

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

As you read these words, we will be on the threshold of the New Year, 2016. I hope that your Christmas celebration was enjoyable and that you were able to spend some time with family and friends. Now here we stand on a brand new year... a Leap Year to boot and none of knows for sure what these next 12 months hold in store for us—personally or corporately. Paul in Hebrews 13: 8 reminds us that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” I think this is a good verse to keep in mind as we begin our journey into the unwritten story of 2016.

I am sure that each of us has certain goals, plans and resolutions for the New Year. We may be successful in accomplishing those things but even if we fall short, we can rest assured that God loves us and is right there with us through each and every step along the way through 2016. One of the things that I like to do whenever I get a new calendar is to thumb through those pages, checking out what day of the week birthdays fall on, making tentative plans for vacation, looking up other information... but before all of those pages become chockfull of events, appointments, meetings and everything else, I am reminded that God is the One who holds everything in His loving hands, and come what may I am never alone because God is always right there with me.

With the beginning of 2016, I want to thank those who have completed their terms on Session and Deacons: Sue Blank, Dorothy Brant, Debbie Perino, Jay Perino, Bob Schweppe and Linda Youngbauer. I also want to welcome our new Elders and Deacons: Tim D'Aurora, Sandy Kemerer, Debbie Perino, Jay Perino, Janet Rugh, Terry Selembo and Linda Youngbauer as they begin their terms. In the next few weeks, we will be reorganizing our various committees and I would ask you to prayerfully consider serving and working on one of these. It takes all of us working together to be about the business of our mutual ministry and mission.

I would like to thank the congregation for the generous gift given to me at Christmas.

I would like to wish each one of you a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Cliff



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JANUARY

E L D E R S

John Blank
 Tim D'Aurora
 Dave Foresman
 Kathy Hamilton
 Carol Hohman
 Jim Kepple
 Scott McInay
 Terry Selembo
 Linda Youngbauer

Liturgists

1/3	Dorothy Martz
1/10	Ced Stopansky
1/17	Janet Rugh
1/24	Doug Stine
1/31	Sarabeth Stopansky



Those serving Communion on January 10th are ~
 Dave Foresman John Blank Kathy Hamilton
 Sue Derek 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.



SEPARATED BY SPACE UNITED IN PRAYER

D E A C O N S

Sue Derek
 Evelyn Foresman
 Phyllis Frye
 Sandy Kemerer
 Nancy Lauffer
 Debbie Perino
 Jay Perino
 Janet Rugh
 Mim Schweppe

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

1/3	New Kensington † Wendy Keys, Pastor
1/10	Vandergrift † Neal Galley, Pastor
1/17	Apollo, Pine Run † Lanny Mellinger, Pastor
1/24	Apollo, Poke Run † Pete Goetschius, Pastor
1/31	Gary Close † Honorably Retired



CONGRUITY MUSIC & CHOIR

VICKI WALTERS

Choir practice has been moved to Wednesday evenings
 at 7pm instead of Thursdays ~ Please join us!

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

1/1	Beth Dudek Matthew C MacDonald Jr Kelly McCambridge	1/13	Jessica Foresman Alyssa Martz
1/4	Bob Homan Mike Kepple Tony Perino	1/18	Carol Hohman
1/5	Kaley Foster	1/19	Kathleen Orr Sara Orr
1/6	Emily Eidemiller	1/20	Tyler Piovesan Alenah Thomas
1/7	Courtney Young	1/21	Ian Derek
1/8	Ced Stopansky Brian Walters	1/22	Trevor Derek
1/10	Denise Eidemiller Cheyanne Heasley	1/23	Keith Walters
1/11	Daniel Kaufman	1/24	Dorothy Brant
		1/28	Kim Matvey Jared Walters



ANNIVERSARIES



1/26/1962	Bob & Carol Hohman
1/30/2010	Dan & Hillary Lapcevic

Happy New Year 2016



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

DAVE FORESMAN

On Sunday, January 17th, we will have a covered dish supper and a movie immediately following church. The movie is called "Facing the Giants". This 2006 film relates an underdog story about American football from a Christian worldview. We hope that you will plan to stay after church that day to eat and watch this inspirational movie with us.

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.

JOHN BLANK



FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Earlier in the year session decided to forgo a formal stewardship campaign but asks that each member take a close prayerful look at his/her/their level of giving to Congruity. If everyone stepped up their level of giving even a little bit we could reduce or even eliminate the deficit in the General Fund. There will not be any pledge cards but we are asking everyone to make that personal, prayerful pledge to increase his/her/their offering.

It is interesting to note that if each "Giving Unit" (family) increases their weekly contribution to the General Fund by \$2.50 per week or \$10.00 per month the budget deficit would be wiped out.

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 2016 is \$7800. Here is how Congruity's First Fruits pledge for 2016 breaks down:

Redstone Presbytery General Operating Budget	\$ 3424
Redstone's two mission projects (Sudan & Pine Springs)	\$ 1336
Redstone's per capita assessment to Synod and General Assembly	\$ 1573
Presbyterian Mission Agency (US and International Missions)	\$ 1467
Total	\$ 7800

Redstone needs to fund its operating budget, mission projects, and per capita assessment before money can flow to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for US and International Missions. 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.

PER CAPITA

Congruity's share of the Presbytery budget works out to **\$38 per member**. If you would like to give directly to supporting Redstone's budget you should designate for this specific purpose by writing **'Per Capita'** on you envelope or check.

HIGH HEATING COSTS

We hope that the new ductless heating/cooling unit installed in Cliff's office will reduce our electric consumption during the cold winter months.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

The Kid's Store operated the first Sunday of the month. This supported the food collection that went to needy families in the area.

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP CONTINUED

STATE OF THE GENERAL FUND

The General Fund was nearly \$5,000 in the red at the end of November. From January 1st through November 30th we spent \$4,909.41 more than we received for the General Fund.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Thanks to some recent contributions we have met our goals for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, the Pentecost Offering, and the Peacemaking Offering. See the details in the financial report.

This newsletter went to print before the end of the Christmas Joy Offering collection period.

MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE



The first week in April (April 3-9) has been selected for the 2016 mission trip for the Redstone Mission team. There will be a meeting at Phyllis Frye's home to decide where we are going and to plan the pancake dinner which will be on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. If you are planning to go on the trip, or even if you think you might be interested, please attend the meeting and/or contact Judy Koontz (724-668-2843) or Phyllis Frye (724-468-3740). There will be a sign-up sheet for donations for the pancake dinner in the greeting room at the church. And we have live jazz piano lined up to compliment our Mardi Gras theme.



WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION SANDWICH

PHYLLIS FRYE



Just a few notes from the Women's Association: Soup and Sandwiches along with the congregational meeting will be on Sunday, January 31, after church. Each family is to bring a quart of vegetable soup (we dump it all together and it is really good). The women will provide chipped ham BBQ sandwiches. We will be asking for donations of cakes.

The Rummage Sale will be on Saturday, April 2, 2016, so start saving your "junk".



THANK YOU

I wish to thank the Deacon's and members of Congruity for the food and gift card for Thanksgiving. I am also very grateful for the love, compassion and support I have received from my church family. All is enormously appreciated.

Sincerely, Janet Henry



ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK

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

- 1) Elder Kathy Hamilton led us in devotions reading from Luke 8: 5 – 15 and sharing some of her mother's artwork.
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Approved the minutes of the 12/6/15 Congregational Meeting.
- 4) MIS reported that the General Fund was in the red for the year by \$4,909.41 at the end of November.
- 5) The Christian Education Committee reported on a successful Christmas Program presented by the children. Thanks to all who made this a possibility
- 6) The ductless heating/cooling unit has been installed in Cliff's office.
- 7) Sue Blank reported on the Presbytery meeting held on 11/17/15.
- 8) The next meeting of Redstone Presbytery will be on Saturday 1/16/16 with Dave Foresman serving as elder delegate and Sue Blank serving as alternate.
- 9) Reminder: A Congregational Meeting will be held on 1/31/16 following worship and a covered dish luncheon. The purpose of the meeting is to hear various reports of activities from 2015 and to vote on a proposed change to the By-Laws as follows: *To permit treasurers, financial secretaries, and assistants to serve as many one year terms as the congregation/session acknowledges through annual elections.*
- 10) Approved a covered dish and movie event with the date and time to be determined.
- 11) Appointed to the Class of 2016: Michelle Kepple, Financial Secretary and Dorothy Martz, Assistant Financial Secretary.
- 12) Approved Rev. Foster's request for vacation 12/26/15 and 12/28/15 – 12/31/15
- 13) Agreed to read and study Chapter G-1 of **The Book of Order**
- 14) Completed our discussion of Chapter F-2 and F-3 of **The Book of Order**
- 15) The next regular meeting of session is set for 1/18/16

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

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	YR 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)
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)
September	\$ 7,342.81	\$ 7,472.49	\$ 9,038.98	\$ (3,899.28)
October	\$ 6,220.83	\$ 7,493.38	\$ 7,766.43	\$ (5,171.83)
November	\$ 8,115.74	\$ 7,853.32	\$ 8,028.85	\$ (4,909.41)
	\$ 89,251.66	\$ 94,161.07		

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
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
September	\$ 455.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 827.00
October	\$ 355.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 532.00
November	\$ 570.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 452.00

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F E
R I

10/18/15	\$ 891.00
10/25/15	\$ 811.00
11/01/15	\$ 1,734.00
11/08/15	\$ 2,006.00
11/15/15	\$ 1,143.00
11/22/15	\$ 1,094.00
11/29/15	\$ 1,476.00
12/06/15	\$ 2,138.00
12/13/15	\$ 1,186.50

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 185.50	\$ -	\$ 185.50
Cents-Ability	\$ 160.95	\$ 30.95	\$ 191.90
Change for the Future	\$ 29.65	\$ -	\$ 29.65
Per Capita	\$ 1,673.00	\$ -	\$ 1,673.00

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ -
Pentecost	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -
Peacemaking	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -
Christmas Joy	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 529.27	\$ -	

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) \$ 21,727.98

	From 2014	Year to Date	Balance
Elevator Fund	\$ (2,000.33)	\$ (1,885.95)	\$ (3,886.28)
Local Mission	\$ 2,841.50	\$ (432.03)	\$ 2,409.47
Building Maintenance	\$ 2,745.44	\$ (129.52)	\$ 2,615.92

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670



We're on the web!
congruitychurch.org

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



ATTENDANCE

Worship		Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
11/22	54	13	20	33
11/29	41	7	20	27
12/6	40	14	18	32
12/13	84	15	20	35
12/20	57	9	21	30

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	Vicki Walters
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne McInay
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

