

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

There is a feeling of excitement and anticipation filling the air as we enter into the month of March. Part of that excitement is captured by the hope of beginning to see the signs of spring bursting forth before our eyes and signaling the end of winter. Other than the very cold and frigid temperatures, our winter has not been as bad as the one experienced by those in New England! It is mind boggling to think of having in excess of 100 inches of snow and snow banks 5 and 6 feet high. But with the arrival of March, we look forward to the arrival of spring and the renewal of life that we take place all around us.

When I was growing up, March was always a special month because of St. Patrick's Day—a day when the world is Irish. I was thinking about this the other day and I recalled anticipating the wardrobe I would wear—going through my drawers and closet and picking out everything that was green and wearing as much green as I could. Even my friends, who had no Irish blood in them would be decked out in green on March 17th. This year, St. Patrick's Day falls about in the middle of Lent and as we journey through the Lenten Season and prepare ourselves for the Good News of the empty tomb of Easter.

It occurred to me that there is a valuable lesson that we can garner from St. Patrick's Day, especially if we subscribe to the notion that on March 17th everyone is Irish—the lesson is that through our faith in Jesus Christ we are all part of God's family each and every day not just one day a year. In the Gospel of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus is told that his mother and brothers and sisters had come to see him. Jesus says: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." (Matt. 12: 50; Mark 3: 31; Luke 8:21). Throughout this Season of Lent may our connection to each other be nurtured as we endeavor to continue Christ's ministry and mission in our world today. One of the places where our connection to one another and to Christ can deepen is through worshipping together. My brothers and sisters, I look forward to seeing you at Church.



Yours in Christ,



W O R S H I P L E A D E R S F O R M A R C H

Liturgists

E L D E R S

John Blank

Sue Blank

3/1

3/8

3/15

3/22

Doug Stine

Janet Rugh

Dave Foresman

Phyllis Frye



Dave Foresman

Kathy Hamilton

Carol Hohman

Jim Kepple

Scott McIlnay

Bob Schweppe

Linda Youngbauer

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 March 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

3/1

3/8

3/15

3/22

3/29

Slickville

✠ Tom Holmes, CRE

Vandergrift

✠ Neal Galley, Pastor

Apollo, Pine Run

✠ Lanny Mellinger, Pastor

Apollo, Poke Run

✠ Pete Goetschius, Pastor

✠ Gary Close, Stated Clerk



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.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

3/2	Jason Orr	3/18	April Hawley
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 Sullivan		
	Janet Henry		

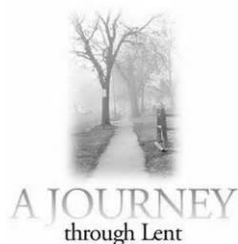


ANNIVERSARIES



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

LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHEDULE



March 4	7PM Congruity	Rev. Kathy Shirey Preaching
March 11	7PM CUP	Pastor Charlie Brownawell Preaching
March 18	7PM No Walls	Pastor Rhea Summit Preaching
March 25	7PM UMC	Dan Schall Concert
April 3	7PM CUP	Good Friday Service

PAINT WITH LARUE

Painting with LaRue has been moved to the last Thursday of the month at 7PM. Come join the fun!





THANK YOUS

Many thanks to my friends at Congruity for all the get-well cards, calls, and many prayers for my rehabilitation and recovery. I am doing well and hope to see you at church soon. Thank you for being there.

Carol E. Miller

Bob Hohman would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards & calls during his recent hospital stays. Thanks also to Cliff for his visits & calls.

ENGAGEMENT CONGRATULATIONS



Danica Ference & Tyler Piovesan got engaged on December 26, 2014. Tyler is the son of Yvonne & Scott McIlroy. They are planning their wedding for May of 2016.



STOP HUNGER NOW

PHYLLIS FRYE



PW in Redstone is again having a Christmas tea to support Stop Hunger Now. It will be held at Congruity on July 18 and will be a Downtown Abby (or that time period) theme. If you want to help, let Phyllis know.

**WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION**

PHYLLIS FRYE

RUMMAGE SALE: Saturday March 28, 9a.m. till 2p.m. Lunch and bake sale. Don't forget to bring your used but usable "junk" to the church the week of March 22. Congruity Women's association will be having it's annual rummage sale and we need your stuff. Not only do we need your stuff, but we also need your time and help. So come on out and help us "get it all together". We work hard, but have a lot of fun and good conversation, and if you are there at noon, we'll feed you. And come Saturday to help or shop. This is a fund raiser to support the Women's Association's mission to Jesus Christ.

If you buy through Amazon, you may effortlessly donate to PW free of charge by shopping through Amazon Smile. Simply visit smile.amazon.com and select Presbyterian Women as your favorite charitable organization and a portion of your purchase of eligible items is donated to PW. You shop, Amazon gives, PW receives.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

PHYLLIS FRYE



This year's World Day of Prayer is focused on the Bahamas and will be on Saturday March 7 at 9:30 Saint James. It will begin with a continental breakfast. The women of Saint James would like to have an idea of how many are coming, so please let Phyllis Frye know if you are going, so she can let them know.

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP



JOHN BLANK

FIRST FRUITS – BENEVOLENCE – GENERAL MISSION

First Fruits, Benevolence (second line on the offering envelope), and General Mission really all mean the same thing. Keep in mind that First Fruits encompasses all three. Congruity's First Fruits pledge to Redstone Presbytery for 2015 is \$7800. Of this \$7800 the first \$4100 (estimate) goes to support the Redstone operating budget, Redstone's two missions (Sudan and Pine Springs), and Redstone's apportionment to the Synod and General Assembly (about \$1550.) The remaining \$2150 (and any First Fruits offering beyond our pledge) will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Redstone needs to fund its operating budget and mission projects before money can flow to the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Please give PRAYERFUL THOUGHT to your support of First Fruits. You can designate offering to First Fruits on the memo of your check or use the Benevolence or Mission designation on the offering envelope.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

FEEDING THE HUNGRY: On the first Sunday of each month Congruity focuses on feeding the hungry. There is a grocery cart to collect non-perishable food to support the needy in our area. If you forget to bring food for the collection you can buy items from the "Kid's Store" to be put into the grocery cart. Don't forget about the Cents-ability offering. You can designate Cents-ability on your check or place cash in the wooden box shaped like a loaf of bread. Donation cups for Cents-ability are often placed on the tables during our fundraiser dinners. All Cents-ability offering flows directly to the Presbyterian Hunger Fund.

CHANGE FOR THE FUTURE: In 2015 money collected in the Change for the Future cookie jar will go to support global missions through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: On the first two Sundays in February we received the Souper Bowl of Caring offering in the soup kettles in the Greeting Room. This year's collection was \$185.50 and was sent directly to the Westmoreland County Food Bank.

THROUGH THE DENOMINATION: Congruity supports four special offerings through PC (USA). Session has set the following goals as follows: One Great Hour of Sharing - \$900; Pentecost - \$400; Peacemaking - \$400; and Christmas Joy - \$400.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The chicks are back! Once again as we hear about the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) throughout the Lenten season, hatching chicks will track our progress. For each \$10 designated to OGHS a chick will hatch. Our goal is to hatch 90 or more chicks by the end of the collection period, 4/5/15. Check out the hatching chicks in the Greeting Room

STEWARDSHIP – CONSERVING RESOURCES

As Christians we are called, indeed we are expected to take care of God's creation. Most of Congruity's electricity comes from burning fossil fuels. Anything that we can do to reduce our electricity consumption will conserve natural resources and help Congruity's finances.

Two things that we can all do is to help reduce heating and cooling costs by: 1) Keeping the stairway doors closed. There is no need to heat and cool the stairways. 2) Keep the doors to the sanctuary closed when the sanctuary is not in use. This is a big space and there is no need to heat and cool it when it is not in use. If you are using the building during the week, please check these doors.

Speaking of checking things in the building, alert somebody if you notice problems. Our water bill for the fourth quarter of 2014 jumped from a normal \$90 to \$307 because some of the toilets were not shutting off properly.

FUNDRAISERS

A big thank you to Tim D'Aurora for volunteering to chair four of our fundraisers in 2015. Session has set the following dates (subject to change): 4/25/15 – Spaghetti Dinner; 5/21/15 – Hoagie Sale; 9/24/15 – Hoagie Sale; and 11/17 – Spaghetti Dinner. Watch for more details in future issues of Congruity Connection.

ITEMS FROM SESSION

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JOHN BLANK

Session met on February 16, 2015 and reports the following:

- 1) Dave Foresman led us in devotions sharing from the Mission Yearbook
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Rev. Foster commented that the Congregational Meeting, the Session Retreat with the Deacons, and the Deacon's White Elephant Auction went very well.
- 4) Rev. Foster reported on the 1/20/15 Presbytery Meeting
- 5) The next meeting of Redstone Presbytery will be Saturday, 3/21/15, from 9 AM – 12 PM @ Westminster Church. Dave Foresman was elected as Elder Delegate to the 3/21 meeting.
- 6) Deacons reported a profit of \$825 from the White Elephant Auction.
- 7) There will be a planning meeting for Vacation Bible School at Congruity on 2/23/15 at 7 PM.
- 8) MIS reports that the Change for the Future cookie jar will be replaced by a World Globe type bank to support Global Mission through the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- 9) MIS reports the following goals for the four special offerings: OGHS - \$900, Pentecost - \$400 (40% to Welcome Home Shelter,) Peacemaking - \$400 (25% to the Blackburn Center,) and Christmas Joy \$400.
- 10) MIS reports the following tentative dates for fundraisers: Spaghetti Dinner – 4/25/15, Hoagie Sale – 5/21/15, Hoagie Sale – 9/24/15, and Spaghetti Dinner – 11/7/15. All profit, including basket auction and raffle proceeds, to go to the General Fund unless changed by session.
- 11) Session noted that the deadline for clearances for employees and volunteers has been extended. Look for more information at a later date.
- 12) Noted that Lenten Devotionals are available in the Greeting Room
- 13) Scheduled devotional leaders through the June meeting.
- 14) Agreed to read and study Chapter 3 of *This Service of Love*
- 15) Approved a Tea sponsored by the PW on 7/18/15
- 16) Approved work days at Mantle House Mission on an ongoing basis. The work days will be held mostly on the first Saturday of the month.
- 17) Discussed Chapter 2 of *This Service of Love*
- 18) Noted that the next regular session meeting is scheduled for 3/16/2015.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

Date

General

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	To Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 12,938.26	
January	\$ 5,933.00	\$ 11,997.04	\$ 6,874.22	\$ (6,064.04)

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January	\$ 428.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (222.00)

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Cents-Ability	\$ -	\$ 30.76	\$ 30.76

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS)	\$ 20,547.98
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	From 2014	Year to Date	Balance
Elevator Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Local Mission	\$ 2,841.50	\$ 200.00	\$ 3,041.50
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,745.44	\$ 165.00	\$ 2,910.44

Fund

OFFERING TOTALS

01/04/15	\$ 1,430.00
01/11/15	\$ 1,605.00
01/18/15	\$ 698.00
01/25/15	\$ 1,405.00
02/01/15	\$ 918.00
02/08/15	\$ 1,664.00



MANTLE HOUSE MISSION WORK

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PHYLLIS FRYE



Mantle House Mission has set the first Saturday of each month as a workday. This is a great opportunity to volunteer locally. It is just 45 minutes away and there is a lot to be done, especially when work starts on the third house. Last month the women cleaned and re-organized the children's room in the re-sale shop, while Dave and the rest of the guys worked on the Vine Street house, doing electrical work, construction and installing gym equipment. Mantle House graciously provided lunch. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old (legal requirements). If interested, contact either Phyllis Frye or Marci at Mantle House (724-872-7119). You can visit the church website at www.congruitychurch.org to view the pictures in color.

WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION



Our auctioneers, Dave Foresman & Tim D'Aurora did a fine job as always at the Deacon's White Elephant Sale! A total of \$825 was raised. There was lots of delicious food and a great time had by all with lots of laughs!

STROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



Congruity Presbyterian Church
 136 Fennelstown Road
 New Alexandria PA 15670



We're on the web!
congruitychurch.org

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No 5
NEW ALEXANDRIA PA 15670

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



ATTENDANCE

	Worship	Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
1/25	39	8	17	25
2/1	18	9	15	24
2/8	51	8	15	23
2/15	18	1	10	11



CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

Pastor	Cliff Foster
Clerk of Session	John Blank
Deacon 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