

February 2017

Volume 41 Issue 2

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

What comes to your mind when you think about the month of February? Ground Hog's Day, Valentine's Day? The Super Bowl (and hopefully the Steelers will be playing)? For the shortest month of the year, February has a lot of important dates in it, doesn't it! In the life of our congregation, there are several events taking place this month as well.

On February 5th we will once again be receiving donations for the The Souper Bowl of Caring which will be given to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. At the end of worship that Sunday, there will be soup kettles to collect your donations. Community UP Church is having a Spaghetti Dinner on February 12th from 12- 2PM. On February 19th we will enjoy a covered dish dinner and then have some fun at the annual Deacons White Elephant Auction/Sale which helps the Deacons projects and programs throughout the year. Then on February 28th (Strove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday) the Mission Team will be having their annual Pancake Supper in Fellowship Hall to raise funds for their upcoming mission trip to West Virginia. This is a good month for those of us like me who like to eat!

The month of February will draw to a close with us gathering around the Lord's Table to share the Sacrament of Communion on February 26th which is Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday. We will journey with Jesus, Peter, James and John to the mountaintop where Jesus was transfigured and hear those words from God coming out of the cloud: "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" Those words set the stage for our Lenten journey which will begin in March.

Many of us will be waiting to hear what Punxsutawney Phil will have to say on February 2nd in terms of how many more weeks of winter we will have—whether we will have an early spring or 6 more weeks of winter. But come what may with Phil's prediction, one of the things that we can be certain of is God's love for us which always embraces us no matter what the weather is or no matter how long the winter lasts. As we continue on our journey throughout 2017 may we be aware of the depth of God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ and how important and valuable we are because of all that Christ has done for us. I can think of no better message for us to think about and reflect on during the month of February and every day.

Yours in Christ,
Cliff

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY

Liturgists

2/5 John Blank
 2/12 Caroline D'Aurora
 2/19 Deacon Sunday
 2/26 Dave Foresman



If you would like to serve as a liturgist

Those serving Communion on February 26th are:

Scott McIlnay, Sarabeth Stopansky, Kathy Hamilton, Tom Davis & Debbie Perino

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:

2/5 Avonmore ~ Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply
 2/12 Delmont ~ Caroline Vickery, Pastor
 2/19 Lower Burrell, Grace Community ~ Ken Foust, Pastor
 2/26 Lower Burrell, Puckety ~ Kirk Orr, Pastor



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Worship	Sunday School		
	Adult	Youth	Total
12/24 83			
12/25 33	11		11
1/1 36	3	10	13
1/8 46	6	13	19
1/15 50	7	17	24



SYMPATHY



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

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

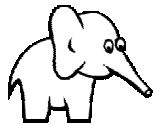
2/1 Charlotte Foresman
 2/3 Dan Frye
 2/4 Kathy Blank
 Jeff Karstaedt
 2/7 Dottie D'Aurora
 2/8 Tom Dudek

2/9 Elijah Miller
 2/17 Austin Heasley
 2/18 Ken Sellinger Jr
 2/20 Arlin Smith
 Kathy Schrecengost Soule



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

As we gear up for the Super Bowl (and hopefully the Steelers will make it), we have an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. We will be collecting for the **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** on February 5th at the end of worship. There will be soup pots/kettles in the Greeting Room for donations that will be given to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. We ask that you prayerfully and generously support this project.



DEACONS

Our annual White Elephant sale will be Sunday, February 19th after worship. Please bring a covered dish to share and a wrapped gift for the auction. Table service, bread and drinks will be provided by the Deacons. After lunch the fun begins! Please remember that this is the only fundraiser the Deacons have all year. We would really appreciate everyone's support. Hope to see you there!

The Flower Chart for 2017 has been posted. Please sign up to help provide fresh flowers for our services. The cost is \$40.00 payable to Congruity Deacons. The chart will be posted until March 15th. Artificial flowers will be used for the unassigned dates due to the cost and the Deacon's budget.

THANK YOU

Thank You!

To the Congruity Congregation
 Thank you for the gift of money.

Ken Moyer

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

TIM D'AURORA

Wow, 2016 was certainly an interesting year in the financial life of our church. It was a case of good news, bad news. The good news was that we finished the year with a positive balance. That certainly didn't look realistic as we approached year end. But with the help of a gift from our Women's Association and a large gift from an anonymous donor, we were able to end the year \$771.85 in the black. The bad news is that these totals included over \$20,000 in non-traditional giving. This includes the two Women's Association donations (2015's donation actually came to us in 2016), the several fundraising efforts (Hoagie Sales, Spaghetti Dinners, Watt's Truck Show, etc), and the large special donation received in December. While these are all part of the life of the Church, it is scary to picture what our financial situation would be without them. The other bad news for 2016 was that we fell significantly short of our First Fruits Pledge. Our pledge was for \$7800 and we received \$6792 leaving us with a shortage of \$1098. We did lower our pledge for 2017 to \$7000. While we know we will face many challenges in 2017, we also know that by working together and prayerfully considering our level of commitment, we will be successful in carrying out God's plan.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Mission Interpretation & Stewardship Committee is looking for a few good men and women. We need your fresh ideas and enthusiasm to help keep our church moving forward. Please contact either Tim D'Aurora or Rev. Foster if you have interest in joining this committee. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!



God is the best listener.
You don't need to shout
nor cry out loud
because He hears even
the silent prayer
of a sincere heart!

MISSION PHYLLIS FRYE



PDA has designated the first Sunday in Lent as Blue Shirt Sunday to kick-start the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign, which supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Since the color blue denotes peace, we are asked to wear blue on March 5 to promote peace. If you have a PDA shirt you are asked to wear it. If you don't, just wear blue. Some kids and adults have their Thrivent LIVE GENEROUSLY shirts. It's a fun way to support One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Redstone Mission Team will be going to Greenbriar County, West Virginia the week of March 18-25. This is the area hit by flooding in 2016. It is not too late to sign up. Cost of the trip is \$120, payable to the Mission Trip Fund. Contact Phyllis Frye (724-468-3740) if interested.

The Redstone mission trip to New Windsor to work at Church World Service and SERRV will be September 24-26, 2017. We will not be staying at the hospitality center, but at the Best Western Motel in New Windsor. Reservations are on a first come basis. The cost is \$100 per person for a double room for two nights including breakfast. We will be on our own for dinner. A \$25 deposit is required. Checks need to be made out to the Mission Trip Fund and sent to Judy Koontz, 570 New Alexandria, PA 15670. Commissioning will be at New Hope Presbyterian Church on Sunday March 12 at 10:30am.

BON TON COUPON BOOKS -The mission team is selling Bon Ton Community Day coupon books for the Community Day sale on Friday and Saturday February 23-25th. See Phyllis Frye



PANCAKE DINNER

A Pancake Dinner will be held at Congruity to benefit the Redstone Mission Team on Fat Tuesday, February 28, from 4 -7p.m. The team will be serving pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit and beverage for \$7 adults, children 6-12 \$3, and children under 6 free.

There will be a Mardi Gras theme & silent auction baskets. All proceeds go to the Mission Trip. Tickets will be sold at the door. For info call the church at 724 668 7740.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

<u>General Fund</u>	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)
November	\$ 10,312.71	\$ 7,713.21	\$ 4,503.60	\$ (3,708.29)
December	\$ 14,182.74	\$ 9,702.60	\$ 8,983.74	\$ 771.85
Year to Date	\$ 100,333.03	\$ 99,561.18		

<u>First Fruits</u>	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)
October	\$ 425.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (678.00)
November	\$ 465.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (863.00)
December	\$ 415.00	\$ 650.00	\$ (1,098.00)

*Includes Per Capita

OFFERING TOTALS

11/13/16	\$ 1,016.00
11/20/16	\$ 2,311.00
11/27/16	\$ 1,056.03
12/04/16	\$ 1,433.18
12/11/16	\$ 1,022.03
12/18/16	\$ 2,241.03
12/24/16	\$ 2,486.00
12/31/16	\$ 1,421.03

01/01/17	\$ 1,591.63
01/06/17	\$ 1,404.33

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 101.00	\$ -	\$ 101.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 234.36	\$ 26.25	\$ 260.61
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)
Christmas Joy	\$ 460.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 85.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 492.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 482.00

Included in General Fund Balance

Memorial Fund (Excel WKS) **\$ 22,667.98**

	From 2015	Year to Date	Balance
Local Mission	\$ 2,409.47	\$ (1,673.00)	\$ 736.47
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,415.92	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 3,440.92



ITEMS FROM SESSION

SARABETH STOPASNSKY



Cliff made 24 visits and did a funeral service for William R. Lutz Sr. He also participated in several church and Presbytery Events.

The Board of Trustees elected Tim D'Aurora as President for 2017.

Approved the following Committee assignments for 2017:

Christian Education: Dave Foresman

Communications: Cliff Foster

Congregational Life: Dave Foresman and Terry Selembo

MIS: Tim D'Aurora and Carol Hohman

Nominating: Sarabeth Stopansky

Personal: Scott McIlnay and Linda Youngbauer

Property: Tim D'Aurora and Kathy Hamilton

Worship: Dave Foresman and Scott McIlnay and Carol Miller

Approved the following dates for activities:

Deacons White Elephant Sale on 2/19/2017

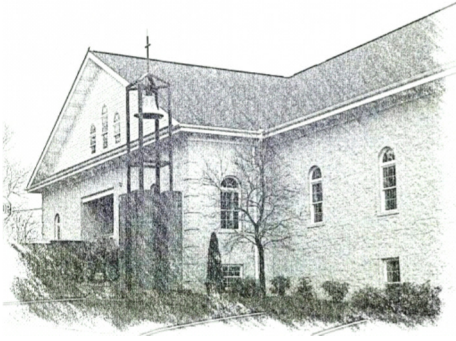
Mission Team Pancake Dinner on 2/28/2017

Session also approved giving Rev. Foster permission to close the Youth Group Checking Account and transfer the funds to the Christian Education Account.

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)

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No 5
NEW ALEXANDRIA PA 15670



We're on the web!



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

CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

C H U R C H S T A F F		E L D E R S	D E A C O N S
Pastor	Cliff Foster	Tim D'Aurora	Tom Davis
Clerk of Session	Sarabeth Stopansky	Dave Foresman	Sue Derek
Asst. Clerk	Tim D'Aurora	Kathy Hamilton	Evelyn Foresman
Deacon Moderator	Sue Derek	Carol Hohman	Kathy Kepple Fink
Treasurer	John Blank	Scott McIlnay	Phyllis Frye
Financial Secretary	Michelle Kepple	Carol Miller	Nancy Lauffer
Church Secretary	Dorothy Martz	Terry Selembo	Lana Munsell
Music Director	Vicki Walters	Sarabeth Stopansky	Debbie Perino
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne McIlnay	Linda Youngbauer	Janet Rugh
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