

CONGRUITY CONNECTION

Cliff's Notes



A couple of weeks ago as I was doing some research for an on-line video for our recently held Elder-Deacon joint meeting, I came across a Vlog by Landon Whitsett, who is the Synod Executive of the Synod of Mid-America. In one of his daily video logs he was driving down a highway and up ahead there was smoke covering the road. As he neared the smoke he discovered that it was what he called "a controlled burn". A control burn is something that farmers and ranchers in the Midwest and on the Plains do in order to get the ground ready for spring planting. It involves burning off all of the stuff that was left in the fields over the winter months. I have been thinking a lot of the image of "a controlled burn" especially in the light of the Season of Lent.

An important part of our Lenten journey is preparing ourselves to be receptive to all that God has done for us in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Each of us has our own particular things we do during the Lenten Season—some of us have given something up and others of us have added something new to our daily disciplines—to help us remember and perhaps experience all that Christ went through for us. I like the concept of "a controlled burn" because it enables us to get rid of those things in our lives that are weighing us down, those things that prevent us from functioning to the best of our ability, those things that seem to always be part of my New Year's Resolutions or Lenten practices. The image of a field intentionally burned so that new growth is possible is a powerful reminder to us of the message of Easter... that new life is possible through our faith in Christ!

Throughout this month we will continue towards the empty tomb of Easter and we will celebrate Easter on March 27th. It is my hope and prayer that as we are surrounded by the symphony of springtime with new life, renewed life bursting forth all around us, that the image of "a controlled burn" fills us with hope because of the new life that is ours through our faith in Jesus Christ. The image of "a controlled burn" reminds me of those words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 5: 17: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

I would like to wish each of you a very Blessed Easter!

Yours in Christ,

Cliff





WORSHIP LEADERS FOR MARCH

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

3/6

3/13

3/20

3/27

John Blank

Caroline D'Aurora

Ronda Weinell

Phyllis Frye



Those serving Communion on March 24th are ~
Linda Youngbauer Terry Selembo Tim D'Aurora
Janet Rugh Mim Schweppe

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

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

3/6 Murrysville, First † Bill King, Interim Pastor

3/13 Murrysville, Newlonsburg † Curtis Paul, Pastor
Marnie Silbert, Associate Pastor

3/20 Murrysville, Union † Derrick Campbell, Pastor

3/27 New Alexandria Community †

SYMPATHY



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

The Derek family as they walk through the valley of
the shadow of Steve's mother Claryce's death.

The Blank family as they walk through the valley of
the shadow of John's aunt Flossie's death.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

3/2	Jason Orr		Janet Henry
3/3	Janet Rugh	3/18	April Hawley
3/4	Karen Dudek		Dana Kaufman
3/7	Jacob Derek	3/19	Michael Kaufman
3/8	Geri Kaufman		Betty Murphy
	Debbie Marchelletta	3/20	Matt MacDonald
	Nancy Schweppe	3/25	Pam Foresman
3/9	Alicia D'Aurora		Lana Munsell
	Sue Kepple	3/26	Bill Heasley
3/10	Ken Walters	3/27	Adrian Frye
3/11	Jessica D'Aurora	3/28	Robert Watt
3/13	Nancy Walters	3/29	Nancy Kifer
3/14	Alison Derek Sullivan	3/30	Perry Miller IV



ANNIVERSARIES

3/28/1981	Tom & Rosemary Orr
3/29/1981	Ron & Mary Ann Kaufman

COMMUNITY LENTEN SCHEDULE

3/2	CUP	7PM	Cliff Foster preaching
3/9	No Walls	7PM	Wayne Duffield preaching
3/16	UMC	7PM	Concert
3/25	UMC	7PM	Good Friday Service

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

3/20	11 AM	Palm Sunday
3/24	7:30PM	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
3/27	8AM	Easter Morning Worship
	9AM	Easter Breakfast
	11AM	Easter Worship



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.



TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	To Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 8,211.89	
January	\$ 6,686.67	\$ 8,342.32	\$ 6,556.24	\$ (1,655.65)

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 1,126.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 476.00

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cents-Ability	\$ -	\$ 20.64	\$ 20.64
Change for the Future	\$ -	\$ 8.41	\$ 8.41
Per Capita	\$ -	\$ 536.00	\$ 536.00

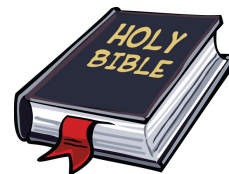
Included in General Fund BalanceMemorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$ 21,727.98****O F F E R I N G
T O T A L S**

	From 2015	Year to Date	Balance
Elevator Fund	\$ (3,886.28)	\$ -	\$ (3,886.28)
Local Mission	\$ 2,409.47	\$ -	\$ 2,409.47
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,415.92	\$ 215.00	\$ 1,630.92

01/03/16	\$ 1,354.00
01/10/16	\$ 1,269.00
01/17/16	\$ 1,042.00
01/24/16	\$ 720.00
01/31/16	\$ 1,408.00
02/07/16	\$ 2,073.00
02/14/16	\$ 774.00

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

TERRY SELEMBO



Immediately following church on Sunday, March 13th, everyone is invited to lunch (not covered dish) and an exciting game of Bible Trivia. We will be playing on teams ... So you don't have to know all the answers! Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for some food, fun, and fellowship!

THANK YOUS

To our church family

We would like to thank you for the cards, kind words of comfort, visit and thoughts and prayers in the passing of our Mom (Mother-in-law, Grammy and Nana) Claryce.

Your thoughtfulness has made a difficult time more bearable.

Much love,

Steve and Sue Derek family



WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

DEBBIE PERINO

Rummage Sale Saturday April 2 - 9 am to 2 pm with bag sale at 1 pm. Are you saving your items for the Rummage Sale? Great, you can start to bring to church the week of Monday March 28 to Friday April 1st. Fridays will only accept until noon. Nothing on Saturday. We will also need bake sale items to sell and any time you can help during the week,

We will also be having the Turkey Dinner Take Out again, it will be held on Saturday May 7 with pick up between 3 and 6 pm. More details to follow in April newsletter.

We need more women at our meetings, we need your input...Meeting are held every third Thursday at the church at 2 pm with a Bible Study and business meeting to follow. Please come and join us.

DEACONS

DEBBIE PERINO



We will be having our Easter Flowers Sale. Look for envelopes in the Pews. Yea!! Spring around the corner. Also we need to know of any college students or grad students of Congruity. If you have anyone attending college please inform one of the deacons or the minister.



WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Tyler Piovesan & Danica Ference who were married on February 20th in Punxsutawney PA.

Tyler is the son of Scott & Yvonne McIlnay

Best Wishes for a beautiful future together!



CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN



Wow! It seems like we were just telling everyone about the Christmas program and now it's already time to talk about Easter!!! We hope you all plan to join us Easter Sunday (March 27) morning when the youth present the church service at 8:00 am! Following that early service is our delicious continental breakfast and a time for fellowship at 9:00 am, and then Sunday School classes meet at 9:45 am and our morning ends with our regular Easter service at 11:00 am. Come and enjoy our celebration of the Resurrection!

We have news for Summer! This year our community VBS will be held at C.U.P. It is called "CAVE QUEST" and it will be held June 20-24, 2016. If you are interested in helping in any way, mark your calendars to be a part of this inspirational and fun VBS!

We're happy to report the Barney bank in the greeting room is FULL and has \$92.00!! Thanks so much to all who have donated so far!



MISSION
PHYLLIS FRYE

In spite of the inclement weather, the Pancake Dinner to fund the Redstone Mission Team's trip to Bayville, New Jersey was a success. We made a total of \$1768, between the dinner, silent auction baskets, and extra donations. Many thanks to Dominic Coangelo for all that beautiful music and to all who came out to support us. We are planning our trip for April 3-9. Our team is not yet complete, so if you are still interested, contact Judy Koontz (724-668-2840) or Phyllis Frye (724-468-3740). We need a definite commitment (and your \$125 camp fee) in early March in order to keep our space reserved at Morningstar Presbyterian Church.

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

TIM D'AURORA



As we review the beginning of 2016, we are starting out the year with a negative balance for January. On the plus side, this negative balance of \$1,655.65 is certainly much less than last January's negative balance of \$6,064.04. Let's hope that this is a sign of a successful financial year here at Congruity. The stronger our financial picture, the more positive work we are able to achieve.

We are still in the planning stages for our special events for the new year. We will likely hold 2 hoagie sales and 2 spaghetti dinners. Dates and details will be forthcoming. We also plan to hold another auction this year. We are hoping to do this in the Spring if we can work out details with our favorite auctioneer, Bill Anderson. Remember, as you are gathering things for the rummage sale, if you have something that you think would bring a higher price, you can donate it for the auction and we can store it on the 3rd floor if you need to have it moved.

This is also our time of year to collect our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Our goal this year is \$900.00 and we will keep a visual running total by once again using our hatching chicks display. For every \$10 donated, we will add a chick to the table. We will also include a thermometer showing our progress toward our goal on the screen during announcements. We appreciate your prayerfully considering your donation to this important collection.



ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK

Joint Meeting of Deacons and Session held 2/20/16

- 1) Rev. Foster led the devotions reading from 1 Corinthians 12
- 2) There was a group building activity
- 3) Discussed communion procedures
- 4) **TRAINING FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS**
 - a. Watched a video on "Ordered Ministry"
 - b. Discussed the video
 - c. Discussed Chapter G-2 of the Book of Order (on Ordered Ministry)
- 5) Discussed clearances and updated self-certifications relating to Congruity's Sexual Misconduct Policy
- 6) Reviewed and updated committee assignments (available on the web site and on the bulletin board)

Session met on February 20, 2016 and reports the following:

- 1) Devotions were led by Rev. Foster at the beginning of the joint meeting.
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Approved the minutes of the 1/18/16 Regular Session Meeting and the 1/31/16 Congregational Meeting.
- 4) Reaffirmed the following policy: **PLEASE BE ADVISED "Congruity Church does not permit or support political activities, petitioning, canvassing or soliciting on Church property."**
- 5) Approved the baptism of Sadie Cole for 3/6/16.
- 6) Noted that the next meeting of Redstone Presbytery is set for 3/15/16 at Westmont. Carol Hohman will serve as our elder delegate.
- 7) Approved a Bible Trivia get together following worship on 3/13/16
- 8) Approved having Congruity listed in the Penn-Franklin Church Directory at a cost of \$15 for the year.
- 9) Noted that the goal for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is \$900 and that we will be "hatching chicks" as a way to track our progress.
- 10) Noted that the organ was cleaned and repaired.

- 11) Noted that the elevator passed the semi-annual inspection.
- 12) Noted that the fuel oil tank at the manse was filled. Thank you, Mark Latshaw!
- 13) Noted that the light in the kitchenette was repaired. Thank you, Kenny Moyer and friend!
- 14) Noted that the light in the kitchen was repaired. Thank you, Keith Walters!
- 15) Noted that the "Eco-Palms" have been ordered for Palm Sunday.
- 16) Set devotional leaders through the June session meeting.
- 17) Approved a vacation request from Rev. Foster for 10/8 through 10/15
- 18) Agreed to read and study Chapter G-3 of **The Book of Order**
- 19) Completed our discussion of Chapter G-2 of **The Book of Order**
- 20) The next regular meeting of session is set for 3/21/16 following the joint meeting with the deacons.

THANK YOU Cliff for providing lunch!!!

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)



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

TIM D'AURORA

We are currently accepting bids for the mowing and trimming of the cemetery and the church grounds. The bids should be broken down by a per occurrence amount for the cemetery and a per occurrence amount for the church grounds. Normally, the cemetery is done at least 7 times a year and the church grounds either weekly or every other week. Both are really on an as needed basis and will be paid by the number of mowings performed. Bids will be accepted until March 21st before 6:00 pm. You may call Tim D'Aurora at 724-668-8319 or drop a written bid off at the church: attention Property Committee.

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

Worship		Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
1/24	23	2	12	14
1/31	47	5	20	25
2/7	48	4	18	22
2/14	31	8	17	25
2/21	42	6	20	26

CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

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 McIlInay
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

