

# Shepherd's Staff

October 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*

## **Changeless In a Changing World**

As we enter the Fall season, we are seeing the signs of change in our lives with the leaves beginning to show the hidden color that we all come to enjoy. The fading of the green to the bright reds and yellows and oranges that catch our attention reminds us of the fact that the summer months are rapidly fading. It is good to know that not everything changes, which would make our lives very insecure.

I can think of some things that have changed that are very good. Leisure suits are one thing that I am glad have gone the way of being lost in the rear-view mirror. The silky shirts with collars open with flared pant legs can stay behind us as we continue to see trends change. One thing that is coming back is the length of hair styles for males. I see young men wearing long hair again reminding me of my high school days. Yet some change I do not understand, the way young women are wearing their jeans with holes all over the legs! In my day that would have signaled it was time to buy a new pair.

While it may be fun to reminisce about the changing styles, we have seen in our lifetime the fact that such frequent change can make us feel vulnerable living in an unstable world. This is where we can be assured that not everything changes. We can still be confident in life because we who believe in God know that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We can be assured that the stability he brings to life will never let us be shaken because he is our rock.

I for one cannot imagine living without the knowledge that I serve One whose love will never change. I can live without fear because the God who loves and sends his grace on a fallen society continues to send this same love that we read about in his Word, the Bible, still holds true for those who believe today. In a society that is so unpredictable it is a blessing to know that the same God who created the heavens and the earth still holds the future in his hands. He still sends the rain and the sunshine. He still makes the plants grow and gives care to the needy in life.

This same God also promises eternal life to those who believe in his Son as Savior. The world would be a better place if only everyone could come to the same saving grace and see the world the way God envisioned it when he created it. What a lovely place this would be with no wars, no hatred for our neighbors, no more envy of what others have. The crime rate would go away, and our communities would thrive because we would care for one another in ways we hardly dare dream about.

Still, we live in a world that is subject to change that is not always for the better. There are wars and hatred that still exist against one another. But that does not need to be our story. We are called to share the Good News about God with the world around us. To be a light in a dark world and to share the promise that peace can come out of the chaos. It must begin with our hearts being in tune with God's goodness and the willingness to share with those we come across. Not only will we be blessed knowing the God who never changes but we will have an anchor in our community within the church where like-minded people can be blessed. Where we can strengthen one another in the hope of a bright eternity where change will no longer happen.

Pastor Rus

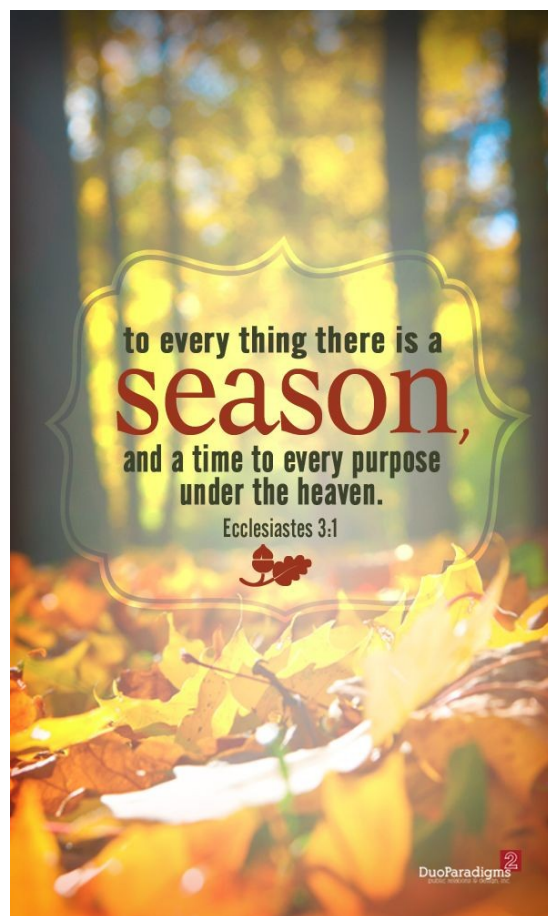
The Sunshine Circle wants to remind you to save the “bar codes” from all of the “Best Choice” products you purchase at Brother’s Market. We have already earned \$60 and need more bar codes to get another \$60. There is a box in the Fellowship room for you to put them in. Contact Marcia if you have any questions. Thanks.



The Parkersburg Lions Club is collecting “pop tabs” from the top of aluminum cans. The “Pop Tab” program provides revenue to the Ronald McDonald House. They receive 40 to 50 cents per pound of “pop tabs.” Last year more than 13 million “pop tabs” were donated. There is a box in the Fellowship room for your donation. Contact Marlyn if you have any questions. Thanks.



Ronald McDonald House Charities®  
Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois





## October Birthdays/Anniversaries



### Happy Birthday

10/7 Twila Jansen  
 10/8 Janet Venenga  
 10/16 Stacy Ascher  
 10/23 Ken Mehmen  
 10/24 Kenneth Kramer

### 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 Armstrong by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# FALL WORD SEARCH

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

acorns	cobweb	harvest	October	seasons
apples	corn	hayride	orange	September
autumn	Fall	jackets	pumpkin	squash
bonfire	festivals	leaves	quilt	squirrel
brown	foliage	maize	rake	sweaters
chestnuts	football	migrate	red	Thanksgiving
chilly	gourds	November	scarecrow	wagons
cider	green	nuts	scenic	yellow

