

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

November 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.*

### **What's Real?**

Growing up there was an advertisement for a recording tape that asked, "Is it real or is it Memorex?" They were very proud of the quality of the recorded sound they were able to reproduce claiming that the recorded high notes could break glass just as a singer was able to do. Today we have even more uncertainty in the material we hear and see. Photos in magazines are altered to the extent that the models cannot be recognized if met in person.

Even when video recordings are provided to the police, the factual value of the social media is not "trust worthy enough" to be used for prosecution as was recently reported on the news programs lately. Today we require more substantial evidence even in the trial process for determining guilt or innocence. To separate the truth from fiction is not so easy anymore.

The more knowledge we seem to gain the more we question what we discover. With telescopes orbiting the earth and able to see galaxies not visible to the naked eye, science tries to come up with an alternative "theory" as to the origins of existence. We are also able to probe deeper into the heart of the seas and even into the earth itself, discovering mysteries that many times confirm the authenticity of God's Word.

The societies of the world are always trying to disprove the sacred things we hold to as believers. Even some who claim to be religious scholars seem no longer convinced of the long held truths. Books have even been written about looking for the "Historical Jesus" where the criteria used in the "search" disallowed anything that could not be replicated, meaning all the miracles could not be used in determining if Jesus is who he said he is. Is it any wonder that many children of the church are also cautious when it comes to what to believe?

Still for those who have received faith by grace to believe in the God who revealed himself in creation and in the written Word, the Bible, we still believe God is both real and that he cares for the ones he has called to be his children. A series of television advertisements that a Classis used asked the question, "What if it's true?" The idea was to get people to ask themselves if what they heard about God, eternity, salvation and even life here and now were all true? Would we do things differently if we believed God is real? That he is active in our daily living? That he cares about the things we do and how we live?

Having the ability to see a visible God, or to touch a physical God, would make it easier to believe. But God does give us the testimonies of many witnesses who have seen the one sent from heaven, the Son of God and Son of man. God also gives us his truth in the Bible so we can know him. But it still takes faith to commit to what we cannot see but the evidence is convincing if we look through the eyes of faith, trusting God. After all, he has shown himself to be very real without any alterations that make him unrecognizable. It only takes faith to "see" him in all his glory.

Pastor Rus

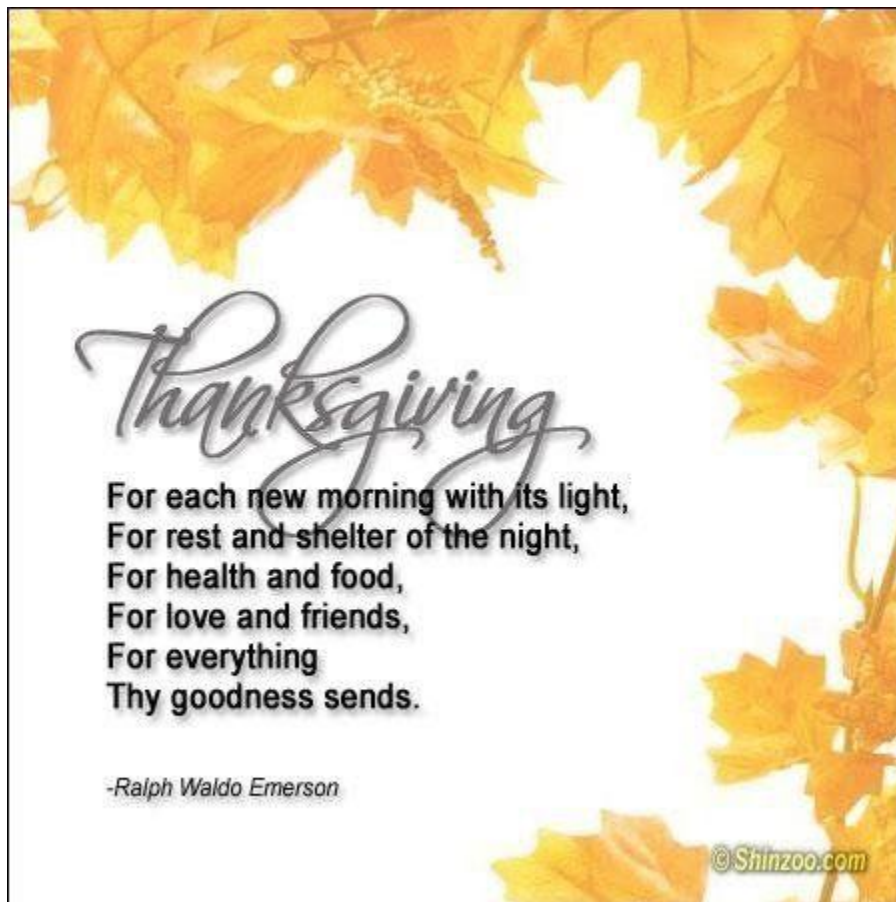
## Hook and Needles Knitting and Crochet Group

Hook and Needles Group has begun a new season of working to provide quality handmade items for those who might go without if not for the generous hearts of this group. The crafters are busy making Baby blankets for newborns in our community as well as hats and scarves that are brought to the Butler County Health Department. The hats and scarves are sent out to schools in the county so that children can stay warmer even if they cannot afford these items. Added this year are hats for newborn babies with the intent to bring them to the area hospitals. Items that have been made in the past include Prayer Shawls delivered to the cancer treatment facility in Waterloo, Lap Throws brought to shut-ins both in our church but also at Parker Place.



These crafters meet on Tuesdays afternoons in the Fellowship Hall (watch the bulletin for days scheduled) to work together, learn new patterns, or simply learn how to knit or crochet. Of course, what all quality groups do at church meetings is share time over goodies and tea or coffee as well.

If this sounds like something you may be interested in, you are encouraged to contact Mary Boersma. Beginners as well as experienced persons are welcome.





# 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 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers<sup>#</sup></i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
11/5	Dennis & Sharon(N)	Gerald H.	Ryan & Stacy	Mike & Kayla
	John & Karen (S)		Deb	
11/12	Ryan & StacyE. (N)	Mark K.	Kayla & Shelly	Irv & Amy
	Frank & Betty P. (S)		Stacy	
11/19	John & Jodi D. (N)	Ken M.	Amy & Kay	Dennis & Sharon
	Steve & Charlene K. (S)		JoLynne	
11/26	Paul & Darlene B. (N)	Ken J.	Kamie & Nancy	Gene & Janet
	Mike & Kayla S. (S)		Brandy	

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

#The teacher schedule 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.



# Thanksgiving Day

Fourth Thursday of November



AMERICA  
CANOE  
COLONY  
CORNUCOPIA  
ENGLAND  
FALL  
FAMILY  
FEAST  
FREEDOM

GRATITUDE  
HARVEST  
HOLIDAY  
INDIANS  
MAIZE  
MAYFLOWER  
MILES STANDISH  
NEWWORLD  
NOVEMBER

PILGRIMS  
PLYMOUTH  
PUMPKIN PIE  
PURITANS  
SQUASH  
STUFFING  
THANKSGIVING  
TURKEY  
YAMS

