

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

A few weeks ago I was watching TV one evening and a Walgreen's commercial came on. The commercial showed a brother chasing a sister with a frog through a field. At one point the children say "Thanks for Giving" and the announcer says that by purchasing vitamins and getting shots done at Walgreens, the company provides vitamins and shots for those in different parts of the world. Perhaps you have seen this commercial as well.

The commercial is a play on words for our annual celebration of Thanksgiving... but as we enter the month of December and continue on our journey to the Bethlehem stable to celebrate the birth of Christ, I think those words "Thanks for Giving" remind us of all that God has done for us in Christ, whose birth we celebrate on Christmas Day.

There is excitement in the air as kids make out their lists for Santa, or the wonder of going to visit Santa in a local mall, or seeing all of the decorations adorning our homes with twinkling lights and bows and beautifully decorated trees. Over the next few weeks, we will spend time looking for the perfect gifts for our family and friends, we no doubt will stand in long lines at the checkout, and look forward to seeing the reaction when someone opens the gift we have given them. But I think that it is good for us to keep the tagline of that commercial in mind, "Thanks for Giving" because it challenges us to remember that God has given us the greatest gift ever... a gift wrapped in strips of rags and laying in a manger—the Christ Child!

I would also echo that commercial and say "Thanks for Giving" because it is through your gifts that our congregation continues its ministry and mission in our community and to the very ends of the earth. "Thanks for Giving" as part of our understand of what it means to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to our care as we share our gifts of time, talent and financial resources. I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Yours in Christ,
Cliff





WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

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

12/4 Ced Stopanksy
12/11 Dave Forman
12/18 Sarabeth Stopansky
12/25 Cliff Foster



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 December 18th are:
Linda Youngbauer Scott McInay Jim Kepple
Jay Perino Debbie Perino



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 December are as follows:

12/4 Murrysville, First ☩ Bill King, Interim Pastor
12/11 Murrysville, Newlonsburg ☩ Curtis Paul, Pastor
Marnie Silbert, Associate Pastor
12/18 Murrysville, Union ☩ Derrick Campbell, Pastor
12/25 New Alexandria, Community ☩ Grafton Eliason, Interim
Pastor

SYMPATHY



We extend our sympathy and prayers to Phyllis Frye's
family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of
Phyllis' brother's death. May God's presence bring you
comfort and strength in your time of loss.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

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BIRTHDAYS

12/4	Kathy Hamilton	12/18	Marty Kuzmkowski
12/6	Caroline D'Aurora	12/20	Terri Hoffman
12/7	Sue Aaron	12/22	Kerstin Stellato
12/10	Bob McDonald	12/23	Fred Sehring
12/12	Greg Kaufman	12/25	JESUS
12/15	Jay Perino	12/27	Joe Stopansky
12/17	John Aaron	12/28	Alex Kuzmkowski
12/18	Owen Eidemiller	12/31	Michael Jobe



ANNIVERSARIES



12/23/1957 Harold & Meryle Kaufman



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 7:30PM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN



****Mark your calendars!****

Another one of our very special days is coming up this month at Congruity! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th is our annual Christmas program and we hope you will all mark your calendars and plan to attend this festive, fun-filled day! The play this year is called "New Star" and it will be performed during our church service. Don't forget to bring a covered dish meal that we will all enjoy immediately following church and a Christmas-themed table decoration to place on the tables. We also request that each family bring one dozen cookies to share while we enjoy some other activities including a very special visit from our favorite friend the North Pole. We're really looking forward to seeing everyone from our church family there (along with any friends and family you'd like to invite) to be a part of this very festive day of family fun!

*Wishing you all a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas from the Christian Education

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Kyle and April (Hawkey) Richards on the birth of their daughter, Robin Rose on November 20, 2016.



MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Congruity sent twenty-five Operation /Christmas Child shoeboxes, the most ever. Thank you to all who participated.

It's time to think and pray about going on a mission trip with the mission team. Watch for a date next newsletter to meet and discuss where we might go. (and see where God sends us) and to plan the Pancake Dinner which helps the team with travel expenses.

DEACONS

DEBBIE PERINO



Poinsettia Sale

We are taking orders for our annual poinsettia sale. The poinsettias are 6 1/2" and the price is \$8.00 each. Order envelopes are in the church pews. If paying by check, please make payable to "Congruity Deacons" and mark poinsettia on it. We ask that you please leave your poinsettia in the sanctuary until after Christmas Eve service.



WELCOME HOME SHELTER

DEBBIE & JAY PERINO

We will again be collecting money or you can pick a gift that a child wants for Christmas from the Welcome Home Shelter. A list of children with gender and ages will be at the back of the church or see one of us.

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

DEBBIE PERINO



We will be having a Christmas party on Thursday December 15th at 6 pm. Please bring a snack or covered dish along with your secret sister gift or a \$10 grab bag gift to exchange if you do not have a secret sister. All women of the church are invited to attend.

ITEMS FROM SESSION

JOHN BLANK



Session met on November 21, 2016 and reports the following:

- 1) Devotions were led by Tim D'Aurora
- 2) Approved the Clerk's, Treasurer's, and Moderator's Reports
- 3) Approved the minutes of the 10/17/2016 regular session meeting
- 4) Noted that Redstone Presbytery met on 11/19/16. Elder Delegate Kathy Hamilton reported on the meeting.
- 5) Noted that the next meeting of Redstone Presbytery is 1/21/17 from 1 – 4 PM at Westminster Church
- 6) Noted that all Sunday School Teacher, Ruling Elders, and Deacons have received the Child Protection Policy.
- 7) Noted that the Game Day sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee was a success
- 8) Noted that the Personnel Committee met with all employees.
- 9) Noted that we still need someone to learn how to run the projection system as a backup for John
- 10) Made the following appointments for the Class of 2017
 - a. Treasurer – John Blank
 - b. Asst. Treasurer – Caroline D'Aurora
 - c. Financial Secretary – Michelle Kepple
 - d. Asst. Financial Secretary – Dorothy Martz.
- 11) Will recommend Rev. Foster's Terms of Call at the 12/4/16 Congregational Meeting.
- 12) Noted that the children's Christmas program will be presented during worship followed by a covered dish lunch on 12/11/16.
- 13) Agreed to read and study Chapters W-7 of **The Book of Order**
- 14) Completed our discussion of Chapters W-6 of **The Book of Order**
- 15) The next regular meeting of session is set for 12/19/16.

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)
October	\$ 8,417.19	\$ 7,425.23	\$ 1,904.10	\$ (6,307.79)
Year to Date	\$ 75,837.58	\$ 82,145.37		

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance	OFFERING TOTALS	
January*	\$ 1,126.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 476.00	10/2/16	\$1,792.00
February*	\$ 1,359.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,185.00	10/9/16	\$850.00
March*	\$ 480.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,015.00		
April*	\$ 348.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 713.00	10/16/16	\$1,924.00
May	\$ 430.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 493.00	10/23/16	\$1,374.00
June*	\$ 351.00	\$ 650.00	\$ 194.00	10/30/16	\$807.00
July	\$ 415.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (41.00)		
August	\$ 440.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (251.00)	11/6/16	\$3,134.00
September	\$ 448.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (453.00)	11/13/16	\$1,016.00
October	\$ 425.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (678.00)	11/20/16	\$2,311.00

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 101.00	\$ -	\$ 101.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 161.09	\$ 56.79	\$ 217.88
Change for the Future	\$ 8.41	\$ -	\$ 8.41
Per Capita	\$ 1,492.00	\$ -	\$ 1,492.00

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,029.94	\$ 900.00	\$ 129.94
Pentecost	\$ 411.82	\$ 375.00	\$ 36.82
Peacemaking	\$ 350.00	\$ 375.00	\$ (25.00)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 492.00	\$ -	\$ 492.00

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$ 22,547.98**

	From 2015	Year to Date	Balance
Local Mission	\$ 2,409.47	\$ (500.00)	\$ 1,909.47
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,415.92	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 2,765.92



CHOIR
VICKI WALTERS



SOS! The CHOIR needs YOU!

Due to recent illness and upcoming surgery, the choir has been reduced to two people.

With the Advent and Christmas season upon us, we've got some great anthems lined up, but it would be a tremendous joy, as well as a great help to Dave and Evelyn, to have a few more voices. The anthems are not difficult, a couple of familiar Christmas carols are incorporated into the arrangements, so they should be easy enough to learn.

We are rehearsing on Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM, and Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. If need be, we may schedule one or two practices after Sunday church services, if that would suit anyone.



THANK YOU

Thank you all for your prayers, cards and kind words of sympathy on the death of my brother, Tom. Phyllis Frye

NEWSLETTER
YVONNE McILNAY

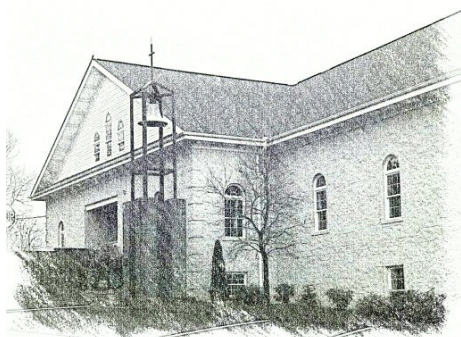


With a new year approaching sometimes it is a good time for change. I was wondering if anyone else would like to take a turn doing our church newsletter. Maybe someone would like to spice it up a bit or just do it totally different. It is not hard, just time consuming which is something I have much less of these days. Most everything is done through our newsletter email. Please contact me if interested ~ I would be happy to show you the program.



Merry Christmas

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



**WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE**

Worship		Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
10/23	40	3	17	20
10/30	45	4	19	23
11/6	42	4	20	24
11/13	40	5	6	21
11/20	51	8	18	26

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 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

