

CONGRUITY CONNECTION

Cliff's Notes



One of the things that always amazes me is that February for being the shortest month of the year is always jammed packed with events and activities. Plus this year is a leap year, so February has an extra day. No doubt for most of us when we think about February our thoughts center around St. Valentine's Day. So we will send cards, flowers, candy or some other gift to those we love. I was thinking back to the days when I was in elementary school, and recall the week or so leading up to Valentine's Day how we would decorate a box or a bag in preparation for our class's exchange of Valentine Day cards. I remember going to the store and looking at all of those various boxes of cards and trying to decide which one to choose—the ones with super heroes or the more general ones. When the selection was made, sitting at the kitchen table writing my name of each on them and then putting the name of a classmate on each of the envelopes. I remember being excited about the day when our class would have our Valentine's party with treats and then distributing all those cards and receiving them as well.

This year, Valentine's Day is the First Sunday in Lent. The Lenten journey is a time for us to think about and reflect on the depth of God's love shown to us in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. I think having the First Sunday in Lent on Valentine's Day is a significant reminder to us of God's love for us and so we will begin our journey to the empty tomb of Easter and to remember and celebrate the new life our faith gives us. Many of us give something up for Lent as a way for us to think about all that God has done for us in Christ... over the few years some have added something rather than give something up—things like spending time reading the Bible in addition to devotional time, volunteering their time, taking a class or a course. It is my hope and prayer that through the Season of Lent, that all of us spend some time thinking about the depth of God's love for us shown to us in Jesus Christ.

We will be having a Lenten Bible Study tentatively scheduled for Thursday nights from 7-8 PM beginning on February 18th. This will be a 5 week study. Please watch weekly bulletin for more information about the Bible Study. Throughout the Lenten Season will be also be having our community Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 7PM at the various churches in our community. We will be hosting the Lenten Service on February 24th.

As we enter the month of February and begin our journey through the Lenten Season, may we experience God's loving arms embracing us.

Yours in Christ,
Cliff





WORSHIP LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY

Liturgists

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

2/7
 2/14
 2/21
 2/28

Tim D'Aurora
 Evelyn Foresman
 Dave Foresman
 Janet Henry



Those serving Communion on February 7th are ~
 Carol Hohman Jim Kepple Scott McInay
 Phyllis Frye Nancy Lauffer

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.



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

SEPARATED BY SPACE UNITED IN PRAYER

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

2/7 Avonmore † Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply
 2/14 Delmont † Caroline Vickery, Pastor
 2/21 Lower Burrell, Grace Community † Ken Foust, Pastor
 2/28 Lower Burrell, Puckety † Kirk Orr, Pastor



SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the following families. May
 God's presence give you comfort and strength in your time
 of loss:

The Aaron family as they walk through the valley
 of the shadow of David's death.
 The Brant/Duffield family as they walk through the
 valley of the shadow of Brian's death

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

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



COMMUNITY LENTEN SCHEDULE

2/10	UMC	7PM	Ash Wednesday Service
2/17	UMC	7 PM	Charlie Brownawell preaching
2/24	Congruity	7PM	Rhea Summit preaching
3/2	CUP	7PM	Cliff Foster preaching
3/9	No Walls	7PM	TBA
3/16	UMC	7PM	Concert
3/25	UMC	7PM	Good Friday Service

THANK YOUS

Thank you to the congregation for the gift at Christmas.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Love, Dorothy



Thank You! Thank You!

A word of thanks—not once, but twice, 'cause what you did was really nice!

To everyone at Congruity, thank you for the gift of money. Ken Moyer

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



It is not too late to sign up for the next mission trip. The options are still open for either New Orleans or South Carolina. We need to know your preference and whether you are definitely going by February 2 so we can make reservations at the camps. Call either Judy Koontz (724-668-2843) or Phyllis Frye (724-468-3740)

Mission Trip Fundraisers~



PANCAKE DINNER: (Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday) February 9, 4:30-7 p.m. at the church. All you can eat pancakes, eggs, sausage fruit and beverage. Live jazz piano, Mardi Gras theme, silent auction, Adults, \$7; children 6-12, \$3; children under 6 free ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE MISSION TEAM to finance their trip the first week of April. Tickets are available at the door or contact the church (724-668-7740) for reservations.

BonTon Community Day coupon books are for sale for \$5 for community days February 26, 27 to benefit the mission team. See Phyllis Frye for books.

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE

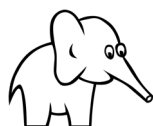


RUMMAGE SALE — Saturday April 2

World Day of Prayer at Community UP Saturday March 5, 9:30 a.m. continental breakfast, focusing on Cuba

The Stop Hunger Meals went to Haiti

The Operation Christmas Child boxes went to Togo, a country in Western Africa.



DEACONS

DEBBIE PERINO

WANTED: Attendance for the White Elephant Sale!!!

White Elephant Sale - Sunday February 28th after church. Bring your covered dish and your beautifully wrapped gifts (new or usable items) for the Sale!

Please wrap items (use your discretion for gift if it would be something you would use or want) Mark your wrapped items Adults - Man - Woman - Child (boy or girl)

Please come for a fun filled time. This is the only major fundraiser that the deacons hold.



ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK

Session met on January 18, 2016 and reports the following:

- 1) Rev. Foster led us in devotions
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Approved the minutes of the 12/14/15 Regular Session Meeting.
- 4) Welcomed the Class of 2018 Ruling Elders: Tim D'Aurora, Terry Selembo, and Linda Youngbauer.
- 5) Approved the Clerk's Annual Report to the Office of the General Assembly (PC (USA).)
- 6) Elder Dave Foresman and Rev. Foster reported on the meeting of Redstone Presbytery held on 1/16/16.
- 7) The next meeting of the presbytery will be 3/15/16 at Westmont.
- 8) Approved the committee assignments for 2016. The committees are posted on the website.
- 9) Elected Tim D'Aurora president of the Board of Trustees
- 10) Approved 2/28/16 for the Deacon's covered dish lunch and White Elephant Auction.
- 11) MIS reported that they have set the schedule for adults in charge of the Kid's Store.
- 12) Discussed Rev. Foster's goals for 2016
- 13) Approved hosting the Pancake Supper to support the mission team on 2/9/16
- 14) Approved the use of a tip jar at the piano during the Pancake Supper. Dom Colangelo is playing and donating the tips to the mission team.
- 15) Approved the posting of a banner from Thrivent during the Pancake Supper.
- 16) Set Saturday 2/20/16 for the joint meeting of Session and Deacons. The meeting will start at 10 AM.
- 17) Approved participation in the Souper Bowl of Caring offering for 2/7/16. The offering will go to the Westmoreland Food Bank.
- 18) Designated 2/14/16 as Blue Shirt Sunday to honor all of the mission workers.
- 19) Agreed to read and study Chapter G-2 of **The Book of Order**
- 20) Completed our discussion of Chapter G-1 of **The Book of Order**
- 21) The next regular meeting of session is set for 2/20/16 following the joint meeting with the deacons.

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.

General Fund

TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

	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)
December	\$ 13,704.38	\$ 9,608.43	\$ 12,124.80	\$ (813.46)
	\$ 102,956.04	\$ 103,769.50		

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance	O F F E R I N G T O T A L S
January	\$ 428.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (222.00)	
February	\$ 504.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (368.00)	
March *	\$ 1,836.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 818.00	12/06/15 \$2,138.00
April*	\$ 1,157.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,325.00	12/13/15 \$1,186.50
May*	\$ 702.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,377.00	12/20/15 \$1,777.00
June	\$ 520.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,247.00	12/24/15 \$3,126.00
July	\$ 485.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,082.00	12/27/15 \$1,666.00
August	\$ 590.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,022.00	01/03/16 \$1,354.00
September	\$ 455.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 827.00	01/10/16 \$1,269.00
October	\$ 355.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 532.00	01/17/16 \$1,042.00
November	\$ 570.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 452.00	
December	\$ 520.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 322.00	

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 185.50	\$ -	\$ 185.50
Cents-Ability	\$ 191.90	\$ 8.00	\$ 199.90
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	\$ 355.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (45.00)
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	\$ (1,329.52)	\$ 1,415.92

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown 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 9:45 AM
WORSHIP AT 11:00AM
PLEASE JOIN US!



ATTENDANCE

CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

Worship		Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
12/24	88			
12/27	39	6	16	22
1/3	40	6	16	22
1/10	46	8	20	28
1/17	41	4	21	25

Pastor	Cliff Foster
Clerk of Session	John Blank
Deacon Moderators	Debbie Perino
Treasurer	John Blank
Financial Secretary	Michelle Kepple
Church Secretary	Dorothy Martz
Music Director	Vicki Walters
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne McIlnay
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