

Shepherd's Staff

May 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.

Tenacious

The weather this spring has been a little like a rollercoaster. We have had ups and downs with the temperature with the tentacles of winter holding on in spite of the "normal" being much warmer than we are getting of late. It is still spring as the grass is once again green and the trees are budding out. Still after the days of eighty degrees we received a few inches of snow! Winter is indeed tenacious this year. The tenacity of the winter has me thinking about how sin is also a tenacious item in our lives.

The Apostle Paul speaks about the sin that remains in us against our will. This is the sin that we try to fight on our own, but it keeps coming back. No matter how hard we try we just can't seem to shake the power of the temptation that holds on to us. The fight for our souls between the Devil and God is an ongoing battle that will last the rest of our lives. Fortunately, we don't have to wage this war by ourselves. We have God engaging in the battles with us. Still the tenacity of the enemy is something we should not take for granted.

When we are faced with such a foe as sin, we must lean on the teaching that the Bible affords. We can rely on the teachings of God's Word to see us through the tough times. Yet this takes a tenacity of our will to be able to fight with the tools that God gives to his people. We need to find the fellowship in community that holds us accountable. We also need to make time to study the Word of God to learn the value of being in the care of God. A third need is to be found in prayer so that the temptation will leave us. The trouble is that we are often not as tenacious about doing these three steps as it seems the Devil is tenacious about tempting us.

The power of temptation is like the cold winter weather we just can't seem to shake this spring. It is always around the corner, waiting to chill our relationship with God. We must never let our guard down if we are to succeed in the war for our souls. After all, we have two opposing forces fighting over us, Satan and his desire to own us and God with his desire to claim us as his children. This is the strength we should lean on as we remember that God loves us so much that he is willing to fight over us while Satan hates us so much that he fights to destroy us.

The thing we must remember is that if God is for us, no one can stand against us. We can win the victory over temptation. We must be willing to stay in the fight that has eternal consequences. After all, Christ died so that we can win against the power of sin and temptation. With that much effort put into our battle from God's side, we should be encouraged to engage in the effort to win the battle as well as the war for our souls. Life is worth fighting for. Eternal life is even more worth fighting for.

Pastor Rus





May Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

5/3 Steven Kramer
5/4 Dale Meester
5/9 Emma Haan
5/14 Sharon Schipper
5/17 Ken Roberts
5/20 Amy Mulder
5/21 Irvin Haan
5/28 Rollyn DeGroot
5/29 Ryan Edeker

Happy Anniversary

5/14 Steve & Charlene Kramer
5/16 Delbert & Sharon Cordes



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.





Graduation Word Search



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

ACCOMPLISHMENT
 CAP
 CEREMONY
 COMMENCEMENT
 EDUCATION
 GOWN
 HONORS
 SUCCESS

ALUMNI
 CELEBRATE
 CLASS
 CONGRATULATIONS
 FRIENDS
 GRADUATION
 PARTY
 TEACHER

AWARDS
 CELEBRATION
 COLLEGE
 DIPLOMA
 FUTURE
 HIGH SCHOOL
 SENIOR
 UNIVERSITY