

# Shepherd's Staff

August 2023

*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. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m*

## It's Hot

It seems that my mother had a saying for every situation in life. With the hot weather we have this week I am reminded of her telling us to go outside and play in the heat of summer. We kids would complain that it was too hot outside to go out and play. Her reply was that it will be a lot hotter someplace else, referring to nothing less than hell itself. At the time we did not think to argue that not playing outside was an offense that would end with our being sent to eternal damnation, but we would go out and play. While I think that the logic of her argument is still weak, I fear that we have placed the discussion of hell in a state of being off limits. Not something we should bring up at the dinner table or in polite gatherings.

It seems that we are too quick to be politically correct and not mention any negative topics for fear of offending somebody. We even seem to preach grace and love without the mention of the alternative to the grace of God for salvation. The truth of the matter is that we still must preach hell if we are to realize the full effect of our salvation in Christ. Perhaps this is why our young people are not seeing religion as important as it is for our eternal destiny. We have taken the fear out of life. We have lost the cost of unbelief. Still we want our children to come to the hope we have for life in Christ without the knowledge of what we leave behind when we come to Jesus as Savior.

The extreme differences of the two options of heaven or hell should be something that we are not only willing to talk about but ready to talk about. Scripture is full of opportunities to show the wrath of God against sin. We see it in the Old Testament in the stories of the flood, of Sodom and Gomorrah being destroyed by fire, and the continuing story of how kings would be overthrown because of sin. The New Testament is also vocal in the condemnation of sinners and Jesus warning about the place of fire and brimstone and the gnashing of teeth. Sin and its punishment are prominently spoken about throughout the entire Bible. Yet we want to whitewash the wrath of God against sin. Making God to be more loving may be our reason but how much more loving is a God who redeems from destruction freely and lovingly to all who believe?

Maybe it is time to tell our children about the stories in the Bible that may just keep them up at night. The stories of God's anger against sin and the importance of knowing that there is a place we do not, or should not, want to go. The choice is an easy one when we know the facts. And the true fact is that God is a God of love and grace but that he is also a jealous God punishing the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation. We do get the rest of the phrase of showing loving kindness to a thousand generations that love him and follow his commands. The trouble is we need to teach both parts to show that with the love comes the obedience.

Yes, there is a place that will be hotter than this hot week in July, knowing that there is also a way out of the heat is vital. Still we should be aware of what is at stake in our lives with the truth about the wrath of God and the reality of a place called hell. Then we can reach out with the love of God in Christ for eternal life in paradise.

Pastor Rus

**Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled**  
 Whenever I am troubled  
 and lost in deep despair,  
 I bundle all my troubles up  
 and go to God in Prayer.....  
 I tell Him I am heartsick  
 and lost and lonely, too,  
 That my mind is deeply burdened  
 and I don't know what to do....  
 But I know He stilled the tempest  
 and calmed the angry sea,  
 And I humbly ask if, in His Love,  
 He'll do the same for me...  
 And then I just keep quiet  
 and think only thoughts of peace,  
 And if I abide in stillness  
 my restless murmurings cease...

*Poems & Prayers By: Helen Steiner Rice*  
*Scrapbook Page by: Angelwings*

.....*Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled*.....



### **AFFIRMATIONS TO PRACTICE NOW**

I will not fear because God is always with me.  
 God is the one who helps me.  
 God will be with me during trials.  
 I will find God when I seek him with all of my heart.  
 The battles I face are God's not mine.  
 I will trust in God whenever I am afraid.  
 With faith I am able to move mountains.  
 My prayers will be answered by God.  
 God chose me to be His.  
 God loves those who love him.  
 God's blessings make me rich.  
 I will dwell without fear of evil if I listen to God.  
 If I fear the Lord, I will live in satisfaction.  
 I am spotless and fair in God's eyes.  
 God's peace will guard my heart and mind.  
 God fights for me.  
 I will have faith in God.  
 There is nothing too hard for God.  
 I will be content with everything God has blessed me with.  
 I will be strong and of good courage.  
 God will never leave or forsake me.



# August Birthdays/Anniversaries



## Happy Birthday

- 8/11 Kathy Heeren
- 8/12 Donald Allspach
- 8/18 Charlene Kramer
- 8/24 Pearl Reints
- 8/24 Lanae Kramer
- 8/24 Lilly Stirling
- 8/26 Karen Oltman
- 8/30 Mike Pott
- 8/31 Stacy Edeker

## Happy Anniversary

- 8/6 Ryan & Stacy Edeker
- 8/6 Joel & Brandy Reints
- 8/6 Ken & Diane Roberts
- 8/23 Paul & Darlene Bruns
- 8/27 Ken & Nancy Mehmen
- 8/30 Gene & Janet Venenga

**Reminder:** If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. My goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month. Thanks!



ANSWER  
 ART  
 BINDER  
 BIOLOGY  
 BLACKBOARD  
 BOOKS  
 CAFETERIA  
 CALCULATOR  
 CHAIRS  
 CLASS  
 CLOCK  
 COMPOSE  
 COMPUTER  
 DESK  
 DICTIONARY  
 EDUCATION  
 ERASER  
 FOCUS  
 FOLDER  
 FRIENDS  
 GLOBE  
 GLUE  
 GYMNASIUM  
 HISTORY  
 LEARN  
 LESSON  
 LIBRARY  
 LISTEN  
 LUNCH  
 MAP  
 MATH  
 MUSIC  
 NOTEBOOK  
 PAPER  
 PENCIL  
 POSTERS  
 PROJECT  
 PUPIL  
 QUESTION  
 READ  
 RECESS  
 RESPECT  
 SCHEDULE  
 SCHOOL BUS

**HUGE**

# BACK TO SCHOOL WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY. Find and circle each word.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| B | R | T | F | L | E | B | E | D | U | C | A | T | I | O | N | K | M | M | O |
| O | J | P | Y | F | S | A | O | A | R | T | R | K | A | D | K | S | A | S | L |
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| H | L | J | T | R | E | N | S | D | B | S | O | E | I | S | E | C | H | L | Y |
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SCIENCE  
 STUDENT  
 SUBJECT  
 TAPE  
 TEACHER  
 TEST  
 TUTOR  
 WRITE



