

Shepherd's Staff

November 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.

True Colors

Fall is here! As I looked around this morning I could not help but notice the beauty of creation with the magnificent colors coming out on the trees. The change in the season we are told is what brings out the beauty with the diminishing daylight hours and the cooling temperatures causing the plant life to prepare for the winter months.

Fall is also a busy time of the year when the harvest must be brought in before the wind and snow of winter force the farmer to leave the crop until spring, suffering a loss due to the "poachers" who eat the grain during the cold months. This year the weather has been very kind to the harvest operations with dry conditions prevailing. Even our gardens are coming to a pause. The root vegetables have been dug and the above ground plants have begun to fade and die with the leaves on the bean plants turning yellow before becoming brown. All these signs point to the changing of the season.

For some of us, the season change has come to soon! I know I did not get everything I planned to get accomplished finished. I am not sure I was done with the taste of fresh beans and tomatoes from the garden. I still have a few I can enjoy but the harvest has slowed remarkably. Still the colors of fall, with the cool, crisp nights, are a welcomed relief from the sweltering heat of summer. We often thank God for the artistic display seen on the trees and shrubs when we drive around taking in the vibrant colors. I must admit, fall does have its attractions.

The interesting thing about the color we see is that scientists tell us the color was there all along! The leaves with the brilliant colors of red, yellow, and orange were hidden by the growth color of green during the process in which the tree stores up nutrition for the winter. When we see the color it is only the true color shining through. That makes me wonder if we also have our true color hidden in our lives?

Are we like the leaves on the trees immersed in a time of growth and learning with our true purpose or color waiting to be revealed? A time of growth is always necessary for we do need time to be shaped into what God intended us to be. Yet when it is time to let our inner self out many will claim not to be ready. We desire to be like the Oak tree that holds on to the dead leaves all winter long, only shedding them when the new leaves begin to push the old out of the way so they can grow. While that may work for the strong oak, other trees shed their leaves so the strong winds of winter cannot harm the tree because the denseness of the foliage has fallen away.

Letting our light shine in Christ is our way of letting the true color of our lives shine through after we have learned what it is to trust in Him! Being afraid should not be an option. We are only hiding who we were meant to be when we cling to the past. Christ is the life within us that must shine through our past. Unless we grow into the new phase of life we are not only denying who we are but whose we are. Like the colors of fall we must shine with all the beauty of Christ in us so that we can realize our true value. After all our value is not what we have done but comes from what God has done in and through us in Christ. Are your true colors shining through revealing Christ in you? If not now, when? After all, it is fall!

Pastor Rus

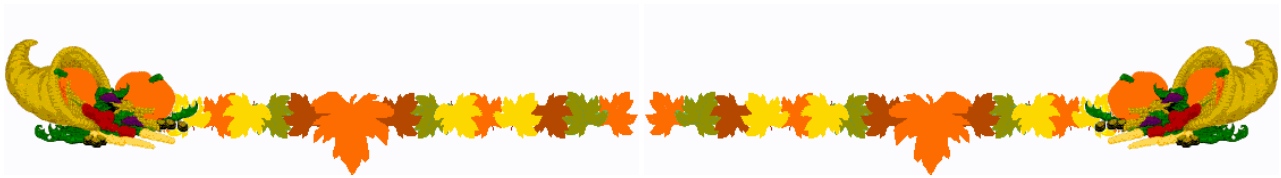
We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to his name: He forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, All glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!
Amen

--Traditional Thanksgiving Hymn



God has no phone,
but I can still talk to Him.



He has no Facebook
but He is my "friend"

He does not have "Twitter"
but I will "follow" Him.

My sheep hear my voice
and I know them
and they follow Me.

John 10:27

Remember our veterans on
November 11th.



- Buy lunch for a veteran
- Buy a veteran a cup of coffee
- Hand out gift cards to service members you may see out and about
- Bake them a batch of cookies
- Give them a handshake
- Give them a hug
- Say thank you!



November Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 11/3 Erma Aswegan
- 11/3 Lois Mennen
- 11/3 Dennis Schipper
- 11/4 Brandy Reints
- 11/6 JoLynne Husz
- 11/8 Rus Boersma
- 11/13 Jean Trey
- 11/14 Diana Mulder
- 11/14 Brooke Merrill
- 11/14 Wendy Mulder
- 11/17 Annie Allspach
- 11/19 John Husz
- 11/20 Noah Merrill
- 11/22 Kayla Stirling
- 11/25 Nancy Mehmen

Happy Anniversary

- 11/6 Kevin & Shelly Meester
- 11/10 Dennis & Lois Mennen



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>
11/1	Steve & Charlene (N) Kevin & Shelly (S)	Gerald Haan	Gene & Janet
11/8	Clarence & June (N) Larry & Mary (S)	Mark Kramer	Mike & Kayla
11/15	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Ryan & Stacy (S)	Delbert Cordes	Steve & Charlene
11/22	Pat & Deb (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Ken Meester	Dennis & Sharon
11/29	Don & Annie (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Ken Johnson	Dale & Angie

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

Thanksgiving Word Search

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

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

Word Bank

AUTUMN	FEAST	GOD	LEFTOVERS	PRAISE	TRADITION
BAKE	FELLOWSHIP	GRATITUDE	LOVE	PRAYERS	TURKEY
BLESSINGS	FRIENDS	GRAVY	NAP	PUMPKIN	WORSHIP
CHRIST	GATHERING	HARVEST	NOVEMBER	SHARING	YUM
CHRISTIAN	GIVING	JESUS	PARADE	TABLE	
CHURCH	GOBBLE	LAUGHTER	PIE	THURSDAY	