

Shepherd's Staff

October 2016

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.

Father's Hand

As a father and grandfather, I have always enjoyed the opportunity to hold a child's small hand in mine. The joy it gives me as the tiny hand reaches upward to be clasped into my hand as a touch of security and embracing strength is heartwarming. I wonder if this is why we often find references to God's hand leading us and protecting us in the Bible.

God the Father is very interested and concerned in regard to His children. He is always ready to reach out and catch us when we fall. The same way we reach out to children, looking to protect them from injury is what our heavenly Father tries to do for us. I find it amazing that our infinite creator God cares for us in this powerful and yet tender way.

I don't know if you have ever imaged what it would be like if God would reach down with His hand to take hold of us in a visible way. In my mind, the picture is one that leaves me mystified at the immensity of this simple gesture. How small would my hand appear in the powerful hand of God? How would the hand that is capable of holding the world in place not swallow and crush my hand?

Maybe that is why God gives us adults the joy of holding the tiny hands of children. While we could crush such little but trusting hands we hold them firmly but at the same time gently. We instill an image of calm and protection as best we can with our limited ability to shape the day and our future. If that is what we do when we hold our children, how much more is it a blessing to be held in God's hand?

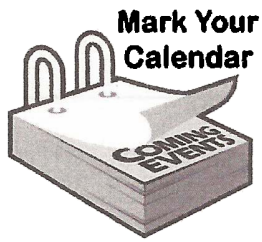
Maybe that is why we also have so many songs that remind us of the tenderness of God as well as the power He uses to watch over us. Songs like "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," as well as countless others, show the desire we have as children of God to be cared for and held in His hands.

While we may find such joy knowing that God cares for us in this compassionate way we must not forget that there are many in this world that do not know, or have never known, this comfort and joy. I wonder if we are ashamed that we still hold our Father's hand? A teen will react differently to a parent's attempt to hold hands than a young child will. Have we grown to the point of being in the rebellious years of trying to become independent? Rebellion from God is not what we should be thinking of, let alone trying. Our maturing should have us proclaiming our dependence on God not our feeble attempt to get away. Through our open reliance on the guiding hand of God we testify to our identity. A child of God should always seek and welcome this power of the love God has for us.

Are you held in the Father's hand? If not who has pulled away? God is reaching out in love. Take hold of Him and enjoy the comfort of His care while you still can.

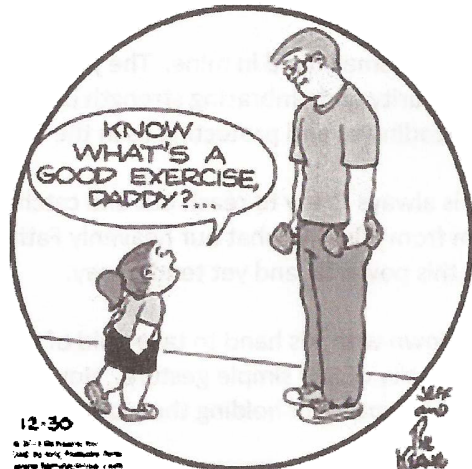
Pastor Rus

UPCOMING EVENTS:



--SOUP SUPPER November 10 Proceeds to go to Life Plus

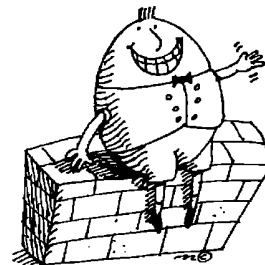
--Joan & Dave Becker (evening service) November 13 followed by a light lunch
Joan will be speaking on her son's journey with mental illness. She will speak on her and Dave's faith through it all.



12-30
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"Reaching down and liftin' somebody up."

Q: Why does Humpty Dumpty love autumn?
A: Because Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.



OCTOBER
gave a party: the
LEAVES by
hundreds
came. The
CHESTNUTS
OAKS, and MAPLES.
leaves of every name.
And The
SUNSHINE yreard
a carpet, grand.
And everything was
the
Miss WEATHER led
dancing. Professor
WIND the band.

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October Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

- 10/7 Twila Jansen
- 10/8 Janet Venenga
- 10/15 Jodi DeBerg
- 10/21 Aiden Merrill
- 10/21 Tyler DeBerg
- 10/23 Abbie DeBerg
- 10/23 Ken Mehmen
- 10/23 Chet Hay
- 10/24 Madeline Geiken
- 10/24 Ken Kramer
- 10/28 Ivadell Primrose

Happy Anniversary

- 10/15 Ken & Rhonda Meester



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.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers w/Lesson Topic[#]</i>		<i>Coffee*</i>
10/2	Delbert & Sharon (N)	Mark K.	Ryan & Stacy	God Sends Plaques Part 2	Mary V. & Mary B.
	Pastor Rus & Mary (S)		Jodi	Unity in the Church	
10/9	Ken & Tracie K. (N)	Delbert C.	Kayla & Shelly	10 Commandments	Ken & Rhonda
	Jean Trey (S)		Stacy	Spiritual Wisdom	
10/16	Ken & Rhonda M. (N)	Ken J.	Amy & Kay	10 Commandments	Marlyn & Marcia
	Cory & Kamie S. (S)		JoLynne	Serving Together	
10/23	Dennis & Lois M. (N)	Ken M.	Kamie & Nancy	Moses Shining Face	John & Jodi
	Kevin & Shelly M. (S)		Brandy & Joel	Serving Faithfully	
10/30	Sylvia & AnnaMae (N)	Ken K.	Ryan & Stacy	The Holiness Code & Law of Love	Ken & Jan
	Mike & Stacy A. (S)		Brooke	The Rights of an Apostle	

*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.

Name: _____

Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Word Search Maker](#)

Parkersburg CRC Name Search

Search for some names of our CRC family members.

Z E P R K O H Y Q Y K H W J D C G W V A
R A K A W L G N A Y R M D O S Z R G B E
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M R M O R P Y Y Z E M K A F V P B Y R N
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AMY
CLAYTON
DENNIS
JOHN
LILA
MARY
ROD
SHELLY

ANNIE
DARRELL
EMMA
JUNE
LOIS
MIKE
ROLLYN
STEVE

BRANDY
DAVE
FRANK
KAY
LOLA
NOAH
RUTH
SYLVIA

CHELSEA
DELBERT
JEAN
KAYLA
MARLYN
PAT
RYAN
TYLER