

## Shepherd's Staff *We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.*

March 2017 "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.

### Puppy Love

It seems everyone loves a puppy but what is there not to love? They are so soft and cuddly and seem to have an insatiable need for attention. The clumsy way they look at you with big sad eyes can melt the hardest of hearts. I know this is how many puppies find their way into homes. The problem of being too cute! Of course the trouble is that the tiny little balls of fur grow! And some puppies really grow!

What once was seen as a warm and cuddly pup now becomes a chore to be taken care of. Walks, feeding, grooming, and health check-ups all take time and energy. And that is beside the work of removing the organic fertilizer from the yard, hopefully before being stepped in. Let's face it, dogs can be a lot of work. But they are also much more. The comfort they bring simply with their presence in a house can be calming. The anxiety of knowing that an alarm and protection system is with you is reassuring.

If you have trouble living up to your need for exercise, a dog is a great encourager. They don't seem to notice the cold or the rain or snow when they are filled to the brim with energy. The big eyes that look up to you never seem to notice that the desire is not always mutual. Still the love they give for what they require is special. That is why the term "puppy love" means something strong but often short termed. Love from the grown puppy does not end as easily as the love seems to end for the grown puppy.

When we adopted a new puppy into our home recently, the affection was almost immediate. The puppy love bug had bitten us. We are not new to having a puppy as we did raise one before so we knew what we were in for. The house took on a change to "puppy proof" what we could, but not all the wires can be picked up and not all the breakables are found in time. In a way, this is the reason we look forward to the slower pace of life for a grown dog.

Having this thought in mind made me think of what God sees in us. Does God lose interest in us when we grow? Do we seem less lovable when we get older and lose some of the cuteness of our infancy? Child proofing does not work so well with us as we learn and grow older but does that mean God loves us less?

The attribute of God never changing may be of some comfort here. God loves with an everlasting love. His love is not short sighted as we can see from Psalm 139. God knows us even before we are born. God knows what we will be, where we will go, and how we will live before we take our first breath. If this is the situation, we can be assured that God does not love us with "puppy love" but with an everlasting love. What a comfort we have knowing the depth of God's love for us in spite of who we turn out to be. If only we could love at the level of God in all of our relationships. Then we would not need the term "Puppy Love".

Pastor Rus





Hook and Needle Group invites you to check out the display of the projects they have been working on in the Fellowship Hall. As you will see the handmade projects are many and varied. Knitted and crocheted hats and scarves on display are donated to Butler County Christmas Cheer and also to the Butler DHS to schools in the county for students who need one.

Lap throws are also made with the intended recipients being the shut-ins from church, but they were also brought to all the residents of Parker Place two years ago. These have been warmly welcomed as they also help keep everyone who receives one warm.

The shawls are not ordinary shawls but Prayer Shawls. These are made with care to be given to cancer patients. These people often experience the chills during treatment for the cancer and a warm shawl that has been prayed over not only gives warmth, but hope as well.

This group started with their trademark product of baby blankets. These are tenderly made so that every child born in Parkersburg will receive a gift bag with a card and hand-made blanket.

These are personally delivered whenever we learn of a birth within the church or city. (If you have a neighbor who welcomes a baby into their family please let Mary Boersma know.)

If you are interested in joining this group, we meet on Tuesday afternoons twice a month at 1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All levels of knitters and crochet crafters are welcome including beginners.

Mary Boersma

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**A Precious Gift from my GOD.....**



Jeremiah John-Howard Oltman was born on February 1st. Congratulations to parents Dan and Jess Oltman; big sister, Emilie and grandparents, John and Karen Oltman.

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**RUN TO THE EMPTY TOMB 5K RUN/WALK.....**

Have you registered? You won't want to miss this fun run/walk. You will visit the empty tomb and be treated to a buffet breakfast!



If you know of someone that is interested, give them a form, which are located in the fellowship hall or are available at parkersburg-crc.org.

We will also need volunteers to help with making the route, spotters (or people to cheer on the participants), servers in the kitchen, registration, timers, and helping set up the tomb. A sign up sheet will be placed in the fellowship hall within the next couple of weeks. Thanks everyone for your help with this.

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**Prayer requests, concerns, needs.....** There is a PRAYER board in the fellowship hall for ANYONE to put ANY prayer requests, concerns on the line. Take a look at these and keep in your prayers. Thank you.





# March Birthdays/Anniversaries



## Happy Birthday

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

## Happy Anniversary

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



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**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.

|      | <i>Greeters</i>      | <i>Ushers</i> | <i>Sunday School Teachers w/Lesson Topic<sup>#</sup></i> |                                   | <i>Coffee*</i> |
|------|----------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 3/5  | Larry & Mary (N)     | Delbert C.    | Ryan & Stacy   | Jesus at 12                       | Kamie & Cory   |
|      | Dave & Betty (S)     |               | Jodi   | God's Power Saves Us By His Grace |                |
| 3/12 | Dennis & Sharon (N)  | Ken M.        | No Sunday School   |                                   | John & Karen   |
|      | John & Karen (S)     |               |  |                                   |                |
| 3/19 | Ryan & Stacy (N)     | Ken J.        | Amy & Kay  | The Friend at Midnight            | Paul & Darlene |
|      | Frank & Betty (S)    |               | JoLynne  | Children & Parents                |                |
| 3/26 | John & Jodi (N)      | Ken K.        | Kamie & Nancy  | Signs of Things to Come           | Pat & Deb      |
|      | Steve & Charlene (S) |               | Reints Family  | Jesus is for Everyone             |                |

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

#The teacher schedule and lessons 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](http://www.parkersburg-crc.org) If you need to change a Sunday, please call one of the teachers.

# Spring Fun Word Search

Can you find the words associated with the coming of Spring?

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

APRIL  
BASEBALL  
BIRDS  
BLOSSOMS  
BUDS  
DAFFODILS  
EASTER  
FLOWERS  
GARDENING  
GREEN  
GROWING  
KITE  
MARBLES  
MARCH  
MAY  
NESTING  
PLANTING  
PUDDLES  
RAIN  
ROBIN  
SEEDS  
SHOWERS  
SUNSHINE  
TULIP  
WINDS