	Pat & Deb
2/24	Ryan & Stacy (N) Clarence & June (S)	Ken Kramer	Brian & Kate

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

Music Has a Way of Touching One's Soul

My Jesus, I Love Thee (1864)

We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

The young people of today are utterly dissolute and disorderly," fumed grumpy old Martin Luther in the sixteenth century. The philosopher Plato agreed. "The youth are rebellious, pleasure-seeking, and irresponsible," he wrote. "They have no respect for their elders." Socrates complained, "Children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority. They show disrespect for elders, and love chatter."

A 6000-year old Egyptian tomb bears this inscription: "We live in a decadent age. Young people no longer respect their parents. They are rude and impatient. They inhabit taverns and have no self-control."

The next time you think the "modern generation" is going from bad to worse, remember that God always has a rich handful of teenage heroes ready to change the world. In Bible times, we read of Joseph the dreamer, Daniel in Babylon, David the giant-killer, and the virgin Mary (likely still a teen).

As a teenager, Charles Spurgeon preached to great crowds, but when they referred to his youthfulness, he replied, "Never mind my age. Think of the Lord Jesus Christ and His preciousness."

In our own day, we've been deeply moved by young people like 17-year old Cassie Bernall of Littleton, Colorado, who was shot for her faith during the Columbine tragedy.

Some of our greatest hymns were also written by young adults. Isaac Watts wrote most of his most memorable hymns at about the age of nineteen. When poet John Milton was fifteen, he wrote the well-known, "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind." The hymn, "Work for the Night Is Coming," was written by an eighteen-year-old. And this hymn of deep devotion, "My Jesus, I Love Thee," was written by William Ralph Featherston at age sixteen. Sixteen!

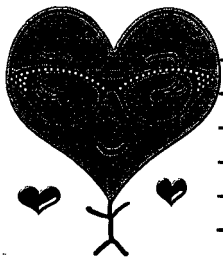
Featherston was born July 23, 1846, in Montreal. He died in the same city 26 years later. His family attended the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and it seems likely that William wrote this hymn as a poem celebrating his conversion to Christ. Reportedly, he sent it to an aunt living in California, and somehow it was published as an anonymous hymn in a British hymnal in 1864.

Little else is known about the origin of the hymn or its author, but that's all right. It's enough just to know that God can change the world through anyone—regardless of age—who will say, "My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine. For Thee, all the follies of sin I resign."

*Quoted from *Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories* by Robert J. Morgan*

How Many Words Can You Make Out Of:

Happy Valentine's Day



Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of horizontal lines. Each set of lines has a small heart placed on it to indicate a starting point for writing.

