

Shepherd's Staff

May 2020

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.

Trust and Obey

In the last few months the world has changed dramatically. The introduction of a new, highly contagious virus has had an effect on everyone. Watching the news we see how people are responding to the new conditions for living apart. Not all people have found the restrictions put in place by our government officials to be a favorable way to react. Like many, we at our church have needed to adapt to living apart to the point of closing the normal way we worship. We joined in with many businesses in staying apart to stay healthy in spite of God calling us to come together because we have been requested to live accordingly by our elected officials. Is this a case of obedience to an earthly power over the will of God or in keeping with the will of God?

We are reminded that God set up governments to deal with the well-being of the citizens over which they are placed in charge. While we must always be mindful that we are citizens of the Heavenly Kingdom, we are also still in the world and bound to the controls that God has placed on us as such.

We also have the opportunity to use the wisdom God has given to individuals who are also tasked with our protection in such fields as medicine and public health. These individuals have the gift of God given wisdom to recognize trends and analyze the condition of events that are occurring in the world.

While we are, as Christians, called to live obedient lives in the setting where God has placed us, we are also given the ability to examine the facts as presented to us to make informed decisions based on our understanding of God's will. This is why a government that does atrocities against its people are not to be blindly followed but opposed. That leads us to the difficult choice of obedience or not.

Watching the news we see that some states are finding rebellion rising because of the hardships faced by the people who have been placed out of work due to the pandemic that is attacking us at this time. We must weigh out the benefits and the consequences of the restrictions placed on our freedoms. If the pain of economic hardships continue to rise we may find that civil disobedience will rise in many of our states even though the health of some who are vulnerable depend on the isolation rules staying in place. This may be the place where the church can shine in this day and age. We are called to stand with the down trodden and be with the widows and orphans in their time of need.

The church members still need to earn an income but we must be aware that we are in a life and death situation with the virus, many even in our congregation. Offering help is one way we can be faithful to our call to God and at the same time be obedient to the laws that restrain our movements for a time. One thing we can all agree on is that in the strength that God gives and the help provided through the church family we can get through to the end in a way that pleases God and keeps us at peace with the government that God has placed over us. We just need to trust and obey.

Pastor Rus



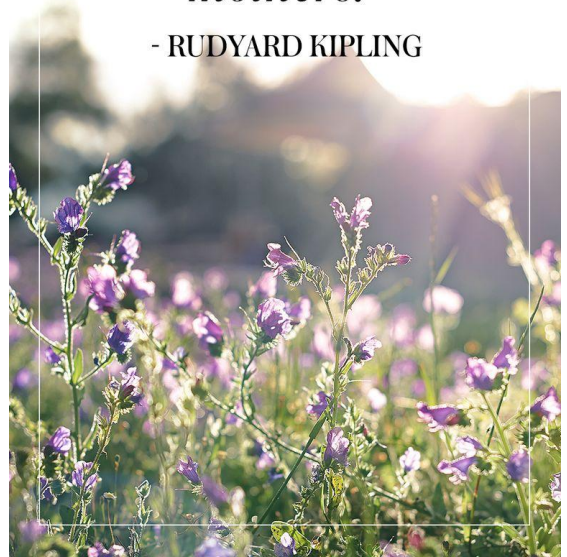
Thank you, Mother

No matter where we go, we remember the things our mothers taught us—those precious lessons of life and love; the example they lived before us; the prayers that pointed us in the right direction. As we look to the future, we can face with confidence whatever happens because mothers help give us a foundation of faith. No matter where, no matter when, mothers love us, again and again.

--Rebecca Barlow

*“God could not
be everywhere, and
therefore he made
mothers.”*

- RUDYARD KIPLING



Memorial Day



We walked among the crosses
Where our fallen soldiers lay.
And listened to the bugle
As TAPS began to play.
The Chaplain led a prayer
We stood with heads bowed low.
And I thought of fallen comrades
I had known so long ago.
They came from every city
Across this fertile land.
That we might live in freedom.
They lie here 'neath the sand.
I felt a little guilty
My sacrifice was small.
I only lost a little time
But these men lost their all.
Now the services are over
For this Memorial Day.
To the names upon these crosses
I just want to say,
Thanks for what you've given
No one could ask for more.
May you rest with God in heaven
From now through evermore.

--C. W. Johnson



May Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 5/3 Steven Kramer
- 5/4 Dale Meester
- 5/9 Emma Haan
- 5/14 Sharon Schipper
- 5/17 Ken Roberts
- 5/20 Amy Mulder
- 5/21 Irvin Haan
- 5/26 Cayden Shepard
- 5/28 Rollyn DeGroot
- 5/29 Ryan Edeker
- 5/30 David Mulder

Happy Anniversary

- 5/14 Steve & Charlene Kramer
- 5/16 Delbert & Sharon Cordes
- 5/26 Henry & Kathy Heeren



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> |
|------|----------------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| 5/3 | JoLynne & Lauren - S | | Deb & JoLynne | Jan J. /Mary B. |
| | Pat & Deb - N | | | |
| 5/10 | Mike & Stacy - S | Gerald | Joel & Brandy | Ryan & Stacy |
| | Joel & Brandy - N | | | |
| 5/17 | Arnie & Kay-S | Joel/Kellen | Amy & Kay | Mike & Kayla |
| | Joy K. & Mary V.-N | | | |
| 5/24 | Marlyn & Marcia - S | Ryan | | Marlyn & Marcia |
| | Ken & Rhonda - N | | | |
| 5/31 | Kevin & Shelly- S | Dale | | Dennis & Sharon |

*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 If you need to change a Sunday, please call one of the teachers.



Mother's Day Word Search



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



MOTHER
 GRANDMA
 FLOWERS
 ADOPTION
 WISE



CHILD
 LOVE
 PRESENTS
 PERFUME
 LESSONS



PARENT
 FAMILY
 BIRTH
 KISS
 COOKING

