

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

The Thanksgiving Hymn "We Gather Together" begins with this first verse: "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens His will to make known; The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing, Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own." This has always been my favorite Thanksgiving hymn and I often find myself singing or humming this hymn throughout the month of November. November is the time of the year when our thoughts turn to gathering with family and friends on the 4th Thursday of November to share a feast. Most of us have our favorite food that we are anticipating enjoying—be it mashed potatoes, stuffing, turkey, pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce. Just thinking about those favorite foods makes our mouths water, doesn't it. In a short time our homes will be filled with those wonderful aromas that are part and parcel of Thanksgivings.

As I was thinking about the words of "We Gather Together", I was struck by those opening words: "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing..." One of the concerns that we are facing in the life of our congregation is the dwindling number of people attending worship and this downward trend is having an impact as we look towards our future ministry and mission. All you have to do is to take a peek at the financial page and you can see the reality of the situation. I am convinced that God has a plan for our future but as we live into that plan, I think it is important for all of us to reflect on those words: "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing." Together, you and I comprise the Body of Christ known as Congruity Presbyterian Church, we are surrounded by the saints who went before us throughout our nearly 230 years of ministry and mission... but we are also those who will ensure that our ministry and mission continues into the future God has in mind for us. In this season of Thanksgiving, I would encourage all of us to spend some time reflecting and praying about all those things we have to be thankful for and for the impact that our church family can make in our communities and to the very end of our global neighborhood.

I hope that we can live into the words of that Thanksgiving hymn: "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing."

Yours in Christ,
Cliff





WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NOVEMBER

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

11/6 Janet Rugh
11/13 Tim D'Aurora
11/20 Ronda Weinell
11/27 Phyllis Frye



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.

Those serving Communion on November 20th are:
Dave Foresman John Blank Kathy Hamilton
Nancy Lauffer Janet Rugh



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 November are as
follows:

11/6 Avonmore † Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply
11/13 Delmont † Caroline Vickery, Pastor
11/20 Lower Burrell, Grace Community † Ken Foust, Pastor
11/27 Lower Burrell, Puckety † Kirk Orr, Pastor

SYMPATHY



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the Cramer
family on the death of Sandy. May God's presence bring
you comfort and strength in your time of loss.

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

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BIRTHDAYS

11/9 Tammy Kulik
11/11 Brandy Sellinger
11/13 Ron Martz
11/14 Mike Marchelletta
11/18 Erik Eidemiller
Erin Kaufman
11/20 Ron Kaufman
11/21 Katrina Kaufman
11/22 Tyler Johnston

11/23 Jen Hufford
Deana Karstaedt
11/24 Delbert Thompson
11/25 Jon Hamilton
Vivian Schweppe
11/26 Sarabeth Stopansky
Virgil Walters
11/28 Ron Stoltz
11/29 Bob Kaufman



ANNIVERSARIES



11/7/1976 Bill & Cindy Karstaedt
11/20/1965 Chuck & Mary Lou Heasley
11/30/1962 George & Sue Kepple



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



TERRY SELEMBO

It's Back!!! The much requested Game Day. On Sunday November 13th, immediately following church service, everyone is invited to stay for lunch and games! Please bring a covered dish and your favorite games. Hope to see you there!!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN

****Mark Your Calendars****

The Congruity Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 11th. We will have it during church and our Covered Dish meal will be immediately following church along with a visit from a very special friend straight from the North Pole! Please watch for more info in upcoming church bulletins and the December newsletter.

MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE



The Redstone Mission Team is selling Bonton Community Days coupon books to help fund our spring trip to only God knows where. There will be lots of places to choose from, so now is the time to pray about joining the team.

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are due Sunday, November 7th. Brochures are in the greeting room with info on how to pack them. These boxes are distributed all over the world, along with a Bible lesson book telling the children about Jesus Christ. This is a project of the Franklin Graham ministry. You may use either a shoebox or a plastic box the same size. Enclose \$7 to cover postage.



DEACONS

DEBBIE PERINO

A Big thank you to Ron Martz who put up the Handicap sign in front of the church (it's been down for a year or so) and putting up my whiteboard in my Sunday School Class. Also, thank you to Scott McInay for trimming the tree on the far side of the church by the manse.

HARVEST HOME

We will be collecting food for Harvest Home beginning the first Sunday in November. Tables will be set-up in the front of the church. We will be delivering the food on November 20th. If you know anyone in need please contact the church office or any Deacon.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

The annual "Hanging of the Greens" will be on Saturday November 26th at 10 am. Pizza will be provided by the Deacons. Please come and join the fun!

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE



THANK YOU! We asked and you came through with your help, time and donations. The Women made over \$2300 from the Fall Turkey Dinner. The money will be used to support both the mission of Jesus Christ and to help our church.

ITEMS FROM SESSION



Session met on October 17, 2016 and reports the following:

- 1) Devotions were led by Rev. Foster
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Noted that the General Fund is depleted.
- 4) Approved the minutes of the 9/19/2016 regular session meeting
- 5) Noted that Redstone Presbytery met on 9/20/16 from 10 AM to 2 PM @ Pine Springs Camp. Rev. Foster reported on the meeting
- 6) Noted that the next meeting of Redstone Presbytery is November 19th at Poke Run. Kathy Hamilton will serve as elder delegate with Dave Foresman serving as alternate.
- 7) Noted that a training on the new Child Protection Policy was held following worship on 9/25/16
- 8) Noted that the Fun Day sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee at Phyllis Frye's home was a great success
- 9) Noted that the Personnel Committee will be meeting with employees for annual reviews
- 10) Noted that the Harvest Festival sponsored by the Christian Education Committee is scheduled for 10/29/16 @ 6 PM
- 11) Noted that we still need someone to learn how to run the projection system as a backup for John
- 12) Noted that diagrams depicting the table set up and chair storage for fellowship hall have been posted
- 13) Approved the budget for 2017 as follows: Worship - \$69,842.17; Church Office - \$4,850.00; Property Maintenance - \$33,569.26; Organizations - \$1,640.00; and Miscellaneous - \$500.00 for a total of \$110,401.43.
- 14) The treasurer reported that based on average level of giving for 2016 and including the pattern of special contributions received in 2016 that the anticipated income for 2017 is \$78,070.26. This leaves a \$32,331.17 shortfall for the budget
- 15) Approved a Game Day with a covered dish lunch following worship on 11/13/16
- 16) Approved the Hanging of the Greens for 11/26/16 at 10 AM
- 17) Approved a Christmas program during worship followed by a covered dish lunch on 12/11/16.
- 18) Agreed to donate the old pew Bibles to the Back Pack program for children
- 19) Agreed to read and study Chapters W-6 of **The Book of Order**
- 20) Completed our discussion of Chapters W-5 of **The Book of Order**
- 21) The next regular meeting of session is set for 11/21/16.

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

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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)
February	\$ 9,689.28	\$ 8,600.23	\$ 7,645.29	\$ (566.60)
March	\$ 8,486.59	\$ 8,356.32	\$ 7,775.56	\$ (436.33)
April	\$ 7,889.03	\$ 7,826.09	\$ 7,838.50	\$ (373.39)
May	\$ 7,517.18	\$ 8,704.18	\$ 6,651.50	\$ (1,560.39)
June	\$ 5,233.15	\$ 8,166.58	\$ 3,718.07	\$ (4,493.82)
July	\$ 7,245.04	\$ 9,971.48	\$ 991.63	\$ (7,220.26)
August	\$ 6,923.19	\$ 7,616.68	\$ 298.14	\$ (7,913.75)
September	\$ 7,750.26	\$ 7,136.26	\$ 912.14	\$ (7,299.75)
Year to Date	\$ 67,420.39	\$ 74,720.14		

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 1,126.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 476.00
February*	\$ 1,359.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,185.00
March*	\$ 480.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,015.00
April*	\$ 348.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 713.00
May	\$ 430.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 493.00
June*	\$ 351.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 194.00
July	\$ 415.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (41.00)
August	\$ 440.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (251.00)
September	\$ 448.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (453.00)

*Includes Per Capita



	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 101.00	\$ -	\$ 101.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 145.09	\$ 8.00	\$ 153.09
Change for the Future	\$ 8.41	\$ -	\$ 8.41
Per Capita	\$ 1,492.00	\$ -	\$ 1,492.00

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,026.94	\$ 900.00	\$ 126.94
Pentecost	\$ 411.82	\$ 375.00	\$ 36.82
Peacemaking	\$ 135.00	\$ 375.00	\$ (240.00)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 351.00	\$ -	\$ 351.00

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS)

\$ 22,447.98

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

	From 2015	Year to Date	Balance		
Local Mission	\$ 2,409.47	\$ (500.00)	\$ 1,909.47	09/04/16	\$ 1,207.00
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,415.92	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 2,765.92	09/11/16	\$ 1,671.00
				09/18/16	\$ 1,975.10
				09/25/16	\$ 1,076.50
				10/02/16	\$ 1,792.00
				10/09/16	\$ 850.00



MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

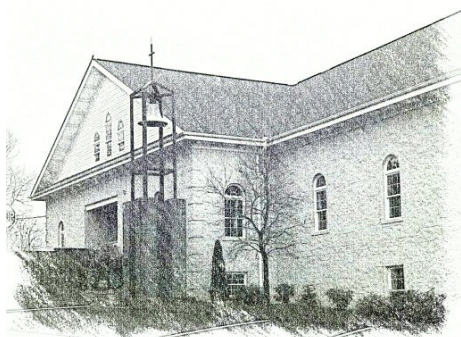
TIM D'AURORA

On November 12, we will be holding our semi-annual delicious Spaghetti Dinner. This is another opportunity to help our dismal financial situation without a big dip in anyone's pockets. There are several ways we are asking for your help. First, we need items donated to help offset our costs. There is a donation sheet in the Greeting Room and we need your donations listed by Sunday, November 6. Second, we could use additional items for our basket raffle. If you can make up your own basket, that is great. But even if you can donate new things that can be combined with others to make up a basket, that is good too. You can also ask local businesses that you patronize for a gift certificate or donation. These items need to be dropped off at the Church by Saturday morning (by 11:00 if possible) Third, you can come and help. We can use help to get things ready and we really need help to clean up. Come anytime after 2:00. Finally, we **really** need everyone to come and enjoy the dinner. And try to bring one or two more people than you have before. Let's make the extra effort to make this the most successful spaghetti dinner we have ever had. We generally serve between 180-220 people and we would be able to add much more to the general fund if we could increase that to 250. Everyone bringing someone new would let us achieve this goal.

Now for the monthly reality check. Surprise, surprise, we are in financial distress. As we go into the final 2 months of the year, we have a lot of ground to make up. While September was slightly positive, we are still -\$7299.75 in the red. To put it simply, we have spent over \$7000 more than we have received. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize that this can't continue over the long run. As we prepare next year's budget, we know there aren't any areas to make major cuts. We are looking at a bottom line of \$110,401 which is only about a 1% increase. That's less than the rate of inflation. But it is also less than we are taking in. So we will have some serious considerations in the near future to determine the direction of Congruity. We can only ask that we prayerfully consider increasing our individual giving so many times. We can only do so many extra fundraisers. We do appreciate the generosity of many of our members and the hard work of so many volunteers. Let's pray that with God's guidance, we can find ways to face these difficult challenges and achieve solutions.

We received the breakdown on the Per Capita commitment that we are required to pay for every member on the rolls and that amount for 2017 is \$39.00. We will be asking everyone to make a donation in that amount above and beyond their normal giving. We have also reduced our First Fruits Commitment from our current amount of \$7800.00 that we are falling short of this year to \$7000.00 for 2017. This was especially difficult for me personally because I believe in not moving backwards and to put positive pressure on ourselves to achieve goals. While we are not limited to only giving \$7000.00, at least this seems to make that goal more realistic.

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670



We're on the web!
congruitychurch.org

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



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Worship		Sunday School	
			Adult Youth Total	
9/25	58	20	10	30
10/2	51	13	10	23
10/9	31	15	5	20
10/16	31	14	2	16

CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

Pastor	Cliff Foster
Clerk of Session	John Blank
Deacon Moderator	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