

January 2018

Volume 42 Issue 1

CONGRUITY CONNECTION

Cliff's Notes

I would like to begin these musings with a question: How well do you handle change? I was thinking about that question the other day, and I must confess that the more chronologically advanced (older) I get; change is a lot more challenging! But change in and of itself is a good thing. Just think back over the last decade and think about all of the changes that have taken place in our lives. I must confess that sometimes I struggle with adapting to the new changes that we are confronted with, like understanding computers and the various programs those computers run. I recently had an issue with my email software and it threw me into a fit trying to get used to a new email system.

But change is a good thing. It keeps us from getting into a rut of familiarity and of expanding our horizons and learning new skills. Many of us may have made some New Year resolutions—things we hope to change or things to work on during this new year. There is a whole gamut of changes/resolutions: losing weight, exercising more, setting aside time for reading the Bible and prayer, learning a new skill, reading different types of books, and countless other things. The start of a new year is a good time to begin something new or trying something different or exploring new things. I wish each of you a Joyous New Year and it is my hope and prayer that 2018 filled with many happy experiences.

Most of us have heard the phrase “the more things change, the more they stay the same”. In Matthew 19 we read these words of Jesus “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” Our God is in the business of bringing about changes that we could never imagine. All things are possible with God and I hope that you join me in holding onto this thought throughout this new year of 2018. I am excited about what 2018 holds in store for all of us because of our faith we have the assurance that come what may, we are never alone. Christ has promised to walk with us through each and every step of the way. Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ
Cliff



Worship Leaders For January

Liturgists

1/7	Evelyn Foresman
1/14	Tim D'Aurora
1/21	Rhea Summit
1/28	Ced Stopansky



Those scheduled to serve Communion on January 7th are:

Tim D'Aurora Carol Hohman Sarabeth Stopansky Tom Davis Debbie Perino

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 January are as follows:

1/7	New Alexandria, Congruity ~ Cliff Foster, Pastor
1/14	New Kensington ~ Wendy Keys, Pastor
1/21	Vandergrift ~ Neal Galley, Pastor
1/28	Apollo, Poke Run ~ Pete Goetschius, Pastor



Worship Attendance

Worship		Sunday School		
		Adult	Youth	Total
11/26	53	7	24	31
12/3	43	7	19	28
12/10	43	8	22	30
12/17	70	8	21	29

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the Kepple family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Sue's death. May God's presence continue to give you strength and comfort in your time of loss.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Trevor Martz! He graduated this December with a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a BA in Mathematics from Seton Hill University.

January Celebrations

Birthdays

1/1	Beth Dudek	1/13	Jessica Foresman
	Matthew C. MacDonald, Jr.		Alyssa Martz
	Kelly McCambridge	1/18	Carol Hohman
1/4	Bob Hohman	1/19	Kathleen Orr
	Mike Kepple		Sara Orr
1/5	Kaley Foster	1/20	Tyler Piovesan
1/6	Emily Eidemiller		Alenah Thomas
1/7	Courtney Young	1/21	Ian Derek
1/8	Ced Stopansky	1/22	Trevor Derek
	Brian Walters	1/23	Keith Walters
1/10	Denise Eidemiller	1/24	Dorothy Brant
	Cheyenne Heasley	1/28	Kim Matvey
1/11	Daniel Kaufman		Jared Walters



Anniversaries



1/26/1962	Bob & Carol Hohman
1/30/2010	Dan & Hillary Lapcevic

Thank Yous



I would like to thank the Congregation for the generous gift you gave me this Christmas. May God continue to bless us as we venture forth into this New Year.
Cliff Foster

The George Kepple family would like to thank the Congruity community for all their cards, thoughts, and prayers during Sue's illness.
The pain of her passing has been lessened through your tremendous support.
May we all find comfort knowing she is now in God's loving arms.

Thank you to my church family for the generous gift at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.
Love, Dorothy



Mission

Phyllis Frye

Think you might want to go on a mission trip? Redstone Mission team will have a meeting on Sunday, January 14th at 3pm. It will be at Phyllis Frye's home for anyone interested in going on a trip the week of April 22-28, 2018. We hope to be going somewhere within driving distance, but who knows? God may have other plans for us. If interested or for more information, Contact Phyllis Frye (724 468 3740) or just take a ride out to Slickville on January 14th and drop in at 162 Main Street and see what it's all about.

Keep the date open for the Mission team's fundraiser, the annual Pancake Dinner on (Fat, Shrove, etc) Tuesday, February 13th. We will have more info after the Team meeting in January.

Items From Session

Sarabeth Stopansky



The Session met on Monday, December 18, 2017 and reports the following:

Cliff made 27 visits between 11/21 and 12/18.

Session elected Sarabeth Stopansky as Clerk of Session, and Tim D'Aurora as Assistant Clerk for 2018.

As required by the Book of Order, the Session reviewed the rolls and voted to remove 11 people from the active roll. Cliff also reported that he sent 40 postcards to folks that have not attended services in quite a while inviting them to attend church during the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

Session voted to set the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting for 1/28/18. There will be a soup and sandwich luncheon before the meeting.

Session voted to participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 4, 2018. All funds collected will be donated to the Westmoreland County Food Bank.

Session voted to instruct the treasurer, if necessary, to take funds from the General Fund to make up any short fall of the 2017 First Fruits Pledge.

Cliff told the session that he is reviewing the committees and their responsibilities and will bring some suggestions to session to think about for 2018. Committee assignments will take place at the January meeting.

On-line Giving

John Blank

On-Line Giving

You can give on-line to Congruity by going to CongruityChurch.org or by using this QR code:

Once you set up your profile you are just a few clicks away from supporting the mission of Congruity Presbyterian Church.

You will receive an electronic receipt for your contribution. You can obtain year end totals for tax purposes from your profile.



Newsletter

Yvonne McIlroy

If anyone has a birthday or anniversary that is not correct or needs to be added to the newsletter list, please let me know. Also, if you would like to submit an announcement, congratulations, celebration or thank you it can be emailed to congruitynewsletter@yahoo.com or put in the newsletter folder in the upstairs kitchen.

I am adding 6PM to the newsletter deadline day. I do the majority of it then due to my schedule. Please try to be more organized and considerate of my time. It has been taking more time then is necessary due to the fact that I do not have the information needed. If you have something that needs to be approved by session please let me know by the deadline so I can save you a space for it. I will no longer send text messages and emails as reminders. The deadline is always the third Sunday of the month ~ Thank you

A New Years' Blessing



*May God make your year a happy one,
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy, But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you, But by taking fear from you heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine, But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant, But by showing you when people and their causes need you most.
And by making you anxious to be there to help.*

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.



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
November	\$ 8,699.53	\$ 8,023.38	\$ 12,058.58	\$ 5,677.20
Year to Date	\$ 98,925.88	\$ 93,248.68		

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
November		\$ 311.25	\$ 28,000.07
Year to Date	\$ 6,728.50	\$ 1,396.41	\$ 28,000.07

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)
November	\$ 255.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (631.67)

*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
November	\$ 210.00		\$ 1,510.12
Year to Date	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 6,914.88	\$ 1,510.12

Offering Totals

11/26/17	\$1,239.03
12/3/17	\$1,326.03
12/10/17	\$880.03
12/17/17	\$1,768.03

Local Mission

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 736.47
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47
March	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47
June/July	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 756.47
August	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756.47
September	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756.47
October	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756.47
November	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 556.47
Year to Date	\$ 20.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 556.47

Special Offerings

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 160.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 166.14	\$ -	\$ 166.14
Sudan Abundance Grant	\$ 115.00	\$ -	\$ 115.00

	Pledge	
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,171.00	\$ 1,000.00
Pentecost	\$ 470.75	\$ 400.00
Peace & Global Witness	\$ 465.00	\$ 375.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 471.00	\$ 75.00
		\$ 546.00

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670

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



Sunday School at 9:45AM
Worship At 11:00AM
Please Join Us!

Church Staff and Officers

Church Staff

Pastor	Cliff Foster
Clerk of Session	Sarabeth Stopansky
Asst. Clerk	Tim D'Aurora
Deacon Moderator	Dave Foresman
Treasurer	John Blank
Financial Secretary	Michelle Kepple
Church Secretary	Dorothy Martz
Music Director	Vicki Walters
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne McInay
Webmaster	John Blank

Elders

Tim D'Aurora
Kathy Hamilton
Carol Hohman
Vince Kemerer
Carol Miller
Terry Selembo
Sarabeth Stopansky
Ronda Weinell
Linda Youngbauer

Deacons

Tom Davis
Dave Foresman
Kathy Kepple Fink
Phyllis Frye
Nancy Lauffer
Lana Munsell
Debbie Perino
Janet Rugh
Shirley Sholtz



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