

Shepherd's Staff

February 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., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m

What Color Is It

I learned something this past week that I thought was very interesting. While out on my daily walk I passed by a place where the snow had a little cavern in the bank along the sidewalk. While the snow was pure white the inside of the cavern was a shade of blue! I was able to see this a few spots along my walk so it was not that some blue drink was poured out in the snow but the effect of the light shining through the snow let only the blue light out of the spectrum through. This caught my attention and set my mind to racing. If the full spectrum of the sun's light can be filtered out leaving only one of the elements remaining, what else can we "separate" to reveal beauty and truth.

This line of thinking started me thinking of the attributes of God. We often think of God as if he were something simple yet if we stop to look at the attributes in more detail, we see many wonders and miraculous things. Simply thinking about an all-knowing God is reassuring in many ways. God already knows our needs before we even become aware of a problem. Not only does he know but he also knows what we need for the problem. This ability of God can bring a calming effect to our lives.

God is also present everywhere. This is important in those times when we think that no one cares. When we feel alone in life and are unsure of which way to turn, we can be reminded that not only does God know but that he is right there with us at every turn. We can even learn that God is also in our future waiting for us to help us in all our trials and tests in life.

God is also immutable or never changing. We read in scripture that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. It is good to have someone in our lives that is not going to change with every whim or fancy that the world brings. The unchanging nature of God can assure us that his plan to save us will never change nor will he ever change his mind about grace that brings us to him. In a changing world, he is our solid rock we can always rely on. This is closely related to the idea that God is infinite. Without limit or boundary God is able to do whatever he says he will do. He can even make the sun's light appear blue shining it through the snow. If he can do that, he can take away any problem we might have.

The fact that God is self-existent can be mind boggling to us. God was not created nor was he born out of something that happened billions of years ago. He always was and always will be. Perhaps this is why he is also patient with us. He has the time to wait us out. His patience is beyond what we could ever expect to have in ourselves. This is important to those who have yet to decide to come to faith in God and in Jesus Christ. His long suffering on our behalf is something that we should never take for granted especially if we have children or grandchildren who have not come to the Lord as of yet.

God is also so faithful that we can count on the promises that he gave, even if he gave them thousand years ago. God is true in all that he does and never wavers from the truth like humans often seem to do. This is important because God is also love. He is not just loving but is, at the very core of his being, love. The faithful love of God is why we can be assured that when we give our hearts to him, he will be faithful to his word and forgive us of our past and all our sin.

Seeing God in the many attributes that we can see in him helps us to understand that we serve an awesome God. The simple name of God is so easy to say yet if we stop to consider all that it stands for, we must stand in awe of the majestic God who seeks us out to love us and longs to live with us in eternity. How can we not praise and worship him all our days.

Pastor Rus

Valentine's Slice-and-Bake Cinnamon Heart Shortbread Cookies

Prep Time: 10 mins

Cook Time: 10 mins

Additional Time: 1 hrs 15 mins

Total Time: 1 hrs 35 mins

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar
- ½ cup heart-shaped cinnamon candies, ground into a fine powder
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- 1 ¾ cups all-purpose flour, divided



1. Beat butter in a large bowl with a hand mixer until fluffy; add vanilla extract, confectioners' sugar, ground cinnamon candies, and cornstarch and mix with hand mixer until combined.
2. Incorporate flour 1/4 cup at a time, mixing with your hands until all flour is used and dough comes together.
3. Divide dough into halves; roll each into an 8-inch cylinder. Wrap each cylinder in waxed paper and freeze until firm, at least 1 hour to overnight.
4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Remove dough from freezer and let thaw just until slightly softened.
5. Cut dough into 1/4-inch slices and arrange onto baking sheets.
6. Bake in preheated oven until firm along the edges but not yet browned, about 10 minutes. Cool cookies on racks for 5 minutes before moving to a rack to cool completely.
7. Can dip 1/2 of each cookie in chocolate, if you'd like.



It is time to pull out the knitting needles and crochet hooks. The group will start meeting in March again. There are a whole batch of projects that you can choose from as we get together to work and fellowship and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. The supplies will be available for your project. Everyone is welcome to come out and join the group. Any questions call Mary Boersma.



**I love them
that love me;
and those that
seek me early
shall find me.**

Proverbs 8:17





February Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

2/1	Andrew Haan
2/7	Pat Prier
2/8	Mackenzie Allspach
2/10	Marlyn Allspach
2/17	Sharon Cordes
2/24	Rodney Mulder



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.



True Love

For God so lo**V**ed the world,
That He g**A**ve
his on**L**y
Begott**E**n
So **N**
That whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life."
John 3:16

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Jesus Loves Us All

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35 (NIV)

Based on John 13:31-35



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

DISCIPLES
COMMAND
ANOTHER

LOOK
LITTLE
JESUS

CHILDREN
MEN
LONGER

GLORIFY
JEWS
TOLD

LOVE
GIVE
KNOW