



“THE STARTER”

August 2020

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Walk Away from Worry

A few years ago, our Bible study leader challenged us to memorize a chapter of the Bible and recite it to the group. Internally, I began to protest and groan. An entire chapter in front of everyone? Memorization had never been my thing. I cringed as I imagined long silences while everyone watched me, waiting for the next words. A few days later, I reluctantly leafed through my Bible, looking for a set of verses to learn by heart. Nothing seemed right until I landed in Philippians 4.

I read this verse in silence, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made know to God” (vs 6). That’s when I knew which chapter to memorize and how to walk away from my anxiety about the assignment.

God does not want us to agonize over future events, because worry paralyzes our prayer life. The apostle Paul reminds us that instead of fretting, we should ask God for help. When we continually take this approach to anxiety, God’s peace will guard our hearts and minds (vs 7).

Someone once said tongue-in-cheek, “Why pray when you can worry?” The point is clear; worry gets us nowhere, but prayer gets u in touch with the Once who can handle all our concerns.



Sunday Parking

Those who are able-bodied are asked to refrain from using the parking spaces in front of the church. We have several who need to be close and not enough spaces that are marked solely as handicapped.



August 2nd @ 1:00

Catered lunch

Games for all ages begin at noon

Bring your lawn chair

Call the office and let us know you’re coming.

Hallelujah! A time of fellowship again!



Mission Board Report

The Mission Board has been busy over the past couple of months. The budgeted amount of \$4000 has been distributed to our missionaries help spread the good news of Jesus Christ - Supply Multiply, Peace Mission, TFC Global, Abigail Women’s Clinic, Bible Tracts, Ed & Jane Skowron, Jews for Jesus, Berean Prison Ministry and South Side Mission in Peoria.

Please take a few minutes to look at our bulletin board in the hall. There are updates from most of these, showing how they are bringing lives to Christ.

We hope to have October as our Mission Month. We want to help our congregation to get to know these vital ministries better.



Liturgists and Ushers

Pastor Johnson would like to meet every Sunday at 10:00 in his office with the liturgist and ushers to review the service and pray.



You Have a Family

A few days ago a Kentucky garbage man noticed no trash cans were being put out at an elderly woman's house on his route for two straight weeks. He was concerned enough to share the address with his supervisor. She found the name of the woman at the address and called her. "Ms. Smith, we noticed you haven't put out your cans for a while. Are you ok?" Ms. Smith replied, "I'm ok. But my caretaker is so afraid of the virus that she stopped coming. I can't get to the store. I don't have any trash because I've run out of food. And I don't have any family to help me." After a long pause, the caller said, "You do now. We are your family."

She let her truck driver know the sad news. The next day, on his day off, he knocked on her door and asked her to make up a grocery list. "Ms. Smith, this list is too short." She added a few more items. "Ms. Smith, this list is still too short. Would you mind if I looked into your fridge?" She relented. He opened the fridge and it was bare. Empty.

An hour later, he brought in dozens of bags of groceries for a woman he barely knew. The garbage man walked out of the house of this woman who was physically immobile, but levitating. A garbage man decided he'd reach out to someone and church broke out. His supervisor shared the creed with this elderly woman; "You have a family now."

Many worship services are still silent with gathering suspended. Those that are worshipping together are worshipping differently.

But church? Church is happening all around us. It's a phone call. It's a bag of groceries. It happens anytime someone tells another person who is Jesus in his best disguise. "You have a family now!" Real church is not defined by a service of worship, but by servants of Christ.

Keep being church. That's all you have to do.

Happy Birthday, Myrle

Myrle Sapienza will be 100 years old on August 6th. What a witness for the Lord she has been. Let's flood her mailbox with birthday cards from this church that she loves.

Myrle Sapienza
1922 State St.
Peru, IL 61354

We just found out that the family is hosting a 'drive by' on Sunday, August 9th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. If you are available, that day, drive by and yell happy birthday to Myrle!



♪ Summer Music ♪

Can you provide a musical number for one of our summer worship services? Please sign up on the Welcome Table.



Congratulations, Ella!

Ella McCauley, 11, is a published author. Ella's teacher at Northwest School submitted her poem to the America Library of Poetry student poetry contest. Her poem will be published in a student poetry book entitled "Together" to be released this fall.

Ella is daughter of Dani & Jason McCauley and granddaughter of Amy Crouch.

Flower

Small, soil, sunlight
Beautiful, insects, nature
Rainwater, warmth, smells

What an accomplishment, Ella!



Landscaping

If you have adopted a section of our landscaping, remember to attend to that area to keep us looking good. Thank you to those doing a great job!



Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. Pope Francis



Prayer List

***Pray for the health of Jane McClintock, Char & Pete Belski, Sonny Whittington, Roger Gabrielse, Ruth Martin, 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*
- Jane McClintock Daryl & Lin Stuhr*

*** 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 providing shelter to the Homeless*

*** Pray for Protection from the Enemy - Lord, I lift up our need for protection. Protect and deliver us from the evil one. Help us be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves as we deal with the wolves around us. Show us how to test every spirit to see if they are from You. Help us recognize the enemy's disguises and schemes so that he won't outwit us.*



It Was Only a Quarter

A preacher from out of state accepted a call to a church in Houston. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the city bus. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it. It's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare. They will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet."

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door and then handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver smiled and replied, "Aren't you the new preacher? I have been thinking a lot about starting back to church and wasn't sure where to go. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your son for a quarter."

People watch us a Christians and will put us to the test. Always be on guard and remember that you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian'.



*As you go on your way,
 May Christ go with you.
 May He go before you to show you the way.
 May He go behind you to encourage you,
 Beside you to befriend you,
 Above you to watch over you,
 Within you to give you peace.*