



# **“THE STARTER”**

**May 2020**

**Rev. Carl Hammer, Minister**

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## *God is With Us Always*

*During the Great Depression in the United States, famed photographer Dorothea Lange snapped a photo of Florence Owens Thompson and her children. This well-known photograph, Migrant Mother, is the picture of a mother's despair in the aftermath of the failed pea harvest. Lange took it in Nipomo, CA, while working for the Farm Security Administration, hoping to make them aware of the needs of the desperate seasonal farm laborers.*

*The book of Lamentations present another snapshot of despair – that of Judah in the wake of the destruction of Jerusalem. Before the army of Nebuchadnezzar swept in to destroy the city, the people had suffered from starvation thanks to a siege. Though their turmoil was the result of years of disobedience to God, the writer of Lamentations cried out to God on behalf of his people.*

*While the author of Psalm 107 also describes a desperate time in Israel's history (during Israel's wanderings in the wilderness), the focus shifts to an action step to be taken in hard times. “Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble”. And what a wonderful result. “He delivered them from their distress.”*

*In despair? Don't stay silent. Cry out to God. He hears and waits to restore your hope. Though He doesn't always take us out of hard situations, He promises to be with us always.*

## *In All Things Give Thanks*

*We can still daily give thanks during these trying times. We can thank God for the beauty around us, to have more time to spend in prayer, to be able to keep in touch with our church family. God has plans for us and will provide for our needs. God is good all of the time and all of the time God is good!*

## *The Hammer's Departure*

*Pastor Carl and Mary Beth await the closing on the home they've purchased. They plan to move the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>. That Sunday will be Pastor's final message to us.*

*Their new address is:*

*Carl & Mary Beth Hammer*

*512 West Lawn Blvd*

*Manitowoc, WI 54220*

## *Thank You, Pastor and Mary Beth*

*We are so sad to see them go. They have been wonderful shepherds to our church family. God has found a new purpose for their ministry. We pray they will be blessed and all those who they minister to.*

*Without being able to gather to say goodbye in person, our only recourse is to send them off with a card shower. From now until mid-May let's shower the Hammers with cards of love, thanks and well wishes. The parsonage address here is 815 West St.*

*Peru, IL 61354*

## *SHHH.... This Part is a Surprise*

*We also would like to send them to their new home with a gift of gratitude from us. If you are so inclined, please send a donation in any amount to Dawn Tieman*

*1237 Tonti St.*

*LaSalle, IL 61301*

*We will then purchase a VISA card that the Hammers can use for whatever need presents itself in their new home. Checks can be made out to First Congregational Church.*

Watching Sermons on Line

Each Sunday at 10:30, Pastor brings a message as well as music from Lois. Let's still worship as a church by going to

[firstcongregationalperu.net](http://firstcongregationalperu.net)

If your screen is larger, you will find the page "Sermons" at the top of the home page. If you have a smaller screen, click the box with 3 bars at the top of the page. "Sermons" is listed. All of the Sermons from Easter to present are available.



Thanking Our Techies

Our sermons online happen due to the talents of several people. We owe a huge thank you to Bob Tieman & Dean Tieman for getting the camera and sound equipment we needed. Thank you to Pastor Hammer & Lois Croasdale for recording and loading their parts. And we especially thank our techie guru Nick Tedeschi. He is the wizard that compiles each youtube into the video you see.



Tithing

The suspension of our church services does not eliminate the monthly expenses that still occur in maintaining the building and grounds. If you have been mailing your offering to the church, we thank you. If you have not, please consider mailing it soon.

First Congregational Church

1431 Fourth St.

Peru, IL 61354



Improving our Communication

Does the church have your email address? If not, Ellen will be calling you in the next week to acquire it. These days email is a way to keep us all informed and connected.



Charles Brady has completed his sessions with Pastor Carl and is being confirmed in the church on May 10. Pastor will devote a portion of his Sunday sermon time to blessing Charles and presenting him with certificate. Congratulations, Charles!



Pray for Our Diaconate

Please keep our Diaconate Board in your daily prayers. They are diligently searching for someone to shepherd us as interim that will lead us until the time the Lord brings us a new pastor.



Devotionals

The new 'Upper Room' devotionals are here. Would you like one? If so, call Marincic's Speedy Delivery Service, and one will be delivered. Call Ellen at 815-326-3707.

If you've not used a daily devotional before, this is a great way to start the day. A short story and some scripture help us realize God's desires for us. We also have a few Our Daily Breads that have daily readings through May.



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."





Keeping us Fed and Blessed

Some ladies of the church are going to be preparing chicken noodle soup and ham salad sandwiches on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. They want to keep us fed and blessed in love. Would like to receive a meal? You can pick it up between 5:00 and 6:00 or have it delivered. Call the church office at 825-223-0722 by Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> and leave your name and contact number along with whether you need it delivered.

If you would like to join these ladies in preparing and/or delivering, please contact Ellen at 815-326-3707 or Diana at 815-228-5352.



- May 6 Nick Tedeschi
- May 8 Ella McCauley
- May 9 Dean Tieman
- May 16 Isaac Janssen
- May 17 Mary Beth Hammer
- May 21 Evan Hall
- May 22 Nancy Janssen
- May 28 Linda Hoadley
- Bill Thomas
- May 29 Roger Gabrielse
- Ken Bergagna
- May 30 Lynne Rybarczyk
- May 31 Dawn Tieman



- May 1, 2005 Jim & Diana Dornbusch
- May 5, 1973 Jim & Nancy Erlenborn
- May 12, 2012 Walter & Tricia Glasper
- May 24, 2008 Mike & Kristie Shin
- May 29, 1982 Dean & Dawn Tieman



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*

*\*\* Pray that Ruth Martin can quickly get her hip replaced and be able to go home.*

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

- Myrle Sapienza Beth Flaherty
- Carol Edgcomb Don Walker

*\*\* 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*



In the Coming Days....

*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.*

*♪♪ 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.*

