

March 2017

Volume 41 Issue 3

CONGRUITY CONNECTION

Cliff's Notes



I remember back in the late summer/early fall when the Old Farmer's Almanac's prediction for this winter was first announced. If I remember correctly, it was supposed to be a rough winter, with below average cold and above average snowfall. Well, many of us are thankful that that prediction did not materialize. Although, I have made the comment along with others that since we had March weather in January, I hope we don't have January weather in March! One of the things that I have been thinking about over the last several weeks is how none of us knows for sure what each new day will bring our way. Be it in terms of weather, or the twists and turns of life, waiting for the results of tests and procedures that have been done, anxiously waiting the word from our doctor. Who would have thought that we would have the windows open and temperatures in the 70's in Western PA at the end of February?

As we enter the month of March, we commence on our journey through the Season of Lent. Lent affords us the opportunity to spend some time reflecting upon and thinking about the depth of God's love shown to us in Jesus Christ. The Lenten journey will conclude as we stand before the empty tomb of Easter and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ... but before we get there, our journey will take us to those Jerusalem streets where palm branches are being waved and placed on the road... to the Upper Room to share the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday and we will endure the sadness and darkness of Good Friday as Jesus hangs on the cross. Then we will wait to hear the startling Good News that the tomb is empty, that Christ is alive, that he has risen from the dead. I was thinking about the Season of Lent the other day in terms of how it is symbolic of our lives and the things we that go through within our lives. As people of faith, we look forward to the Good News of Easter even in the midst of the twists and turns, the ups and downs, the darkness that sometimes creeps into our lives. Our faith gives us the assurance of that which Paul writes of in Romans 14: 8 "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's". The Brief Statement of Faith in our Book of Confessions puts it this way: "In life and death we belong to God".

I would challenge all of us to spend some time reflecting on this during the Season of Lent—that we belong to God! Throughout Lent we will be having our Community Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM at the various churches in our area. There is a schedule of these services in this Newsletter. I hope that as we are surrounded by the signs of Spring, that each of us experience anew the depth of God's love for each one of us.

Yours in Christ,
Cliff

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR MARCH

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Liturgists

3/5 Sarabeth Stopansky

3/12 Scott McIlnay

3/19 Dorothy Martz

3/26 Ced Stopansky



If you would like to serve as a liturgist please see Cliff.



SEPARATED BY SPACE UNITED IN PRAYER

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

3/5 Murrysville, First ~ Bill King, Interim Pastor

3/12 Murrysville, Newlonsburg ~ Curtis Paul, Pastor

Marnie Silbert, Associate Pastor

3/19 Murrysville, Union ~ Derek Campbell, Pastor

3/26 New Alexandria, Community ~ Grafton Eliason, Interim Pastor

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

Worship		Sunday School		
1/22	46	5	19	24
1/29	48	7	22	27
2/5	38	6	22	28
2/12	46	8	23	31
2/19	44	2	20	22

SYMPATHY



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the following families:

The Hohman family on the death of Carol's brother Bruce

The Schweppe family on the death of Mim.

The Lauffer & Martz family on the death of their Brother-in-Law Ralph.

THANK YOU

I would sincerely like to thank the Congruity congregation for the generous Christmas gift. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity. Apologies for being a bit late, but I totally missed the deadline for the January newsletter! Again, thanks to all who contributed.

Vicki Walters

Bob and I would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy in the death of my brother Bruce. Bob has also received cards and prayers in his recent illness.

Thank you, Carol Hohman



MARCH CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Jason Orr	3/13 Nancy Walters
3/3 Janet Rugh	3/14 Alison Derek Sullivan
3/4 Karen Dudek	Janet Henry
3/7 Jacob Derek	3/18 April Hawkey
3/8 Geri Kaufman	Richards
Debbie Marchelletta	Dana Kaufman
Nancy Schweppe	3/19 Michael Kaufman
3/9 Alicia D'Aurora	Betty Murphy
Sue Kepple	3/20 Sandy Kemerer
3/10 Ken Walters	Matt MacDonald
3/11 Jessica D'Aurora	3/25 Pam Foresman



ANNIVERSARIES

3/3/2006 Vince & Sandy Kemerer
 3/28/1981 Tom & Rosemary Orr



COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES



March 1 Ash Wednesday at CUP @ 7PM
 March 8 UMC @ 7PM Cliff Foster preaching
 March 15 Congruity @7 PM Grafton Eliason preaching
 March 22 CUP @ 7Pm Charlie Brownawell preaching
 March 29 No Walls @ 7PM Wayne Duffield preaching
 April 5 TBD @ 7PM Dan Schall concert

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

TERRY SELEMBO



Game On!!! On Sunday, March 26th, immediately following the worship service, everyone is invited to stay for lunch and games. Please bring a covered dish and your favorite games!



MUSIC

VICKI WALTERS

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As the music department kicks off the New Year...

I want to extend a hearty and warm welcome to new and/or returning choir members. We welcome Bev Kemerer, Marlene Kifer, and Carol Miller into our merry band of music makers, and are thrilled to have Doug Stine and Janet Rugh returned to us, healthy and whole. I am especially grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of our choir members, especially Dave and Evelyn Foresman, for doing their best to get us through the Advent and Christmas season. We are



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

DEBBIE PERINO



Rummage Sale coming up - save all your rummage for Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 9 am to 2 pm with \$2 bag sale at 1 pm. You can start leaving stuff at the church on Monday March 27th to Friday March 31st at noon. (no later)

We also need bake sale items donated.

Wednesday, March 15 is Lenten Service at Congruity, we will be asking ladies for some cookies for after the service.

Just a reminder: If anyone uses the church hall there is now a \$50 deposit required in case social hall is not left in order or tables and chairs put the way they were found. (details on the bulletin board) also no white tables or blue chairs are to be loaned out. Only some wooden chairs and wooden tables. See property committee when borrowing

MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE



Sunday, March 5th, the first Sunday in Lent, has been designated as Blue Shirt Sunday. Anyone who has been on a PDA mission trip is asked to wear their blue PDA shirt that Sunday to raise awareness of One Great Hour of Sharing and it's mission of compassion.. All others are asked to wear blue, recognized as a color of peace.

Commissioning for the mission team is on March 12 at New Hope Presbyterian Church at 10:30am.

MISSION INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP

TIM D'AURORA



For those that like to mark the dates of super important future events, we have set the dates for our Spaghetti Dinners and our Hoagie Sales. The Spaghetti dinners are set for April 8th (right around the corner) and November 18 and the Hoagie sales are May 18 and September 21. Of course, there will be updates as we get closer to those dates. We have also set our goals for our Special Offerings as follows: One Great Hour of Sharing - \$1000; Pentacost - \$400; Peacemaking - \$375; and Christmas Joy - \$450. We hope everyone will join together to support these important offerings. We are looking in to having another auction to raise funds for our depleted Local Mission fund. We need to set a date with the auctioneer but if you have items to donate and need them moved, we can store them on the third floor.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

TIM D'AURORA

We will be accepting bids for the mowing of the cemetery and church grounds until March 19. Please submit to Tim D'Aurora. The bid should be split between cemetery mowings and trimmings (usually between 7-12 times) and church grounds (almost every week). Both are to be done on an as needed basis with the church grounds needing done more often.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN



We hope you are all enjoying this very mild Winter we are having. And since it already feels like Spring is here, we can't think of a better time to mention that Easter is just around the corner! Easter Sunday is April 16, 2017. We hope you'll join us for the early service at 8:00 am which will be followed by our delicious Continental breakfast at 9:00 am. Sunday School classes are at the usual time of 9:45 am followed by our regular Easter worship service at 11:00 am. Please invite your family and friends and help us celebrate the wonder of the Resurrection! Hallelujah!

TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT -2017

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	To Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 6,381.38	
January	\$ 7,698.28	\$ 9,215.93	\$ 4,863.73	\$ (1,517.65)
Year to Date	\$ 7,698.28	\$ 9,215.93	\$ 4,863.73	\$ (1,517.65)

Memorial Fund

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 22,667.98
January	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 23,667.98
Year to Date	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 23,667.98

Building Maintenance

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 2,025.00
January	\$ 230.00	\$ 2,199.44	\$ 55.56
Year to Date	\$ 230.00	\$ 2,199.44	\$ 55.56

Local Mission

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 736.47
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47
Year to Date	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 583.37	\$ 780.63

*Includes Per
Capita

*Per Capita to

<u>Date</u>	Previous	This Month	To Date
	\$ 139.00	\$ 789.00	\$ 928.00



OFFERING TOTALS

Date	Offering
01/15/17	\$ 1,804.03
01/22/17	\$ 1,004.03
01/29/17	\$ 1,338.00
02/05/17	\$ 1,825.78
02/12/17	\$ 1,475.03

ITEMS FROM SESSION

SARABETH STOPASNSKY



Cliff made 31 visits since the last session meeting. He also presided over the funeral of Marian "Mim" Schweppe on 2/13/2017. He also attended Christian Ed, MIS and Worship committee meetings as well as several Presbytery Events. He attended the Deacon's White Elephant Auction and reported that it went very well.

Property Committee reported that the work to deal with the plumbing issues at the manse will start soon. The work on the chimney will be done in the spring.

The Worship Committee reported that they have ordered Lenten Devotional Booklets and will pass them out on 02/26/2017.

Session approved the following :

Rev. Foster's goals for 2017.

Congregational Life Committee's Covered Dish Dinner and Game Day on 3/26/2017.

MIS Committee's Fundraising events for 2017, 4/18/2017 and 11/18/2017 for Spaghetti Dinners 05/18/2017 and 09/21/2017 for Hoagie Sales

MIS Committee's Special offering goals for 2017:

OGHS	\$1000
Witness	\$400
Peacemaking	\$375
Christmas Joy	\$450

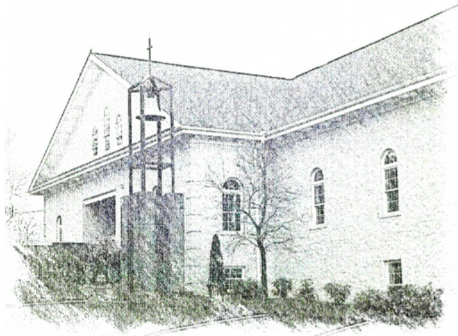
Session also approved renting Fellowship Hall to the group "Save Our Salem" for the regular rental fee of \$125.00.

Kathy Hamilton will be the Elder Delegate to the March 21, 2017 Presbytery Meeting.

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

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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

Pastor	Cliff Foster
Clerk of Session	Sarabeth Stopansky
Asst. Clerk	Tim D'Aurora
Deacon Moderator	Sue Derek
Treasurer	John Blank
Financial Secretary	Michelle Kepple
Church Secretary	Dorothy Martz
Music Director	Vicki Walters

E L D E R S

Tim D'Aurora
Dave Foresman
Kathy Hamilton
Carol Hohman
Scott McIlhay
Carol Miller
Terry Selembo
Sarabeth Stopansky
Linda Youngbauer

D E A C O N S

Tom Davis
Sue Derek
Evelyn Foresman
Kathy Kepple Fink
Phyllis Frye
Nancy Lauffer
Lana Munsell
Debbie Perino
Janet Rugh



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