



“THE STARTER”

January 2022

Rev. Brian Beck

Our email: 1stcongregperu@sbcglobal.net

Web page: firstcongregationalperu.net

Phone 815-223-0722

Thank You!!

We would like to thank Pastor David and Sylvia Heidemann for their true devotion to First Congregational Church. God Bless!! It has been a pleasure joining in fellowship with you again.



The Glory of the Seasons

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us that: “There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.” Let’s think about that for a bit. Each season is glorious. The glory of summer is different from the glory of fall. And the splendor of winter is different from spring.

God takes us through different seasons in our lives; seasons of rejoicing, mourning, saying hello and goodbye, building up and tearing down. The glory of the season of rejoicing is laughter, refreshment and revitalization. The gift of the season of mourning can be profound intimacy with the Lord. Whatever the current season, it will not last. We can no more remain in one season of life than one kind of weather can last throughout the year. Life bring seasons of both mourning and dancing, times of embracing and times to refrain from embracing. The key of course, is to remember that God is at work within us in each season. We are not always aware of what God is doing; often each season brings about change and growth. God begins the good work, sustains it and will bring it to completion.

Thank you, God for the glory of each season. May we fulfill your purposes throughout our lives. How are you growing in this season of life?



God has two thrones, one in the highest heavens, the other in the lowliest heart.



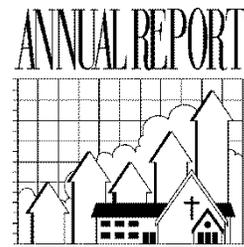
Congregational Meeting

January 30, 2022

Immediately following the worship service followed by

The Annual Potluck Dinner

Please bring a dish to pass as well as your own Table service.



The Annual Report will be Available for review on Sunday, January 23rd. You may pick up your report in the Narthex. Should you be unable to get one then, call the office and Vicki will send one to you in the mail.

All Reports from boards and committees are due by January 16th.



God whispers in your soul and speaks to your mind. Sometimes, when you don’t have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at you. It’s your choice; Listen to the whisper... Or wait for the brick!!



What goes up must come down. We had such fun putting up all of our Christmas decorations, won't you join us after worship service on January 9th to pack and put everything away?



Footprints in the Sand

One night I had a dream. I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I notices two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonged to me, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of my life had flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that many times along the path of my life there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life.

This troubled me, and I questioned the Lord about it: "Lord, You said that once I decided to follow You, You would walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed You the most, you should leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious child. I love you, and I would never leave you during your times of trial and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."



They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar as with eagles' wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.

Isaiah 40:31

Read Your Bible

- You worry, READ MATTHEW 6:19-34
- You are lonely or fearful, READ PSALM 23
- You are in sorrow, READ JOHN 14:1-6
- You are grateful, READ PSALM 103
- Others fail you, READ PSALM 27
- God seems far away, READ PSALM 139
- You need courage, READ JOSHUA 1
- You are discouraged, READ ISAIAH 40
- You are in danger, READ PSALM 91
- You have sinned, READ PSALM 51
- You have failed, READ PSALM 38
- God has rescued you, RE\$AD PSALM 34
- You want to praise God, READ PSALM 100
- You want to be like Jesus, READ JOHN 15
- Responsibility overwhelms,

READ MATTHEW 11:28-30



Diaconate Report

The Diaconate Board has had a busy quarter. A clean-up day was held Oct. 16th with a weiner roast on the newly built fire pit built by Konel Poisson. Fellowship hour has resumed every third Sunday of the month. The Congregational Thanksgiving dinner was held on Nov. 14th. Thanksgiving Eve service was held on November 24th. The free community Thanksgiving dinner was held on November 25th. All church Hanging of the Greens was held on November 28th.



A Friend Like Jesus

I never had a friend like Jesus; I never knew that there could be anyone to care so much as He's always care for me. And I do not have to worry He'll grow tired and go away, for He takes the time to listen, to whatever I may say.

Even when I'm sad and weary, full of pain and full of woe comes His gentle voice, reminding, "I have walked this way, you know. I have felt as you are feeling, and my heart was broken, too, and no one else can ever be..."

The friend I am to you!"

Grace E. Easley

Lifeline Screening

Lifeline Screening is planning to be here March 2nd. More information coming as is becomes available.



Epiphany

Epiphany is celebrated by many Christians around the world. Epiphany is a celebration of the arrival of the wise men, from the East who brought gifts to baby Jesus. The word "Epiphany" means an appearance of manifestation, especially of a divine being. For many Christians, Epiphany marks the end of Christmas season. Epiphany is on January 6, after the 12 days of Christmas. A star led these wise men to Jesus. While tradition holds that 3 kings came to visit Baby Jesus in the stable (and the kings are given the names of Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar), the truth is probably quite different. The wise men brought 3 gifts to Jesus which has led to the assumption that there were only 3 wise men, but in reality it was probably a larger group. Another false assumption, made more popular by nativity sets everywhere is, that the wise men came to the stable the night Jesus was born. In reality, the visit of the wise men most likely occurred later, at least 40 days after Jesus' birth and possibly up to 2 years later. These men were traveling 800-900 miles to see Jesus, a long distance for that time period. Likely the visit occurred 6 months to a year after Jesus' birth.



Welcome to the Movies

Christian Ed is hosting several afternoon movies. Beginning on Sunday January 23rd at 4:00pm the movies will be the series of God's Not Dead. They are open to everyone! Come enjoy fellowship, popcorn and soda, water.



Sunday Funday

Christian Ed is having Sunday Funday in February. Pastor Brian will be the story teller. We will be making valentines, February 6th from 4-6pm. Maybe Hide and Seek!!

Souper Bowl

Christian Ed is asking for soup donations on or before Super Bowl Sunday. Super Bowl Sunday is February 13, 2022. All donations will be given to the food pantry.



Pray for the health of Jane McClintock, Char & Pete Belski, Marilyn Cobb, Rita Tieman, Dawn's parents &, Dawn Tieman.

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

- Myrle Sapienza Carol Edgcomb
- Don Walker Jane McClintock
- Lillian Mini Daryl & Lin Stuhr

** Pray for Pastor Roy Jacob & Peace Mission in India caring for children and widows

** Pray for Jews for Jesus

** Pray for the Surbers and Supply & Multiply

** Pray for Abigail Women's Clinic

** Pray for Cup of Cold Water Ministries

** Pray for Transport for Christ

** Pray for PADS providing shelter to the Homeless



Diner's Interest

Christian Ed is taking a poll to see if there is interest in a monthly diner's group. Open to everyone. Once a month we'd get together at a local restaurant for fellowship and a meal.



Thank You!!

To all those who donated wreaths this holiday season. Greatly Appreciated!!

Wreath Donated

In Memory Of

Nancy Erlenborn

Family

Bernene Dahl

Family

Betty Martuzzo

Family

Jane Gabrielse

her husband, Roger



Painting Party

Christian Ed will be sponsoring a painting party in the spring. Painting parties and crafts with Lucy will be here. More information to come.



To do God's work
We must have God's power;
To have God's power
We must know God's will,
To know God's will
We must study God's word.

Mott

The 7 Ups

****Wake Up!** Decide to have a good day. "This is the day the Lord hath made: let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24

****Dress Up!** The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. 'The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart.' 1Samuel 16:7

****Shut Up!** Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. 'He who guards his lips guards his soul.' Proverbs 13:3

****Stand Up!** for what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. 'Let us not be weary in doing good, for at the proper times we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good...' Galatians 6:9-10

****Look Up!...** to the Lord. 'I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians 4:13

****Reach Up!...** for something higher. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5-6

****Lift Up!..** your prayers. 'Do not worry about anything, instead pray about everything.' Philippians 4:6

