

# Shepherd's Staff

March 2015

*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.*



## Thinking Spring

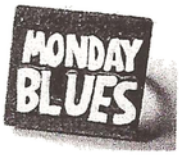
Like so many of you, I have grown tired of winter. The new blanket of snow that fell yesterday did not help my attitude at all. I liked the sight of ground in the garden, and thinking about the warm summer days harvesting the fresh veggies, just days before it was covered again. Longing for spring at this time of the year is a common "malady" for many though so I do not feel alone in this desire. Yet we can know that spring is coming as the days are getting longer. The frigid temps will soon give way to the warm rains and budding plants.

One thing I do like about the spring is that we are able to see the beauty of Easter in the signs of the season. New life bursts onto the scene with such vibrant colors showing the end of the winter dormancy. This is a gift that God gives us to remind us about the most life-changing event in all human history. The day the tomb broke open to reveal what the Angels declared, "He is not here, he has risen!" The darkness of death lost its grip and life won the victory! Yet for many of us we seem to forget the importance of this event. We long for spring but lose sight of the glorious celebration of Easter.

Perhaps we have become too aware of the "fault" of our past. We most likely have heard of the saying that some Christians are "so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good." While it is true we must always live in the tension of the two worlds, we must never succumb to the world at the cost of eternity. While thinking spring is not wrong, we must not forget the more important thoughts of the joy we have as believers living on this side of Easter.

Living in the tension of the "already and not yet" presence of the Kingdom of God, we must always choose the priority position of one over the other. Remembering we do live in the world, it is good to be reminded that we are not to be of the world. If we truly are in Christ we must live that way. Maybe it is time we became a little less worldly good so we can be more heavenly minded. How this will look must not have us walking around with our heads in the clouds but with our hearts and mind on Christ always. For the rest, I am still looking for spring.

Pastor Rus



The cure for "Monday blues" has to be taken the day before. See Hebrews 10:25.



### Priceless Gifts to Give for Free

1. The Gift of Listening: No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your responses. Just listen.
2. The Gift of Affection: Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back, and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.
3. The Gift of Laughter: Share articles, funny stories, and cartoons to tell someone, "I love to laugh with you."
4. The Gift of a Written Note: A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime and may even change a life.
5. The Gift of a Compliment: A simple and sincere "You look great in red," "You did a super job," or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.
6. The Gift of a Favor: Every day, go out of your way to do something kind for someone.
7. The Gift of Solitude: There are times when we want nothing more than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
8. The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition: The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, even if it's just saying hello or thank you.
9. The Gift of a Prayer: Let your friends and loved ones know you pray for them—and then do it!

(Barbara Johnson, *Leaking Laffs Between Pampers and Depends*)



### Cheery-O!

If you smile the day will be cheery,  
If you smile the day will be bright.  
If you think good thoughts you'll be happy,  
And everything will work out just right.  
So don't let a frown turn you sour,  
Don't let bad thoughts make you blue.  
Just always remember, think positively,  
For how you feel is up to you!

Susan L. Wiener



## March Birthdays/Anniversaries



### Happy Birthday

3/9 Michael Stirling  
 3/11 Kathleen DeGroot  
 3/15 Kay Swanson  
 3/18 Greg Allspach  
 3/24 Teresa Hay  
 3/26 Naomi Allspach  
 3/28 Rhonda Meester

### Happy Anniversary

3/19 Pat & Deb Prier  
 3/21 Don & Annie Allspach



**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. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

### Greeters

### Ushers

### Coffee\*

3/1	Mark & Lanae (N) Ken & Janet (S)	Gaylen Mulder	Arnie & Kay
3/8	Pastor Rus & Mary (N) Henry & Kathy (S)	Gerald Haan	Gaylen & Carla
3/15	Jean Trey (N) Delbert & Sharon (S)	Mark Kramer	Paul & Darlene
3/22	Cory & Kamie (N) Ken & Rhonda (S)	Delbert Cordes	Ken & Rhonda
3/29	Kevin & Shelly (N) Sylvia & AnnaMae (S)	Ken Meester	John & Karen

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

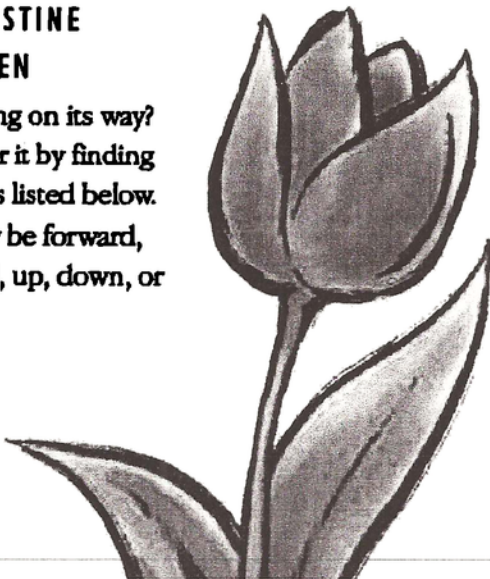


T L C M G E G S  
 A Q B R A H J V Y N Y E Q A D  
 J K R X G D L K W Z F X M B N M R H  
 S H E M F J C T J R I S B Q O G E J D K  
 G F S U N S H I N E U T A P J P R B E Z  
 U B U V B B D J X A Y R E Q U L A R N P  
 B I R W R U I N G S Z E R D N A L S A U  
 C Z R E G T M P M T K E D Y A J C M Q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

# Search for Spring

BY CHRISTINE  
SORENSEN

Is spring on its way?  
Search for it by finding  
the words listed below.  
They may be forward,  
backward, up, down, or  
diagonal.



A E  
 T A  
 O O  
 N K  
 E M  
 M E  
 E G  
 N U  
 T Y  
 O L  
 L X  
 F Y

Atonement  
 birds  
 blossoms  
 breeze  
 bugs  
 butterfly  
 Christ  
 Easter  
 eggs  
 flowers  
 fun  
 garden  
 general conference

grass  
 joy  
 kite  
 puddle  
 rain  
 Resurrection  
 seeds  
 spring  
 sprouts  
 sunshine  
 tree  
 umbrella

