



"THE STARTER"

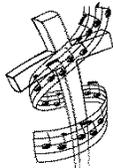
March 2020

Rev. Carl Hammer, Minister

Our email: 1stcongregperu@sbcglobal.net

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Still Time to Get Your Tickets

Quentin Flagg Gospel Concert

March 1st 2:00 p.m.

\$18.00 includes dessert

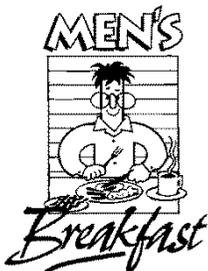
See Diana or the church office



Movies & Popcorn

The Christian Ed Board is sponsoring an afternoon of movies and popcorn. Come Sunday afternoon, March 15th at 4:00 p.m. The movie will be 'Genesis'. It takes a look at our world and sees if evolution or God's creation is present.

There will be popcorn and drinks to make our movie more enjoyable.

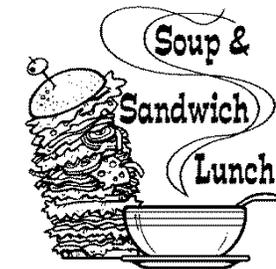


Calling All Men

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 March 14th at 8:00 a.m.

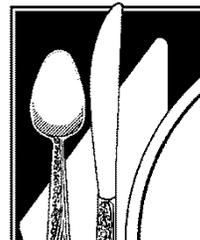


Turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 7th. If you don't, you'll miss Pastor's sermon!



Our next Soup and Sandwich Supper is Wednesday, March 18th from 5:00 to 6:30. Please sign up on the Welcome Table if you can supply soup,

Sandwich fixins, cookies and help serve. So many are blessed by this simple act of sharing supper and fellowship.



The Fifth Sunday of any month this year we will have a potluck following the worship service. Bring any dish to share plus your own table service. See you on March 29th!

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil...it has no point.

Lord, Prop Us Up

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old fellow who always prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side." After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him who he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, "Well sir, you see, it's like this.... I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time; it's withstood a lot of weather; it's gone through a lot of storms and it's stood for many years. It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit.

So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time; I've withstood a lot of life's storms; I've withstood a lot of hard times and I'm still standing, too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time. So I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times.

Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't. So we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us upon our leaning side, so we will stand straight and tall again to glorify the Lord.'

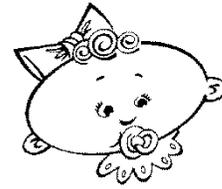


The Greatest Man in History

Jesus had no servants, yet they call Him Master. He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher. He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer. He had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in the tomb, yet He lives today!



The weatherman says a bad storm is coming. Everyone panics and gets prepared. The preacher says Jesus is coming and nobody moves. Let that sink in for a minute.



You're Invited

You're invited to a baby shower brunch for Abigail Women's Center on Saturday, March 21st at 10:00 a.m. in Morgan Hall. The Mission Board will be serving quiche, fruit and sweetbreads. Betty Pappas, the Women's Center director, will be attending. We want to show our support for the work that Abigail Women's Center provides to pregnant women that need encouragement and assistance. Please bring any baby items: clothes newborn up to 2 toddler, diapers, blankets, etc. that day for Betty to give to ladies in need.

Please sign up on the Welcome Table so the board can plan accordingly.

Immediately following the brunch, ladies are welcome to stay for greeting card making in the lounge.



Calling all Ladies!

Suzanne Doddy is organizing a card making session for March 21st at 1:00 in the lounge. Come enjoy a relaxing, creative way to share some fun and fellowship.



Mission Board Report

The February board meeting was spent electing our new officers. Charlotte Oglesby is the new chairman and Ellen Marincic is the secretary. We thanked Marilyn Dunker for her many years on the board.

We talked about the balance between supporting missionaries that spread the word of Jesus Christ and those who help feed and clothe the needy.

In our future meetings we will look at individual missionaries and see how First Congregational Church and support them in their ministry.

We're planning a baby shower for Abigail Women's Center on March 21st. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter.



Christian Women's Book Club

Please join us at the home of Charlotte Oglesby to read and discuss the inspiring book 'The God of All Comfort' by Hannah Whitall Smith. The first session will be Thursday, March 5th at 1:00 p.m. Charlotte's address is 560 Sycamore in LaSalle. Please call Charlotte at 815-224-3740 if you would like her to order you a book.



John Oberholtz was called to the Lord's side Sunday, February 16th. Our Christian sympathy and prayers go to Amy Crouch and her entire family. May God bring you comfort.

Mary Beth's Brother, Louie Linsmeyer, was called to the Lord's side on February 22nd following a long battle with his earthly body. Services were held in Wisconsin Thursday, Feb. 27th. We're thankful that his love for the Lord was instrumental in bringing Mary Beth to faith.



Adopt our Lawn

It's that time of year again to think about helping to keep our grounds looking good. The Welcome Table has a display of pictures showing various sections around the building. If you are able to adopt a section and keep it weed free during the summer, please sign up.



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

** Pray for freedom from besetting sins – Lord, I lift up everyone of us who struggle with sin issues. Keep us from the enemy's scheme of condemnation. Grant us repentance so that we can escape the trap of the evil one. Thank You that sin was done away with on the cross and that we are no longer slaves to it. Help us to throw off everything that entangles – help us run the race with perseverance.



Illinois Valley Food Pantry

Don't forget the food pantry this winter. Please bring any of these needed items: cereal, mac and cheese, soup, canned fruit, vegetables, peanut butter, toilet paper, laundry soap and diapers. Let's fill the baskets in the hall.



♪♪ Jesus Loves Me ♪♪

*Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow.
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.
Yes, Jesus Loves Me!*

*Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may
He'll be there to lead the way.*

*Yes, Jesus Loves Me
Yes, Jesus Loves Me
Yes, Jesus Loves Me
The Bible Tells Me So.*



*I believe churches are meant for praising
God. But so are car rides, showers, coffee
shops, the gym, conversations with friends,
strangers, etc.*

*Don't let a building confine your faith
because we will never change the world by
just going to church. We need to be the
church.*

7 Promises from God

*I am your strength
I will never leave you.
I have plans for you to prosper.
I hear your prayers.
I will fight for you.
I will give you peace.
I will always love you.*



*A grandfather was walking through his yard when
he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet
in a tone of voice that sounded like prayer. He
asked her what she was doing. The little girl
explained, "I'm praying, but I can't think of
exactly the right words, so I'm just saying all the
letters and God will put them together for me
because He knows what I'm thinking.*

