

December 2017

Volume 41 Issue 11

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

The other day I found myself singing the song "It's the most wonderful time of the year". I don't know if I had heard a commercial on television or if it was because there were snow flurries in the air or whatever the reason, but I had that seasonal song stuck in my head. I began thinking about what I was singing and realized the truth of those words. This is the most wonderful time of the year—the Advent and Christmas season as we prepare ourselves to receive God's gift to us and to the world of the Christ Child. Before long our homes will be decorated, the tree will be trimmed, the Christmas cards will be written and mailed, time will be spent shopping for gifts, cookies will be baked and things will be scratched off of our "to do" lists.

I recall a number of years ago hearing someone say that we need to remember that this is "Christmas not Giftmas" and to make sure that in the midst of our busy-ness in getting everything ready for our celebration of Christmas, that we make sure we spend some time preparing ourselves for the Christ Child to be reborn in us this year. I know that there have been times when standing in lines that never seem to move, or going from store to store looking for that one gift, or fretting that my "to do" list is getting longer and longer that I need to remember the true meaning of this special time of the year—celebrating the birth of Christ and not allow the stress of this season to diminish what we are celebrating.

One of the highlights each year of this time of the year is the Children's Program which will be on December 17th. The children will be taking part in our worship service that day. There will be a covered dish dinner in Fellowship Hall following worship. This day always adds to the joy of this time of the year.

As we journey through the season of Advent and Christmas, may we all lift our voices in singing "It's the most wonderful time of the year". Together may we celebrate the Good News of the birth of Christ and allow hope, peace, love and joy to fill our lives. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Your in Christ,

Cliff



WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

Liturgists

- 12/3 Phyllis Frye
- 12/10 Doug Stine
- 12/17 Cliff Foster
- 12/24 Janet Rugh
- 12/31 Dorothy Martz



Those scheduled to serve Communion on December 24th at 11AM are:

Scott McIlInay Kathy Hamilton Carol Hohman Lana Musell Nancy Lauffer

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.

SEPARATED BY SPACE UNITED IN PRAYER

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

12/3 Murrysville, First ~ Ed Gray, Pastor

12/10 Murrysville, Newlonsburg ~ Curtis Paul, Pastor

Marnie Silbert, Associate Pastor

12/17 Murrysville, Union ~ Derrick Campbell, Pastor

12/24 New Alexandria, Community United ~ Grafton Eliason, Interim Pastor

12/31 Redstone Presbytery ~ Ross Bash, Member-at-Large



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Worship		Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
10/22	44	2	19	21
10/29	51	3	19	22
11/5	59	7	23	30
11/12	85	5	22	27
11/19	50	7	19	26

DEACONS

SUE DEREK



The Deacons would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Harvest Home. We were able to provide five families with groceries. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated.

On December 2nd (Saturday) at 10:00 a.m. we will be having our Annual Hanging of the Greens. Please join us for this fun time to help us prepare for the Christmas season. Pizza will be provided.



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

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



ANNIVERSARIES



12/23/1957 Harold & Meryle Kaufman



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:30PM

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PAM FORESMAN



****Mark your Calendars!!****

Another one of our very special and fun days is coming up this month at Congruity! Our annual Christmas program is on Sunday, December 17th. The program this year is called "The Christmas Tree" and we hope you will all mark your calendars, plan to attend, and bring your friends and family to this festive and fun-filled day. The program will be performed during the church service and we will have our Covered Dish Dinner immediately following the worship service. Please be sure to bring a covered dish meal, a Christmas table decoration, and each family is asked to bring a dozen cookies to share while we enjoy some time of fellowship. Our favorite North Pole resident will definitely be making an appearance, too! We hope to see you all there!!

Wishing you all a Wonderful and Blessed Christmas from Christian Education Committee



MISSION

PHYLLIS FRYE

Thank you to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. We sent out 22 boxes this year. These boxes, along with the Bible study, "The Greatest Journey", will help spread the love of Jesus Christ around the world.

THINK SPRING! Redstone Mission Team has chosen the last week in April (April 22-28, 2018) for their Spring mission trip to somewhere within driving distance, perhaps the Carolinas or back to West Virginia.

We will be having another meeting on January 14 (snow date January 21 at Phyllis Frye's house) to continue planning the trip and also to discuss the Pancake Dinner fundraiser on February 13, 2018. Please pray about going on a trip with us. These trips are open to anyone who has a heart for mission not just our own presbytery or denomination. Contact Phyllis

WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PHYLLIS FRYE



Congruity's Women's Christmas Party will be held at the church on Thursday December, 14th at 6pm. All women are invited. Please bring a covered dish, a gift for your secret sister if you have one (if you don't have a secret sister bring a \$10 grab bag gift) and a friend or two. We have some neat games to play and expect to have lots of fun.

ITEMS FROM SESSION

SARABETH STOPASNSKY

The Session met on Monday, November 20, 2017 and reports the following:

Cliff made 28 visits between 10/17 and 11/20. He taught the Adult Sunday School and attended several functions of the congregation and the Presbytery including the November Meeting of Redstone Presbytery.

Carol Miller, a first time Elder Delegate to Presbytery reported some of the highlights of the Presbytery Meeting. Greg Davis reported on the 2017 Pine Springs Camp season and the improvements made to the camp. The Rev. Skip

ITEMS FROM SESSION CONTINUED



Notfzger reported that almost \$14,000 had been raised for the Sudan matching funds campaign. Rev Notfzger also conducted a memorial for Rev. Robert Fuehrer, the pastor of the Jeannette Presbyterian Church who passed away on November 13, 2017. Hunter Farrell of World Mission Initiative gave a presentation about on going mission projects. Rev Sue Washburn from the Redstone Presbytery Addiction Ministry Network spoke. The Hope in a Bag project was introduced. **Look for a Bulletin Insert about how you can help with this much needed project.**

Post Cards were sent to 54 members of the Congregation who have not been active in the Life of the Congregation inviting them to attend Worship during the upcoming Advent/Christmas Season.

The Communications Committee met and they are exploring ways to update the newsletter.

The Personnel Committee reported that they had met with the staff and contracts will be signed in the near future.

The Nominating Committee reported that the slate of officers for 2018 is being finalized for the Congregational Meeting on December 3, 2017

Session approved the following actions::

December 5-8 and December 26-30 as Vacation Days for Rev. Foster (No Sundays Involved)

The Christian Education Committee's request to hold a covered dish dinner after the Children's Program on December 17, 2017.

The Worship Committee's request to order another set of stoles and music using the monies donated towards the Choir Robe Fund.

MIS Committee's request to keep 2018 First Fruits at \$7000.00.

Session approved the 2018 Budget with the exception of the Pastor's Terms of Call. (The Terms of Call will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting on December 3, 2017)

Session approved the 2018 Communion schedule.

If you would like read minutes from any Session Meeting please see Rev. Foster or Sarabeth Stopansky



TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK

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)
February	\$ 6,835.17	\$ 8,154.61	\$ 3,544.29	\$ (2,837.09)
March	\$ 9,651.38	\$ 8,032.31	\$ 5,163.36	\$ (1,218.02)
April	\$ 14,817.92	\$ 8,608.74	\$ 11,372.54	\$ 4,991.16
May	\$ 4,936.29	\$ 8,818.05	\$ 7,490.78	\$ 1,109.40
June/July	\$ 14,880.05	\$ 19,283.35	\$ 3,087.48	\$ (3,293.90)
August	\$ 10,866.78	\$ 6,770.09	\$ 7,184.17	\$ 802.79
September	\$ 9,412.47	\$ 8,264.24	\$ 8,332.40	\$ 1,951.02
October	\$ 11,128.01	\$ 8,077.98	\$ 11,382.43	\$ 5,001.05
Year to Date	\$ 90,226.35	\$ 85,225.30		

Memorial Fund

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 22,667.98
January	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 23,667.98
February	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 23,867.98
March	\$ 1,110.00	\$ -	\$ 24,977.98
April	\$ 390.00	\$ -	\$ 25,367.98
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,367.98
June/July	\$ -		\$ 25,367.98
August	\$ 150.00		\$ 25,517.98
September	\$ 2,550.00	\$ 1,085.16	\$ 26,982.82
October	\$ 1,328.50		\$ 28,311.32
Year to Date	\$ 6,728.50	\$ 1,085.16	

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 1,364.00	\$ 583.37	\$ 780.63
February*	\$ 965.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 1,162.30
March*	\$ 575.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 1,153.97
April*	\$ 396.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 966.64
May	\$ 365.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 748.31
June/July	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,166.66	\$ 281.65
August	\$ 485.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 183.32
September	\$ 350.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (50.01)
October	\$ 330.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (303.34)

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
<u>*Per Capita to Date</u>	\$ 1,686.00	\$ -	\$ 1,686.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

JOHN BLANK



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
February	\$ 4,250.00	\$ -	\$ 4,305.56
March	\$ 215.00	\$ 451.00	\$ 4,069.56
April	\$ 235.00		\$ 4,304.56
May	\$ 165.00	\$ 2,499.44	\$ 1,970.12
June/July	\$ 320.55	\$ 882.50	\$ 1,408.17
August	\$ 245.00		\$ 1,653.17
September	\$ 215.00	\$ 882.50	\$ 985.67
October	\$ 314.45		\$ 1,300.12
Year to Date	\$ 6,190.00	\$ 6,914.88	

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

Local Mission

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance		
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 736.47		
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47	10/29/17	\$1,292.03
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47	11/5/17	\$2,051.03
March	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47	11/12/17	\$1,917.03
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47	11/19/17	\$1,719.53
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47		
June/July	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 756.47		
August	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756.47		
September	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756.47		
October			\$ 756.47		
Year to Date	\$ 20.00	\$ -			

Special Offerings

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 160.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 141.62	\$ 24.52	\$ 166.14
Sudan Abundance Grant	\$ 95.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 115.00
		Pledge	
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,171.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 171.00
Pentecost	\$ 470.75	\$ 400.00	\$ 70.75
Peace & Global Witness	\$ 465.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 90.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 471.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 546.00

Congruity Presbyterian Church
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New Alexandria PA 15670

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NEW ALEXANDRIA PA 15670



We're on Facebook & the web!
congruitychurch.org



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 to congruitynewsletter@yahoo.com