

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



CLIFF'S NOTES

In conversations with many people over the last couple of weeks there has been a recurring theme—wanting this winter to come to an end! Now I may not echo those same sentiments but in my thinking this has been an old fashioned winter—the sort of winter I remember when I was growing up. With the arrival of March, there is good news—we are inching our way to the arrival of spring. As you look at the calendar in this newsletter you will see that March is a busy month in the life of our congregation.

There are a few things that I would like to highlight that will happen this month. The first is our Lenten journey. Each week there will a community Worship Service at one of the local churches, we will be hearing about the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, we will be asked to spend some time in reflection on all that Christ has done for us, there is an opportunity to visit the Kelso Museum at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and we will watch with eager anticipation to see our first robin and the plants will begin to poke their heads up through the ground.

The second thing that I would like to highlight will happen on March 23rd at 4PM when Laura Blank will be ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament or as is now called a Teaching Elder. Laura will be the minister of the Ebensburg and Colver congregations. This will be a special worship service celebrating the seeds of the Gospel message sown coming to fruition.

Finally, many of us will be watching with eager anticipation as the Pirates begin play in the Grapefruit League and then begin the regular season, hopefully to do as well or better than they did last season. As we look at the month of March, we can feel the springtime excitement getting ready to explode in a symphony of renewal and rebirth. For me that is a wonderful image for the church—because we are in the business of proclaiming the Good News of God's love, a love that transforms and renews, a love that make all things new.

Yours in Christ

Cliff



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR MARCH


Liturgists

3/2	Sarabeth Stopansky	If you would like to serve as a liturgist please see Cliff.
3/9	Tim D'Aurora	
3/16	Janet Rugh	If you are interested in becoming an acolyte please see
3/23	Keith Orr	Dave or Pam Foresman.
3/30	Doug Stine	

Those scheduled to serve Communion on March 2nd are:
Dave Foreman, Linda Youngbauer, John Blank, Sarabeth
Stopansky, and Scott McIlnay

SEPARATED BY SPACE UNITED IN PRAYER

The congregations and pastors from Neighborhood 1 for our prayer support
during the month of March are as follows:

3/2	Murrysville, First ✠ Chuck MacPherson, pastor Chris Derricks, associate pastor	
3/9	Murrysville, Newlonsburg ✠ Curtis Paul, pastor Marnie Silbert, associate pastor	
3/16	Murrysville, Union ✠ John Simpson, interim pastor	
3/23	New Alexandria, Community ✠ Kathy Shirey, pastor	

CHURCH OFFICERS

ELDERS

John Blank	Carol Hohman
Sue Blank	Jim Kepple
Gene Brant	Bob Schweppe
Tim D'Aurora	Linda Youngbauer
Dave Foresman	

DEACONS

Dorothy Brant	Jay Perino
Sue Derek	Mim Schweppe
Evelyn Foresman	Nancy Schweppe
Scott McIlnay	Sarabeth Stopansky
Debbie Perino	

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

3/2	Jason Orr	3/18	April Hawkey Richards
3/3	Janet Rugh		Dana Kaufman
3/4	Karen Dudek	3/19	Michael Kaufman
3/7	Jacob Derek		Betty Murphy
3/8	Geri Kaufman	3/20	Matt MacDonald
	Debbie Marchelletta	3/25	Pam Foresman
	Nancy Schweppe		Lana Munsell
3/9	Alicia D'Aurora	3/26	Bill Heasley
	Sue Kepple	3/27	Adrian Frye
3/10	Ken Walters	3/28	Robert Watt
3/11	Jessica D'Aurora	3/29	Nancy Kifer
3/13	Nancy Walters	3/30	Perry Miller IV
3/14	Alison Derek		
	Janet Henry		



ANNIVERSARIES

3/28/1981	Tom & Rosemary Orr
3/29/1981	Ron & Mary Ann Kaufman
3/30/1960	Gene & Dorothy Brant

LENTEN SERVICES

3/5 Ash Wednesday CUP at 7 PM
 3/12 UMC at 7 PM
 3/19 CUP at 7 PM
 3/26 Congruity at 7 PM
 4/2 No Walls at 7 PM
 4/9 Dan Schall concert at No Walls
 4/18 Good Friday at Congruity 7 PM



We will be needing cookies for the Lenten service on 3/26 at Congruity.



SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the Thompson family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Delbert's brother John's death.

MISSION TEAM

PHYLLIS FRYE

Don't forget to come support the mission team at the Pancake Dinner on Tuesday March 4 from 5-9 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$6 adults, \$3 children,. There will also be a silent basket auction. The team will be leaving for New Jersey on April 6. They will be commissioned on March 30 at Westminster.

THANK YOUS

To the Congruity Congregation

Just two small words to express so much gratitude.

Thank you for the gift of money.

Ken

DEACONS

SCOTT MCILNAY



We would like to send "Finals Care Packages" to our college students. Please give the name and address to Cliff or any Deacon so we may include them. The boxes will be sent out the week of April 27th.

We will have order forms for Easter Flowers in the church pews. If you are interested in ordering, please make the check out to Congruity Deacons ~ memo Easter flowers. Orders are due by April 6th. The flowers will be available on Easter morning after worship. Thank you

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE



The Congruity Women's Association's World Day of Prayer service will be 9:30am, Saturday March 1, 2014 at Congruity with a continental breakfast. The country we will be focusing on is Egypt. We extend an invitation to all women of the church (we would not turn away any men). Please come out for fellowship and prayer. Hope to see you there.

RUMMAGE SALE, bake sale. lunch will be on Saturday April 5 from 9a.m. til 2p.m. You may bring your "stuff" anytime during that week, preferably Monday through Thursday, but we will still take it on Friday A.M. Please donate some baked goods for the bake sale. These need to be at the church by 8:30. We will be needing lots of help all week. Lunch will be provided for the workers Monday through Friday Tins Mill Community Center will be picking up whatever doesn't get sold. We would appreciate extra help on Saturday around 2p.m. to help pack things up.

TLC

SUE DEREK

The TLC would like to thank the congregation for the items donated to the Giving Tree this past Christmas. They were delivered to No Walls Ministry in New Alexandria.

Pastor Charlie who Ministers to the homeless in Pittsburgh will be distributing them to Homeless Shelters through out the area. He says a great big thank-you to one and all.

TLC has meals prepared. If you know of someone that is feeling under the weather or just had a baby, or any other reason and may need a prepared meal, please talk to a member of TLC or Cliff.

Remember if you need a ride to or from any activity at Congruity, we will be glad to arrange for someone to pick you up. Please call the office to make arrangements.

MISSION INTERPRETATION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

TIM D'AURORA

As you can see from the Treasurer's Report located elsewhere in this newsletter, we did not start 2014 off on a very strong note. In our general fund, our expenses exceeded our receipts by \$2,544.95. Our First Fruits giving fell behind by \$162.00. While we know the weather for January wasn't very good, these results are still somewhat disappointing. In last month's newsletter submission, we stated that we were going to try to make everyone more aware of our current financial condition. This is difficult when we are essentially working with information that will be over a month old by the time we get it to you. We are going to try to have an updated monthly snapshot as part of our announcement loop during one Sunday a month. We realize that this limits this information to those attending worship services, but it is a start. We also hope to utilize Presbytery's stewardship resources more effectively. This difficult financial climate is certainly not limited to Congruity but we still need to do our best to meet the needs of this congregation.

MIS has set the tentative dates for our spaghetti dinners and hoagie sales. The first spaghetti dinner will be on April 26th and the second one will be on November 8th or with the proceeds benefitting the general fund. The first hoagie sale will be on May 22nd benefitting the general fund and the second one will be on September 18th benefitting First Fruits. We look forward to your participation in these fundraisers.

We have set our goals for our Special Offerings for the year. Our goal for One Great Hour of Sharing is \$900.00, for the Pentecost Offering is \$400.00 with our designated 40% going to the Blackburn Center, for the Peacemaking Offering is \$400.00 with our designated 25% going to Welcome Home, and for the Christmas Joy Offering is \$450.00. We will continue to use Minutes for Mission to keep you informed on how donating to these worthy special offerings is doing great work. With your help, we can achieve and exceed these goals.

MIS Continued

I am going to include a paragraph from last month's newsletter submission because I believe it is so important for the future of our congregation. We want everyone to understand that being a good steward means not just giving money, but also means being involved. I'm sure everyone has heard the phrase, Giving of your Time, Talents, and Treasures. If you take the time to really think about it, this means giving of yourself to show you appreciate all the gifts God has given you. For us to be a successful Church, we need more people to get involved in all aspects of the Church's life. That doesn't mean you have to volunteer for every committee or participate in every event, but if we all increase our involvement even a little, then the results of our efforts will substantially increase. We all need to prayerfully consider what it is that God is calling us to do. How can we participate in doing His work? Everyone has something to offer. We all just need to take that next step and make it happen.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Please join us for the WINTER JAM 2014 Tour Spectacular! It will be held on Friday March 21, 2014 at Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh. The concert starts at 7:00 pm but the doors open at 6:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Greeting Room. Please sign the sheet if you intend to go (or talk to Dave Foresman), if there are enough people interested we may be able to rent some transportation to take everyone to the concert together. There are 10 artists/bands performing and the cost is \$10 at the door (no tickets are required!) This is considered to be Christian Music's Largest Annual Tour! You'll hear some of the newest Christian bands and singers lifting their voices and your spirits up to God! You can read more about the concert and the artists/bands performing if you go online at jamtour.com.

****Keep your eyes open in future newsletters and bulletins for other upcoming Congregational Life events/activities such as Movie Nights, Game Nights, etc.****

Respectfully,
David Foresman



ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK

Session met on February 23, 2014 and reports the following:

- 1) Dave Foresman led devotions
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Discussed the Recap of the January Presbytery Meeting.
- 4) Noted that Presbytery meets on 3/15/14 at First Presbyterian, Belle Vernon
- 5) Elected Sue Blank as elder delegate and John Blank as alternate delegate to the Presbytery Meeting
- 6) The clerk reported that we received letters from the Westmoreland County Food Bank, the Mantle House, and Rev. Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter thanking Congruity for its support. The letters are on the bulletin board.
- 7) Acknowledged receipt of funds from the Sara Johnston estate and an interest check from the John & Jean Barron Fund
- 8) Set the following fund raiser dates and designations
 1. 4/26/14 – Spaghetti Dinner designated to the General Fund
 2. 11/8/14 – Spaghetti Dinner designated to the General Fund
 3. 5/22/14 – Hoagie Sale designated to the General Fund
 4. 9/18/14 – Hoagie Sale designate to the First Fruits Offering
- 9) Set the following goals and designations for special offerings
 1. One Great Hour of Sharing – Goal of \$900
 2. Pentecost Offering – Goal of \$400 with 40% to go to the Blackburn Center
 3. Peacemaking Offering – Goal of \$400 with 25% to go to Welcome Home
 4. Christmas Joy Offering – Goal of \$450
- 10) Set the Joint Meeting of Session and Deacons for May 18th
- 11) Agreed to host Redstone Presbytery on 3/23/14 at 4:00 PM for the purpose of ordaining Laura Blank as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.
- 12) Approved a bus trip to the National Geographic film *Jerusalem* on 4/27/14.
- 13) Agreed to read Chapter F-1 of the Book of Order for the next session meeting
- 14) Noted that the next regular session meeting is set for 3/17/14

The Mission of Congruity Presbyterian Church is to lead all persons to a biblical and theological understanding of reformed faith, to glorify God, to bear witness to Jesus Christ and to be the channel of God's saving power, so that His Kingdom may come and His Will be done in all the earth. We are the family of God. Therefore we focus on living as a loving family. Fellowship and worship will be the heart of our loving, caring church. (4/18/05)

TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT -2014

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	To Date Balance
<i>Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 14,440.53	
January	\$ 6,015.73	\$ 8,560.68	\$ 11,895.58	\$ (2,544.95)

First Fruits

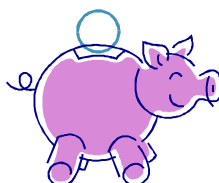
	Received	Pledged	Balance
January	\$ 563.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (162.00)

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring		\$ -	\$ -
Cents-Ability	\$ -	\$ 20.76	\$ 20.76
Change for the Future	\$ -	\$ 23.95	\$ 23.95

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$19,732.88**

	From 2013	Year to Date	Balance
Elevator Fund	\$ 175.00	\$ -	\$ 175.00
Local Mission	\$ 1,739.50	\$ -	\$ 1,739.50
Building Maintenance	\$ (289.56)	\$ 240.00	\$ (49.56)



CONGRUITY NEWSLETTER

YVONNE MCILNAY

I have created a new email account for the newsletter. Please send all newsletter submissions to congruitynewsletter@yahoo.com or place in the newsletter folder.

Thank you ~ Yvonne

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670



We're on the web!
congruitychurch.org

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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NEW ALEXANDRIA PA 15670

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM
WORSHIP AT 11:00AM
PLEASE JOIN US!



CHURCH STAFF

Cliff Foster	Pastor	
John Blank	Clerk of Session	
Scott McIlnay	Deacon's Moderator	
John Blank	Treasurer	1/26
Michelle Kepple	Financial Secretary	2/2
Dorothy Martz	Church Secretary	2/9
Janet Henry	Music Director	2/9
Yvonne McIlnay	Newsletter Editor	2/16
John Blank	Webmaster	

ATTENDANCE

Worship	Sunday School		
	Adult	Youth	Total
38	12	14	26
53	3	17	20
54	13	19	32
46	7	16	23



Dorothy is in Monday & Thursday mornings.

Cliff is in the office most mornings.

Please put newsletter items in the folder at the church or email to
congruitynewsletter@yahoo.com