

Shepherd's Staff

March 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.

Longer Days and Shorter Nights

I don't know about you, but I am enjoying the longer days and shorter nights that we are getting. It reminds me that Spring is just around the corner, and that is good news to me. I know I have had enough Winter already. But what is more is what the idea of longer days means. It means that the earth will slowly begin the warming of the soil getting ready for the planting season. It means that the grass will green up, and the trees will once again blossom with new life. It means that Summer will soon be here.

With the warmer weather we can also see the excitement in the agricultural industry as planting times draws near. The prep work that will need to be done and the equipment that needs to be made ready. The soil temperature will be ready before we know it. Being ready means so much work yet the promise of a harvest is what makes it all worthwhile.

This idea of planting can also bring to mind the opportunities that we have as a church. We too are called to plant the seeds of hope in the world where so many people are just struggling to get by with the worries that burden them. We are called to share the Good News of Jesus and the promise of salvation to the world and yet for many of us we don't even share the story with those who are all around us. We miss out on the joy of knowing that we made an eternal difference in the lives of people that come to the Lord.

This Spring would be a good time to reach out to others as many of us will be getting out more with the warmer weather. It may be just the opportunity we need to be able to start a conversation to reach those that God has put in our reach to save. The conversation can easily turn to what God has done for us which would break the ice and allow us to give a testimony in a one-on-one basis. This does not put us on the spot with not knowing what to say because it is our story.

The Joy of doing this is that we can also grow our church at the same time. I know for me it is difficult to watch as our numbers slowly decline. We have so much to offer if we could only begin to see the Spirit work in building the size of the congregation as well as knowing that the Spirit would also be building stronger faith in those who take the challenge. This is the work of being a part of a church where we seek to serve the Lord as he calls is to go and tell the world.

Now is the time to prepare our hearts and minds for the promise of serving God in the creation cycle of planting hope in the despair that the world is lost in today. Then when the soil of the soul is ready for the planting of the seed of hope we will be ready with all the joy of anticipation of reaping a harvest for the Lord.

Pastor Rus

FOR AS THE EARTH *bringeth forth her bud*, AND AS
THE GARDEN CAUSETH THE THINGS THAT ARE SOWN IN IT
TO *spring forth*, SO THE LORD GOD
WILL CAUSE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PRAISE TO *spring forth*
BEFORE ALL THE NATIONS. -ISAIAH 61:11



**OUR TRUST
IS IN THE
ONE WHO
MAKES ALL
THINGS NEW**



March Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

3/11 Kathleen DeGroot
3/15 Kay Swanson
3/28 Rhonda Meester
3/31 Pat Pott

Happy Anniversary

3/19 Pat & Deb Prier
3/21 Don & Annie Allspach



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.





Spring



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



BIRDS

BLOSSOM

BUGS

BUNNY

BUTTERFLY

CALF

CATERPILLAR

CHICKS

FLOWERS

FROG

GARDEN

GRASS

HATCH

INSECTS

LADYBUG

LAMB

NATURE

NEST

RABBIT

ROBIN

SNAIL

SPRING

SPROUT

TULIP

WORM

