



## ***“THE STARTER”***

**June 2020**

**Rev. Charles Johnson, Interim Minister**  
**Our email: [1stcongregperu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1stcongregperu@sbcglobal.net)**  
**Web page: [firstcongregationalperu.net](http://firstcongregationalperu.net)**  
**Phone 815-223-0722**

### *Welcome, Pastor Charles & Rebecca*

*It is with great joy that we announce that Rev. Charles B. Johnson has been accepted to fulfill the interim ministry of First Congregational Church.*

*Pastor Charles has a Master of Divinity degree from North Park Theological Seminary and a Master of Nonprofit Administration from North Park University, Chicago. Pastor Johnson has served as pastor in three Chicago area churches since 2012. He already brought his first message to us on our May 24<sup>th</sup> webcast.*

*A bit about Pastor Charles and Rebecca:*

*They currently reside in the north side of Chicago. Rebecca has 18 years of experience in camping ministry and a variety of youth organizations, yet she has worked as a registered nurse the past 5 years. Pastor Johnson, while serving part-time as pastor, also operated a handyman business alongside a consulting firm.*

*Rebecca and Charles married two and a half years ago because they believe the Holy Spirit set them apart to serve the Kingdom together. They are anxious to serve our community together as pastor and nurse.*

*He enjoys providing pastoral leadership through relational practices, teaching scripture as well as offering hospitality and care. How does this relate to the term ahead? He aims to provide stable pastoral presence while offering spiritual and organizational guidance as we navigate the road ahead.*

*Charles and Rebecca expect their first child in August, so will not be moving into the parsonage until after their baby arrives.*

*Pastor Johnson looks forward to meeting and connecting with all of us. Please pray that God will bless their ministry with us and we will be prepared for the next stages of our ministry development as he provides pastoral leadership.*





*Konel Eric Poisson was baptized unto the Lord on Saturday, May 16th. We pray Konel will have a lifetime walk of joy with the Lord.*



*On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Konel Poisson and Xavier Berg were awarded their "God and Family" Boy Scout badge upon completing their curriculum with Pastor Hammer. Congratulations, boys!*

*Furniture Needs*

*Pastor Charles and Rebecca won't be moving to Peru until after the baby is born. However, there are times when Pastor will want to stay overnight and has some minimal needs. Do you have any of the following to loan us for a while.....*

- A bed*
- Comfort chair*
- Lamp*
- Small dining table/chairs*

*If you have any of the above to share, please call the church office and leave a message at 223-0722.*



*Trustee Report*

*The Trustee Board has still been attending to their duties even though our building remains idle. The parking lot will be sealed and striped this spring. With the parsonage empty for a while, they will use this opportunity to do some painting and updating the bathroom.*

*Thank you to Pastor Carl and Mary Beth for their tender loving care of this beautiful parsonage.*



*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) Click on "Sermons" to find all of our past Sunday services.*



*New Address*

*Daryl and Lin Stuhr have moved to a lovely retirement apartment at Heritage Woods in Ottawa. We pray they will know they are still loved and prayed for by this church family.*

*Daryl & Lin Stuhr  
Heritage Woods - Apt. 208  
801 E. Etna Rd.  
Ottawa, IL 61350  
815-617-4052*



*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!



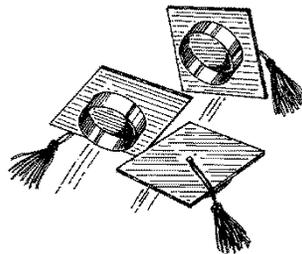
Remember to fly your flag on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It says "Here lives a family that is American in spirit as well as in name."



### 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



Congratulations to Sarah Croasdale on her graduation from Hall High School. Sarah is attending college in North Dakota to study aviation.



### Landscaping

Spring is in full swing and so are the growing weeds. If you have adopted a section of our landscaping, remember to stop and attend to that area to keep us looking good. There are also some sections of our yard that have not been adopted. If you're able to help out, please let us know.



### Devotionals

The new 'Our Daily Bread' devotionals are here. Would you like one? If so, call Ellen'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 Upper Room devotionals.

### Wanda's Address

Wanda Fusinato is staying with her daughter while she receives treatment at Northwestern Hospital. Let's surround Wanda with cards of love. She'd love to hear from her church family.

Wanda Fusinato  
23561 S. Acorn Ct.  
Crete, IL 60417



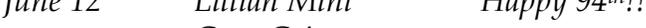
### Board Meetings in June

Our boards will be meeting in June to continue the work of this church.

- Christian Ed – June 2 at 6:30 p.m.
- Mission Board – June 9 at 1:30 p.m.
- Diaconate Board – June 16 at 5:30 p.m.
- Trustee Board – June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.



- |         |                    |                           |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| June 3  | Americus Berg      |                           |
| June 5  | Jeanne Van Schaick |                           |
|         | Jeff Whittington   |                           |
| June 9  | Rebecca Tieman     |                           |
| June 12 | Lillian Mini       | Happy 94 <sup>th</sup> !! |
|         | Gene Grimes        |                           |
| June 23 | Bob Tieman         |                           |
| June 27 | Theresa Ebner      |                           |
| June 29 | Peter Belski       |                           |



Happy Anniversary!

June 6, 1953 Daryl & Lin Stuhr  
June 6 John & Karen Dergance  
June 9, 1997 Bill & Shirley Thomas  
June 10, 2000 Gary & Kimberlie Poisson  
June 13 Ben & Shanna Berg  
June 13, 2015 Jay & Amanda Borowski  
June 18, 1960 Ken & Lynne Rybarczyk



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.*

*\*\* Pray for Wanda Fusinato, that she finds a doctor and treatment that will bring her healing.*

*\*\*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*

*\*\* Pray for Growth through Evangelism – Lord, I lift up our church growth to You. Add to our number daily through new converts. Birth spiritual children through us. Let our actions win people over without words. Use us as Your agents to rescue people from darkness and bring them into Your Son's kingdom. We long to be worthy ambassadors in this ministry You have entrusted to us. That of proclaiming Your message of reconciliation to a lost world.*

Lot's Wife

*The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mom looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"*



Things Aren't Always As They Seem

*Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room. Instead, the angels were given a small space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, "Things aren't always as they seem."*

*The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had, the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest.*

*When the sun came up the next morning, the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field. The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel, "How could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him. The second family had little, but was willing to share everything and you let the cow die!" "Things aren't always as they seem," the older angel replied.*

*"When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it. Then last night as we slept in the farmer's bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead."*

*Things aren't always as they seem.*



*See ye the Lord while he may be found.  
Isaiah 55:6*

