



"THE STARTER"

February 2021

Our email: 1stcongregperu@sbcglobal.net
Web page: firstcongregationalperu.net
Phone 815-223-0722

When it Feels Like Jesus Isn't Enough

Can the love of Jesus pay the bills, get you a good husband or wife, and give you that promotion you want or the peace and joy that you so desperately long for?

To all that, the answer is a resounding and confident "yes," because it's been proven over and over again in scripture and in our own lives.

It can sometimes feel foolish to sing the song "Christ is Enough" by Hillsong because there may be doubts in us that stop us from believing that Jesus really is all that we need.

What does it mean to say that Jesus is everything we need? Does that mean that we quit our jobs, stop paying bills, leave the church and just talk to Jesus? Not necessarily, but it does mean that as we live our lives, Jesus must be present in our every decision, task, motive and desire.

When we doubt that Jesus is more than enough, it's often because we doubt whether He is powerful enough to meet all our needs. But let us be reminded of what 2 Peter 1:3 says: "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence."

It is only by the divine power of Christ that we are granted life.

So, sure, Jesus won't give you a Chevy, a million dollars or a trip to Maldives, but that doesn't mean He can't. He just knows that it's not what you need

right now. What you need most is a relationship with Him first and foremost. The things of this world will pass, but what Christ has to offer is eternal and never runs out – that's His grace and mercy, which is the root of all blessing.

In John 4:13, "Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,'" and then goes on to say that He is that living water.

2 Corinthians 12:9 tells us, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."



The Lord called our dear friend, Roger Gabrielse, to his side on January 6, 2021. Roger was a valued member of this church since 1963. He served in so many capacities; from Trustee to sound technician to handyman... and the list goes on.

Sadly, because of Covid presence, the memorial service had to be postponed.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Jane and family. But we know that a healed Roger is basking in the presence of our Lord.



If a tiny virus can do this much damage, imagine what a mustard seed of faith can do!

“It is customary to blame secular science and anti-religious philosophy for the eclipse of religion in modern society. It would be more honest to blame religion for its own defeats. Religion declined not because it was refuted, but because it became irrelevant, dull, oppressive, insipid. When faith is completely replaced by creed, worship by discipline, love by habit; when the crisis of today is ignored because of the splendor of the past; when faith becomes an heirloom rather than a living fountain; when religion speaks only in the name of authority rather than with the voice of compassion -- its message becomes meaningless.”

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who purchased hat, gloves and mittens this Christmas season for our mitten tree. The items were taken to Northwest Elementary School in LaSalle. We received this thank you note this week.

“Dear Members,

Thank you very much for choosing Northwest School in LaSalle to receive the gloves, mittens and hats that were donated by you. Your generosity allows us to help keep our students warm. (many of them walk).”



You are not too dirty for God to cleanse. You are not too broken for God to fix. You are not too far for God to reach. You are not too guilty for God to forgive. And you are not too worthless for God to love.



There is no perfect life, no perfect job, no perfect childhood, no perfect marriage and no perfect set of people who will always do what we expect them to do.

What we have is a perfect God who is able to lead us through this imperfect life with unfailing strength, incomparable wisdom and infinite love.



First Congregational Church History Book
There are copies of our history book on the Welcome Table. Please feel free to take and give to anyone who would like one.



December Finances

<i>Tithes and Offerings</i>	<i>\$ 8,814.62</i>
<i>Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 7,587.04</i>



***Pray for the health of Jane McClintock, Char & Pete Belski, Sonny Whittington, Sandy Starr, Marilyn Cobb, the Hoadley family with Covid, Diana Dornbusch, Cyndee Walters*

***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*