

# CONGRUITY CONNECTION



## *Cliff's Notes*

As I write these words, I am looking out the window in my office and I find myself wondering what the fall foliage is going to be like this year. I have a hunch that it is not going to be as spectacular as other years, because there are already leaves on the ground now and because of the weather we experienced over the summer. However, such a realization does not diminish the anticipated arrival of the autumn season with its cool nights and the crispness in the air, donning a favorite sweater and hearing that unique sound when you wear corduroys.

One of the things that I look forward to as the month of October begins is World Communion Sunday where we will join our brothers and sisters around the world in celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on October 4<sup>th</sup>. This has become one of my favorite celebrations of communion throughout the year! It sometimes boggles my mind (which sometimes is not hard to do) that on this particular Sunday, Christians throughout our global neighborhood share the bread and drink the cup, remembering the depth of God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ. On this particular Sunday, we share this sacred supper together and I find this to be a powerful reminder of the unity within the Body of Christ—the Church. One of the things that we do on World Communion Sunday is to have various types of bread as part of our communion to remind us of the various breads that are staples in other parts of the world.

As sisters and brothers let us come to the Lord's Table on World Communion Sunday as we affirm and celebrate our unity within the Body of Christ, even when we may disagree on various social and cultural issues... issues that are causes of fissures and fractions within the Church...but at the Lord's Table we are brought together to share the bread and the cup and to affirm our oneness through our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. I look forward to sharing this sacred supper with you, my brothers and sisters.



Yours in Christ,

*Cliff*



# W O R S H I P L E A D E R S F O R O C T O B E R

## Liturgists

### E L D E R S

John Blank

Sue Blank

Dave Foresman

Kathy Hamilton

Carol Hohman

Jim Kepple

Scott McIlnay

Bob Schweppe

Linda Youngbauer



### D E A C O N S

Dorothy Brant

Sue Derek

Evelyn Foresman

Phyllis Frye

Nancy Lauffer

Debbie Perino

Jay Perino

Mim Schweppe

10/4

Dorothy Martz

10/11

Sarabeth Stopansky

10/18

Doug Stine

10/25

Ced Stopansky



Those serving Communion on October 4th ~

Carol Hohman Scott McIlnay Sue Blank

Sue Derek Dorothy Brant

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

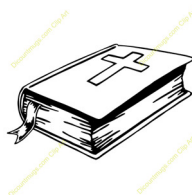
The congregations and pastors from Neighborhood 1 for our prayer support during the month of October are as follows:

10/4 Vandergrift † Neal Galley, Pastor

10/11 Apollo, Pine Run † Lanny Mellinger, Pastor

10/18 Apollo, Poke Run † Pete Goetschius, Pastor

10/25 Avonmore † Larry Armstong, Stated Supply



## N E W T E S T A M E N T B I B L E S T U D Y

S U E D E R E K

The New Testament Bible Study will now be meeting at the end of the month on Wednesdays. Our first get together will be October 28, 2015. We will now be meeting from 1:00-2:00 P.M. in the Women's Sunday School Class.

For the month of October will be discussing the Book of Mark. Then for the month of November, we will meet November 25, 2015. Same time, same location.

At that time we will be discussing the Book of Luke.

All is welcome ~ Both men and women. Please come join Us!

# OCTOBER

## BIRTHDAYS

- |       |                          |       |                         |
|-------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 10/2  | Tom Davis                | 10/19 | Laura Blank             |
|       | Ken Martz                | 10/20 | Jennifer Rose MacDonald |
| 10/4  | Jacob Gartner            | 10/21 | Kelly Karstaedt         |
| 10/5  | Jessica Tarpay           |       | Kristie Roemer          |
| 10/9  | Doyle Martz              | 10/22 | Vinton Hoffman          |
| 10/10 | Will Hamilton            | 10/25 | Tylor McDonald          |
| 10/11 | Darrell D'Aurora         | 10/28 | Dorothy Martz           |
| 10/12 | Christopher Schrecengost | 10/29 | Sally Ott               |
| 10/13 | Dylan McDonald           | 10/30 | Jennifer MacDonald      |
| 10/16 | Ronda Weinell            | 10/31 | Daniel Frye             |
| 10/18 | Scott McInay             |       |                         |



## ANNIVERSARIES



- |            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 10/12/1991 | Bill and Lisa Heasley    |
| 10/13/2012 | Frank and Jessica Tarpay |
| 10/14/1995 | Dave & Pam Foresman      |
| 10/15/1964 | Tony & Debbie Perino     |
| 10/16/1962 | Dan & Marlene Kifer      |
| 10/17/1992 | Tim & Caroline D'Aurora  |
| 10/17/1998 | Dan & Elaine Kaufman     |
| 10/18/2003 | Shawn & Vivian Schweppe  |
| 10/20/2007 | Ryan & Rebecca Boggs     |
| 10/28/2006 | Becky & Larry Swatchick  |



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

PHYLLIS FRYE

Operation Christmas Child boxes are due at the church November 8, in time for national collection week November 16-23. These are shoeboxes filled with hygiene items, school supplies, toys, hats & mittens, etc. and go to underdeveloped countries, refugee sites, or disaster areas. It is a ministry of Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse. With each box, add \$7 to cover costs of postage. After receiving shoebox gifts, many children are disciplined through the Bible study, the Greatest Journey where they learn to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ and share their faith with others. There will be brochures in the greeting room at the church.

Thank you to all who donated school kit supplies. The children at CUP church filled 61 bags. Thank you to Congruity Hands-On -Mission for making over 30 of the bags.



Dave and Gavin finishing the Hunger Walk

## STOP HUNGER NOW

PHYLLIS FRYE



For those who have signed up for the meal packaging program for Stop Hunger Now, don't forget it is on October 31, 9am-1pm. It's not too late to sign up for the 9 or 11 am shifts, Contact either Phyllis Frye (724-468-3740) or Judy Koontz (724-668-2843) This is a lot of fun while supporting a very worthwhile cause. Our goal is 10,000 meals.

## YOUTH GROUP LETTER

DAVE FORESMAN

September 2, 2015

Dear Youth and Parents of New Alexandria

The New Alexandria Ministerial Association made a commitment to the community to organize a youth group for church and community members. Over the last four years, we have put many hours and committed resources to establish a place where youth could gather to hear the gospel message while having recreation in a Christian environment. Although we have made efforts to maintain this group, attendance by the youth has been poor.

When we have asked parents in the past about getting the youth involved, we find that we are competing against many activities, including band, musical, sports, family activities, and even television. Because of the limited participation, we have cancelled meetings on a regular basis, even while having put many hours into our own preparation. We still want to meet the needs of our New Alexandria youth, but need to know that there will be participation before we put hours in to planning.

What does this mean to you? This means that if you desire to see a New Alexandria community youth group or occasional youth-specific programming from your Ministerial Associations, you will need to contact one of the youth group leaders to let us know the extent of your potential commitment. We look forward to hearing from you, and we will prayerfully take your input into consideration as we look at the future of our youth programming.

Sincerely,

Dave Foresman

Your Youth Group Leaders:

The Reverend Kathy Shirey, Pastor, Community United Presbyterian Church 724-668-7752, 724-875-1565

Pastor Rhea Summit, New Alexandria United Methodist Church, 724-953-7853

Dave Foresman, Elder, Congruity Presbyterian Church, 412-952-5566



## ITEMS FROM SESSION

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JOHN BLANK

Session met on September 14, 2015 and reports the following:

- 1) Elder Dave Foresman led us in devotions reading from James 3.
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Approved the purchase of a set of CD's to be used in place of a substitute organist.
- 4) **REMINIDER** of the following tentative dates for fundraisers: Spaghetti Dinner – 11/7/15. All profit, including basket auction and raffle proceeds, to go to the General Fund unless changed by session.
- 5) John Blank reported on the progress with clearances for volunteers and employees.
- 6) MIS reported that the General Fund was in the red by \$3,769.60 at the end of August.
- 7) Continued discussion of some options to help reduce the high electric bills, especially during the heating months.
- 8) The Christian Education Committee reported on a successful Rally Day and is looking to the Fall Bonfire on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 9) The Personal Committee will be meeting with the church employees.
- 10) Session will review Rev. Foster's goals at the October session meeting.
- 11) The Nominating Committee is looking for recommendations for elders and deacons.
- 12) Decided to donate \$25 each to the New Alexandria, Slickville, and Forbes Road VFD's.
- 13) Agreed to read and study Chapter 9 of *This Service of Love*
- 14) Discussed Chapter 8 of *This Service of Love*
- 15) The next regular meeting of session is set for 10/19/15.

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)





## WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE

TURKEY DINNER Saturday October 10, 4-7p.m., Tickets: adults \$9, children 6-12 \$4, children under 6 free. For reservations (a must) call Janet Rugh (724-668-7652) or the church (724-668-7740). This is our traditional sit-down turkey dinner so we are counting on you for lots of help, both in the dining room and kitchen, etc. We hope to set tables in place on Sunday October 4, after church. Turkeys will be available at the church by noon Tuesday October 6, setting the tables Thursday 6 p.m., potato peeling Friday 6pm and help all day Saturday from 8 a.m (getting ready for take-outs). Please make an effort to help, as how this dinner goes may determine the future of these dinners, which in turn effects how we support the mission of Jesus Christ, both local and afar, which is what we are all about.

The Women's Association is updating it's prayer chain. This is open to anyone who chooses to be a part of it. All you need to do is answer your phone, pass the message on to the next person on the list, and PRAY. If interested, call Debbie Perino (724-668-7561).



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN



Ahhh Fall, a time for cooler days, warmer clothes, colorful falling leaves, pumpkin everything, apple cider, and yes Congruity's Harvest Festival!! Join us on Saturday, October 24th at 6:00 pm for our annual Harvest Festival and Bonfire. We'll have marshmallows and hot dogs to roast over the bonfire, games for the young people and the young at heart, and snack foods brought by one and all! So please come for good eats, great fellowship, and lots of fun!

Be sure to bring your friends and relatives, a favorite snack to share, and a lawn chair to sit on outside by the bonfire. Remember, costumes are optional, smiles & laughs are required!



# TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

## General Fund

	<b>NET Receipts</b>	<b>NET Expenses</b>	<b>Actual Balance</b>	<b>To Date Balance</b>
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 12,938.26	
January	\$ 5,933.00	\$ 11,997.04	\$ 6,874.22	\$ (6,064.04)
February	\$ 4,759.23	\$ 8,269.62	\$ 3,363.83	\$ (9,574.43)
March	\$ 16,292.27	\$ 8,775.89	\$ 10,880.21	\$ (2,058.05)
April	\$ 10,608.32	\$ 8,935.41	\$ 12,553.12	\$ (385.14)
May	\$ 8,425.68	\$ 7,694.75	\$ 13,284.05	\$ 345.79
June	\$ 5,610.28	\$ 8,705.42	\$ 10,188.91	\$ (2,749.35)
July	\$ 5,916.26	\$ 8,083.21	\$ 8,021.96	\$ (4,916.30)
August	\$ 10,027.24	\$ 8,880.54	\$ 9,168.66	\$ (3,769.60)
	\$ 67,572.28	\$ 71,341.88		

## First Fruits

	<b>Received</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>Balance</b>
January	\$ 428.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (222.00)
February	\$ 504.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (368.00)
March *	\$ 1,836.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 818.00
April*	\$ 1,157.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,325.00
May*	\$ 702.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,377.00
June	\$ 520.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,247.00
July	\$ 485.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,082.00
August	\$ 590.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,022.00

\*Includes Per Capita

	<b>Previous</b>	<b>This Month</b>	<b>To Date</b>
<b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b>	\$ 185.50	\$ -	\$ 185.50
<b>Cents-Ability</b>	\$ 123.07	\$ 8.00	\$ 131.07
<b>Change for the Future</b>	\$ 29.65	\$ -	\$ 29.65
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$ 1,673.00	\$ -	\$ 1,673.00

	<b>Received</b>	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	\$ 864.23	\$ 900.00	\$ (35.77)
<b>Pentecost</b>	\$ 376.11	\$ 400.00	\$ (23.89)
<b>Peacemaking</b>	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
<b>Christmas Joy</b>	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
<b>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</b>	\$ 326.75	\$ -	\$ 326.75

## **Included in General Fund Balance**

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$ 21,834.08**

## **O F F E R I N G T O T A L S**

	<b>From 2014</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Balance</b>	
Elevator Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	08/02/15 \$ 1,866.00
Local Mission	\$ 2,841.50	\$ (50.00)	\$ 2,791.50	08/09/15 \$ 814.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,745.44	\$ 505.48	\$ 3,250.92	08/16/15 \$ 3,339.00
				08/23/15 \$ 1,372.00
				08/30/15 \$ 1,111.00
				09/06/15 \$ 1,264.00
				09/13/15 \$ 2,552.25



# MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

JOHN BLANK

## PAUL'S PERSPECTIVE ON STEWARDSHIP (Part V)

In Paul's "Instructions to the Galatians," we saw that Paul said, "Every Sunday each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what he has earned, and save it up, so there will be no need to collect money when I come," (1 Corinthians 16:2) Later in 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 Paul goes into greater depth on the topic. "Giving should be an **act of worship**; it should be **approached systematically**; it should be **proportionate to income**; and it should be **planned for in advance**." (Landfried p31.)

In this issue I will take a look at the last of these four points: "Giving should be **planned for in advance**" A collection is just that: passing the hat to collect funds for an immediate need. When we carefully think through (and pray through) a decision concerning our giving, plan for that giving in advance, and deliberately prepare for the giving, **THAT IS AN OFFERING**. Stewardship decisions should be made long before entering the church sanctuary. (*This Service of Love*, Landfried) Submitted by John Blank

## PEACEMAKING OFFERING

We will be receiving an **offering** (see above) for the Peace and Global Witness Offering (Peacemaking Offering) through October 4<sup>th</sup> (World Communion Sunday.) 25% of our offering will be forwarded to the Blackburn Center. The other 75% will go towards peacemaking projects of the PC (USA.) Congruity's goal for the Peacemaking Offering is \$400.

## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Don't forget that on the first Sunday of each month we receive the Centsability Offering (what was at one time called the 2-cents/meal offering) and collect non-perishable food items to go to local families in need. If you are not at worship on the first Sunday of the month, you can still bring in items at other times. Just put them in the grocery cart in the storage room located at the east end of the greeting room.

Carol Hohman is the adult in charge of the Kid's Store on 10/4/15

## State of the General Fund

Although the General Fund was in the red at the end of August there was an improvement over the balance at the end of July. As of the end of August the General fund was \$3,769.60 in the RED. We still need to prayerfully consider our giving in proportion to our income; as an act of worship; to be approached systematically, and planned for in advance.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER FUND RAISER

There will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on November 7, 2015. Look for details in the next newsletter.

*Congruity Presbyterian Church*  
*136 Fennelstown Road*  
*New Alexandria PA 15670*



We're on the web!  
[congruitychurch.org](http://congruitychurch.org)

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

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



**A T T E N D A N C E**

Worship

8/23	34
8/30	35
9/6	34
9/13	47



**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 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](mailto:congruitynewsletter@yahoo.com)