



“THE STARTER”

January 2020

Rev. Carl Hammer, Minister

Our email: 1stcongregperu@sbcglobal.net

Web page: firstcongregationalperu.net

Phone 815-223-0722



Congregational Meeting

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT PURSUANT TO RULES AND REGULATIONS OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CONSTITUTION, THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE ON

January 26, 2020

COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE NARTHEX ON

January 19, 2020

IF YOU WOULD LIKE AN ANNUAL REPORT MAILED TO YOU, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 815-223-0722.

OUR ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE MEETING

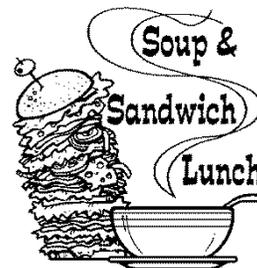


Our Annual Meeting will be held January 26, 2020. Those responsible for reports to be included in the Annual Report are asked to have them submitted by January 10th, 2020.



Calling All Men

What a better way is there to start the day than men enjoying breakfast and a time of devotion. Sign up for the Men's Breakfast on January 11th at 8:00 a.m.



Our next Soup and Sandwich Supper is Wednesday, January 15th from 5:00 to 6:30. Please sign up on the Welcome Table if you can supply bread, cookies and help serve. So many are blessed by this simple act of sharing supper and fellowship.





We have rescheduled our December painting party to January 18 at 1:00 pm. It will be a winter scene that we will be post with the sign up for reservations. The cost is \$25.00 payable in advance to assure your place. It's a very fun afternoon.

All supplies will be provided and our instructor, Mary Janusick will guide you through the painting. So if you've never done this, it's a great opportunity for you and friends and family, men or women, children 8 and older to spend an afternoon together.



Fun at the December party



The Chart of signing up to provide altar flowers during 2020 is now on the bulletin board in the hallway.



A Personal Thank You

With my wing clipped, many of the things I do in the church are next to impossible. Thank you to all who have helped me with so many little things, but especially Diana and Jim Dornbusch. Their help has been appreciated more than they know! I'm so very blessed. Ellen

Trustee Report

These past few months have been productive for the Trustees. The new light has been installed in the parking lot for better safety at night. Also the ground lights around the outside of the church have been replaced as have the bulbs on the steeple. The bell has been repaired however we are still working on the tone of its ring. The cupola over the educational wing was painted. The flat roof was replaced to eliminate the leaks we were experiencing. The basement is much dryer with the addition of dehumidifiers and air scrubbers. The walls were cleaned to assure there wasn't any mold or other bacteria present. You may have noticed new signs throughout the building to better highlight room location and identify rooms. We are still working on outside signs. Some major work has been completed on the Parsonage garage and the water flowing into the garage has been redirected to the lawn. New doors have been installed on the south side of the church to replace what was there. We had a successful Harvest Fest in October utilizing both Morgan Hall and the outdoor east lawn. We had over 50 vendors including 2 food trucks. All of the vendors are planning to return next October plus we also have some additional vendors express interest. Have you seen our display at Rotary Park? The park look beautiful and our display looks great. There are plans in process for 2020. We have a Gospel Singer planned for a concert on March 1 at 2 pm. Tickets will be available after January 1. And a fashion show luncheon is planned for April 18. Thank you to all who adopted sections of landscape and kept it free of weeds and looking nice. We appreciate all of the support and everyone's efforts. Have a blessed 2020.



If you use offering envelopes, the new ones for 2020 are in the Narthex. If you would like to start using envelopes, please see Dawn.





Thank You

To all those who donated poinsettias this holiday season. Those who purchased poinsettias are asked to take them home following the December 29th worship service.

- Amy Crouch in memory of Family
- Wanda Fusinato in memory of Denny Fusinato and family members
- Linda & Steve Hoadley in memory of Family
- Marilyn Dunker in memory of Family
- Sandra Starr in memory of Family
- Betty Martuzzo in memory of Family
- Nancy Maze in memory of Family
- Jane & Roger Gabrielse in memory of two brothers-in-law
- Joyce Grimes in memory of the Darrah Family
- Peggy Lundberg & Sharon Shultz in memory of Albert & Arlene Lundberg



Prayer List

***Pray for the health of Jane McClintock, Char & Pete Belski, Sonny & Ryan Whittington, Roger Gabrielse, Beth Flaherty, Bernene Dahl, Sandy Starr, Marilyn Cobb, Linda Hoadley*

***Please pray for daily grace for our shut-ins:*

- Myrle Sapienza Beth Flaherty
- Carol Edgcomb

*** Pray for Pastor Roy Jacob & Peace Mission in India caring for children and widows*

*** Pray for Ed & Jane Skowron*

*** Pray for Jews for Jesus*

*** Pray for the Surbers and Supply & Multiply*

*** Pray for Abigail Women's Clinic*

*** Pray for Berean Prison Ministry*

*** Pray for Transport for Christ*

*** Pray for PADS bringing shelter to the*

Homeless



Mark Your Calendars

We will have a Gospel singer performing here on March 1 at 2 pm. Tickets will be available in January. The Gospel singer is Quentin Flagg who performs Elvis style Gospel music. There will be dessert and beverages following the performance and an opportunity to meet Quentin. Quentin is from Indiana and performs all around Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin areas. He performs a 3 show series off 50-60's music at Starved Rock Lodge each year and has a huge following. The cost is \$18.00 per ticket. Help us promote the show as the proceeds will go toward painting the Sanctuary. Bring your friends and family. It will be a great show!



The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels
is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes
are home,
When the shepherds are back
with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among
brothers,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman

1899 - 1981

He cried

He knew Lazarus was dead
before he got the news

But still, He cried

He knew Lazarus would be alive
again in moments

But still, He cried

He knew death here is not
forever

He knew eternity and the
kingdom better than anyone else
could

Yet He wept

Because this world is full of pain
and regret and loss and
depression and devastation

He wept because knowing the
end of the story doesn't mean
you can't cry at the sad parts.