

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes



What comes to your mind when you think about the month of February? Do you think of: The Super Bowl, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday, Fat Tuesday (the Pancake Dinner), or some other special day in your life? For being the shortest month of the year, there are sure a lot of things that take place in February, isn't there.

I was thinking the other day about all of those events and it occurred to me that there is one word that is often associated with February—the word Love. I know that this is mostly because of Valentine's Day and giving those we love a card, chocolates or some other gift to express our love of them... but beyond that, this February we will begin our Lenten journey. Lent is a time when we reflect on the depth of God's love shown to us in the atoning sacrifice that Christ made for the entire world. The journey to the empty tomb of Easter morning has to pass through Good Friday and the old rugged cross. Jesus says in John 15: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." Through our faith in Christ, we are called his friends and we are to love with His love all those around us.

A number of years ago, there was a popular song written by Burt Bacharach which declared: "What the world needs now is love..." I think that the month of February with its emphasis on Love challenges us to show God's love to all those around us and who knows the impact that love might have on our world!

Yours in Christ,

Cliff





W O R S H I P L E A D E R S F O R F E B R U A R Y

E L -

Liturgists

D E R S

John Blank

Sue Blank

2/1

2/8

2/15

2/22

Sarabeth Stopansky

Deacon Sunday

Ced Stopansky

Evelyn Foresman



Dave Foresman

Kathy Hamilton

Carol Hohman

Jim Kepple

Scott McIlnay

Bob Schweppe

Linda Youngbauer

Those scheduled to serve Communion on February 15th are:

John Blank Jim Kepple Kathy Hamilton

Phyllis Frye Evelyn Foresman

If you would like to serve as a liturgist please see Cliff.
If you are interested in becoming an acolyte please see Dave or
Pam Foresman.

S E P A R A T E D B Y S P A C E U N I T E D I N P R A Y E R



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

D E A C O N S

Dorothy Brant

Sue Derek

Evelyn Foresman

Phyllis Frye

Nancy Lauffer

Debbie Perino

Jay Perino

Amber Sellinger

Mim Schweppe

2/1

2/8

2/15

2/22

Murrys ville, Union

✠ Derek Campbell, Pastor

New Alexandria, Community

✠ Kathy Shirey, Pastor

New Alexandria, Congruity

✠ Cliff Forster, Pastor

New Kensington

✠ Rob Shoup, Interim Pastor



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.

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

2/1	Charlotte Foresman	2/20	Arlin Smith
2/3	Dan Frye		Kathy Schrecengost Soule
2/4	Kathy (Blank) Todd	2/21	Daniel Writt
	Jeff Karstaedt	2/22	Elise Bish
2/7	Dottie D'Aurora		Diane D'Aurora
2/8	Tom Dudek	2/25	Clay Kaufman
2/9	Elijah Miller	2/27	Brian Kaufman
2/17	Austin Heasley		
2/18	Ken Sellinger Jr		



LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHEDULE

February 18	7PM	Ash Wednesday	CUP
February 25	7PM	UMC	Cliff Foster preaching
March 4	7PM	Congruity	Kathy Shirey preaching
March 11	7PM	CUP	Charlie Brownawell preaching
March 18	7PM	No Walls	Rhea Summit preaching
March 25	7PM	UMC	Dan Schall concert
April 3	7PM	Good Friday	CUP



TWO YEAR BIBLE PLAN

SUE DEREK

Two Year Bible Plan will meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 in The Women's Sunday School Class. Please join us!



WALK FIT

SUE DEREK



Walk Fit classes have been moved to Monday evenings at 6:15PM Come join the fun!

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the Hazlett family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Denny's death. May God's presence give you comfort and strength in your time of loss.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN

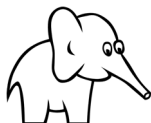
There will be a VBS planning meeting on Monday, February 23rd at 7:00 pm at Congruity Presbyterian Church. Anyone who wants to teach or help out at this year's Community VBS called "Everest VBS" is invited to attend this meeting. If you have any questions please see Reverend Foster or anyone on the Christian Ed. Committee, thanks.

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE

World Day of Prayer will be on Saturday, March 7th at Saint James, time to be announced.

DON'T FORGET! to save your "stuff" for the Women's Association's Rummage Sale on Saturday March 28.



DEACONS

PHYLLIS FRYE & DEBBIE PERINO



Our annual White Elephant sale will be Sunday, February 8th after worship. Please bring a covered dish to share and a wrapped gift for the auction. Table service, bread and drinks will be provided by the Deacons. After lunch the fun begins! Please remember that this is the only fundraiser the Deacons have all year. We would really appreciate everyone's support. Hope to see you there!

The Flower Chart for 2015 has been posted. Please sign up to help provide fresh flowers for our services. The cost is \$30.00 payable to Congruity Deacons. The chart will be posted until March 15th. Artificial flowers will be used for the unassigned dates due to the cost and the Deacon's budget.

Thank you.

MISSION TEAM

PHYLLIS FRYE



MANTLE HOUSE - There is a work-day scheduled at Mantle House Mission on Saturday February 7 at 9a.m. There are a variety of projects to do. Mantle House currently has two residents. If you always wanted to go on a mission trip and just can't go for a week, this is the perfect opportunity. It is only for one day and is only 45 minutes away. If you are interested in going there is a sign-up sheet in the greeting room or contact Phyllis Frye. We will be leaving the church by 8:15AM that morning and coming back by late afternoon at the latest.



PANCAKE DINNER - A Pancake Dinner will be held at Congruity to benefit the Redstone Mission Team on Fat Tuesday, February 17, from 4:30 -7p.m. The team will be serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit and beverage for \$7 adults, children 6-12 \$3, and children under 6 free. Proceeds will benefit the Redstone Mission Team. There is a sign-up sheet in the greeting room for donations of eggs, fruit, etc. Also we will need extra help that evening. Please come out and support the team going out. You are the support group (the home team) and we need both your support and your prayers.

BON TON COUPON BOOKS -The mission team is selling Bon Ton Community Day coupon books for the Community Day sale on Friday and Saturday February 27,28. They are \$5 each, which stays with the team. You get a \$10 coupon plus other coupons which can be used over and over. See Phyllis Frye

MISSION TRIP - The Redstone Mission Team is being sent by God to Bayville, New Jersey to help with restoration from Superstorm Sandy. We will be leaving on Sunday April 12 and coming home either Friday evening, April 17 or Saturday April 18. There are 24 slots available, so if you are interested and feel called to go, please let Judy Koontz (724 668 2843) or Phyllis Frye (724 468 3740) know as soon as possible. We will be staying at the morning Star Presbyterian Church. The camp fee is \$120 with travel expenses paid for with funds earned at the Pancake Dinner.



MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

TIM D'AURORA

We entered 2014 with a balance in the general fund of \$14,405.53 and ended the year with a balance of \$16,006.57 for an overall net increase of \$1,566.04. While it was great to have a positive cash flow for the year, we need to remember that the Presbyterian Women donated \$3,000.00 in December and we had an anonymous donation of \$7,000.00 in September. Without these unusual donations, we would have been short for the year by \$8,433.96. This is still an area of major concern. We also ended the year \$480.35 short on our First Fruits pledge. We hope to improve on this by reinstating the Per Capita collection for 2015.

One positive area for the year was our performance on our special offerings. We exceeded our goals on 3 of the 4 offerings.

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Received</u>
One Great Hour of Sharing	900.00	\$980.02
Pentecost	400.00	\$401.00
Peacemaking	400.00	\$545.00
Christmas Joy	450.00	\$404.10



Thanks to everyone who participated in these important special offerings.

MIS held 2 Spaghetti Dinners, 2 Hoagie Sales, and an Auction. These events were very successful and helped our general fund, our First Fruits collection, and our Local Mission Fund. We certainly appreciate everyone who participated in these fundraisers.

This year we chose not to do a traditional Stewardship Campaign. Reviewing the last several years, we noticed it didn't seem to matter what kind of program we did, the results were pretty much the same. Instead, we hope to encourage everyone to think about stewardship throughout the year. For Congruity to continue to do God's work, we need to have the resources available and to do that, we need everyone to prayerfully consider their giving levels and their participation in our fundraisers.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

TIM D'AURORA

2014 Annual Report for the Property Committee

During 2014, the property committee continued to perform routine maintenance activities. There were several larger projects that were hoped to be started, but they were not begun. The committee did achieve some success by reviewing the property insurance and were able to increase coverage while saving a significant amount of money. We continue to ask the congregation to communicate any problems they see to someone on the committee or to the church office.

TREASURER'S REPORT



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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)
February	\$ 6,093.85	\$ 9,512.40	\$ 8,477.03	\$ (5,963.50)
March	\$ 6,447.48	\$ 8,756.68	\$ 6,167.83	\$ (8,272.70)
April	\$ 9,421.93	\$ 8,826.01	\$ 6,763.75	\$ (7,676.78)
May	\$ 6,114.77	\$ 8,978.00	\$ 3,900.52	\$ (10,540.01)
June	\$ 7,787.15	\$ 6,410.59	\$ 5,277.08	\$ (9,163.45)
July	\$ 4,862.94	\$ 8,269.37	\$ 1,870.65	\$ (12,569.88)
August	\$ 7,255.17	\$ 8,192.92	\$ 932.90	\$ (13,507.63)
September	\$15,592.96	\$10,017.57	\$ 6,508.29	\$ (7,932.24)
October	\$ 5,668.37	\$ 5,909.00	\$ 6,267.66	\$ (8,172.87)
November	\$ 8,337.70	\$ 7,160.02	\$ 7,445.34	\$ (6,995.19)
December	\$14,415.36	\$ 5,854.13	\$ 16,006.57	\$ 1,566.04

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance	
January	\$ 563.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (162.00)	
February	\$ 503.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (384.00)	
March	\$ 578.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (531.00)	
April	\$ 653.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (603.00)	
May	\$ 468.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (860.00)	
June	\$ 675.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (910.00)	
July	\$ 573.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (1,062.00)	
August	\$ 532.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (1,255.00)	
September	\$ 1,226.65	\$ 725.00	\$ (753.35)	(Includes \$543.65)
October	\$ 568.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (910.35)	
November	\$ 798.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (837.35)	
December	\$ 1,082.00	\$ 725.00	\$ (480.35)	

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 110.00	\$ -	\$ 110.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 264.77	\$ 88.00	\$ 352.77
Change for the Future	\$ 140.35	\$ 10.12	\$ 150.47

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 984.02	\$ 900.00	\$ 84.02
Pentecost	\$ 401.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1.00
Peacemaking	\$ 545.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 145.00
Christmas Joy	\$ 404.10	\$ 450.00	\$ (45.90)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance		\$ -	\$ -

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$20,547.98**

Included in General Fund Balance

	From 2013	Year to Date	Balance
Elevator Fund	\$ 175.00	\$ (175.00)	\$ -
Local Mission	\$ 1,739.50	\$ 1,102.00	\$ 2,841.50
Building Maintenance	\$ (289.56)	\$ 3,035.00	\$ 2,745.44



ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK

Session met on January 19, 2015 and reports the following:

- 1) John Blank led us in devotions reading from "Coffee with Calvin" a devotional based on Ephesians 1:20-23 and 4:1-6.
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) The next meeting of Redstone Presbytery is set for 1/20/15
- 4) Carol Hohman will serve as our Elder Delegate to the Presbytery Meeting
- 5) Approved the 2-year Bible reading program led by Sue Derek and Phyllis Frye
- 6) Approved the annual report to the Office of the General Assembly
- 7) Noted that 56 received Communion on 12/21/14 and 40 on 1/11/15
- 8) Noted that on 1/11/15 Congruity Ordained and Installed Ruling Elders and Deacons. Ordained and Installed as Ruling Elders: Kathy Hamilton and Scott McIlnay; Ordained and Installed as Deacon: Amber Sellinger; Installed as Ruling Elder: Dave Foresman; and Installed as Deacons: Sue Derek, Evelyn Foresman, Phyllis Frye, and Nancy Lauffer
- 9) Received a letter from the Delmont-Salem Rotary Club thanking Congruity for supporting Operation Warm (Coats for Kids.)
- 10) Held the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees and elected Bob Schweppe as President of the Board of Trustees.
- 11) Worked on committee assignments for elders. The committee list will be finalized at the session retreat on 1/31/15.
- 12) Session needs members from the congregation to volunteer to serve on the following committees: Christian Education, Congregational Life, Mission Interpretation & Stewardship, Property, Personnel, Worship, Communications/Publicity, and Membership. If you are interested in helping out on any of these committees please contact Rev. Foster or John Blank.
- 13) Approved the Deacon's White Elephant sale for 2/8/15.
- 14) Noted that the bus for Winter Jam 2015 will be leaving CUP at 4:30 on 1/31/15.
- 15) Discussed the new clearance checks required for all employees and volunteers working with children. Session agreed to reimburse individuals for the cost of the background checks. John Blank will get more information and meet with the employees and volunteers.
- 16) Approved the "Souper Bowl of Caring" offering to be collected on 2/1/15 with the donations going to the Westmoreland County Food Bank.

ITEMS FROM SESSION

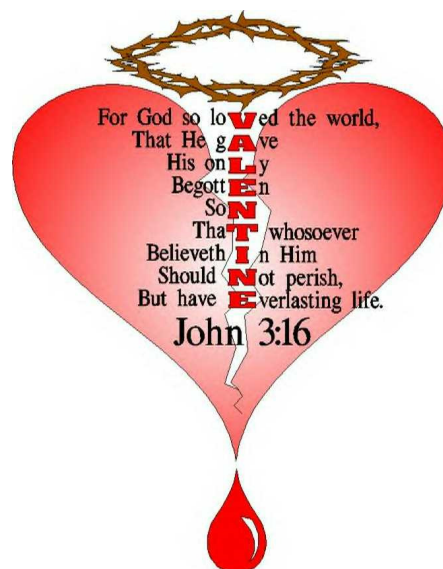
- 17) Approved the Pancake Supper fundraiser for the Mission Team to be held on 2/17/15.
- 18) Approved a Work Day at Mantle House Mission for 2/7/15.
- 19) Reviewed Rev. Foster's 4th quarter 2014 progress on his 2014 goals and approved his 2015 goals.
- 20) Noted that the Joint Meeting of Deacons and Session will be held at the beginning of the Session Retreat which starts at 10 AM on 1/31/15.
- 21) Session will discuss the first chapter of **This Service of Love** (a look at stewardship by Mark Landfried based on Paul's letters to the Corinthians) at the session retreat on 1/31/15.
- 22) Noted that the next regular session meeting is 2/16/2015.

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)

OFFERING TOTALS

Offering General Fund

12/7/2014	\$1,645.00
12/14/2014	\$1,822.00
12/21/2014	\$2,129.00
12/24/2014	\$2,112.85
12/28/2014	\$1,990.00
Month Total	\$9,698.85
Service Average	\$1,939.77



Happy Valentine's Day

Congruity Presbyterian Church
 136 Fennelstown Road
 New Alexandria PA 15670



We're on the web!
congruitychurch.org

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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NEW ALEXANDRIA PA 15670



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

A T T E N D A N C E

Worship		Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
12/28	46	6	13	19
1/4	42	5	12	17
1/11	47	11	12	23
1/18	43	8	17	25

C H U R C H S T A F F A N D O F F I C E R S

Pastor	Cliff Foster
Clerk of Session	John Blank
Deacon's Moderators	Phyllis Frye Debbie Perino
Treasurer	John Blank
Financial Secretary	Michelle Kepple
Church Secretary	Dorothy Martz
Music Director	Janet Henry
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne McIlroy
Webmaster	John Blank

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