

February 2018

Volume 42 Issue 2

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

The other day I found myself traveling down the hallway of my memories to when I was younger and to those occasions when my parents would take me shopping for a new pair of winter boots. I remember wearing what would have been considered “normal” winter boots—they were a unique shade of green and had bright yellow laces, some went the whole front of the boot and others had only 3 or 4 holes at the top of the boot. I remember having to write my name on the bottom of each boot, so they would not get mixed up with some of the other kids in my school as we piled them by the heater. Then I remember when snowmobile boots came out—they had a felt liner and they tied at the top to keep the snow from getting inside, and they were so cool. They were the boots I really wanted, but I can’t recall if I got them that year or another year.

The purpose of a winter boot is to keep your feet warm and dry! As I was thinking about the month of February, a month which we often associate with love because of Valentine’s Day, I found myself thinking of those winter boots as a metaphor for the church. Our ministry and mission is to be sharing with others the love of God... a love that enables us to feel warm and safe and secure... a love that engulfs us and lets us know that everything will be ok... a love that enables us to know that we are valuable and special to God... a love that binds us together as sisters and brothers in God’s great family of faith—the Church.

This year the Season of Lent begins on Valentine’s Day with Ash Wednesday. The Season of Lent affords us the opportunity to spend some time reflecting on the depth of God’s love shown to the world in our Lord Jesus Christ. Like a pair of winter boots which keeps our feet warm and dry, our faith enables us to know that we are loved and accepted by God as we traverse the road of life. Hopefully we won’t have to don our winter boots much in the month of February but when we do put on our winter boots, may they remind us to the full extent of God’s love shown to us in Christ. With dry and warm feet may our faith fill us with love for all that God has done and continues to do for us.



Yours in Christ,
Cliff

Worship Leaders For February

Liturgists

2/4	Caroline D'Aurora
2/11	Dave Foresman
2/18	Sarabeth Stopansky
2/25	Deacon Sunday



Those scheduled to serve Communion on February 11th are:

Kathy Hamilton Terry Selembo Sarabeth Stopansky Lana Munsell Dave Foresman

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 February are as follows:

2/4	Avonmore ~ Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply
2/11	Delmont ~ Caroline Vickery, Pastor
2/18	Lower Burrell, Grace Community ~ Ken Foust, Pastor
2/25	Lower Burrell, Puckety ~ Doug Marshall, Interim



Worship Attendance

Worship

12/24	54
12/24	87
12/31	32
1/7	40
1/14	31
1/21	52

Lenten Services

The schedule for the Community Lenten Services has not been shared yet. We will post it on the Website and the Facebook page as soon as it is available.

Remember if you need a ride to or from any activity at Congruity, we will be glad to arrange for someone to pick you up. Please call the office to make arrangements.



Thank You

Thank you to everyone at Congruity for the gift of money. Thank you all.
Ken Moyer

February Celebrations

Birthdays

2/1	Charlotte Foresman	2/18	Ken Sellinger, Jr.
2/3	Dan Frye	2/20	Arlin Smith
2/4	Kathy (Blank) Todd		Kathy Schrecengost Soule
	Jeff Karstaedt	2/21	Daniel Writt
2/7	Dottie D'Aurora	2/22	Elise Bish
2/8	Tom Dudek		Diane D'Aurora
2/9	Elijah Miller	2/25	Clay Kaufman
2/17	Austin Heasley	2/25	Brian Kaufman



Mission

Phyllis Frye

The Pancake Dinner to help support the Redstone Mission Team will be held at Congruity on (Fat, Shrove, etc.) Tuesday, February 13th from 4-7pm. We will be serving regular and blueberry pancakes, sausage, plain and cheesy scrambled eggs, fruit, apple juice, coffee, etc. Adults \$7, children 6-12 \$3, and children under 6 free. There will be baskets for the silent auction and piano music by Dom Coangelo with a Mardi Gras theme. Tickets will be sold at the door. All proceeds go to the Redstone Mission Team for their trip to Fayetteville, NC at the end of April. There will be a sign-up sheet at the church for donations of food items needed. We will also need extra help in the kitchen the night of the dinner.

PDA has designated the first Sunday in Lent (February 18) 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 for peace. If you have a PDA shirt you are asked to wear it. If not, just wear blue.

There are still openings for the Redstone Mission Trip April 21-28 to Fayetteville, NC to do reconstruction after Hurricane Matthew. Most of us are planning to leave Saturday so we can be at Highlands Presbyterian Church to attend worship Sunday morning. If you think you might be interested, contact Phyllis Frye at 724-468-3740 and also plan to help at the Pancake Dinner.

Items From Session

Sarabeth Stopansky



The Session met on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 and reports the following:

Cliff made 25 visits between 12/18/17 and 1/16/18 and attended several church and Presbytery events.

Session approved the following dates: 2/13/18 for the Mission Team's Pancake Dinner, 2/25/18 for the Deacon's Annual White Elephant Auction, and 3/3/18 for the Women's Association hosting the World Day of Prayer Brunch.

Session Members choose the Committees they will serve on for 2018

Christian Ed-Ronda Weinell

Congregational Life-Terry Selembo

MIS- Tim D'Aurora

Personnel-Linda Youngbauer

Property-Kathy Hamilton, Vince Kemerer and Tim D'Aurora

Worship-Carol Miller and Sarabeth Stopansky

2018 Per Capita is \$41.00

Sunday 2/18/18 is PDA Blue Shirt Sunday, church members are encouraged to wear PDA Blue T shirts or any blue shirt to worship that day.

Congruity will be participating in Bags of Hope. Please watch for more details in the bulletin.

The Trustees also met and elected Tim D'Aurora as president for 2018

If you would like to see complete copies of the minutes, please see Cliff Foster or Sarabeth Stopansky



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.



Mission Interpretation and Stewardship Committee

Tim D'Aurora

As we welcome in a wintry new year, let's take a minute to review where 2017 ended. It was a very positive year for the General Fund. We finished with a positive balance of over \$6000. We haven't been able to say that for a long time. Great job!! Unfortunately, our First Fruits balance was not as healthy. We fell short of our pledge by over \$500 and voted to make that up out of our general fund. This year, we need to do a better job of highlighting our First Fruits offering.

Related to this, the per capita amount for every member is \$41.00 this year. We ask that **each member** donate that amount **over and above** their normal contribution. This is the money that goes to Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly for normal operations. It is added to our First Fruit offerings which cover these areas as well as Mission participation. You can put this amount in a separate envelope or just write per capita on your check.

We look forward to an exciting 2018. I'm sure we will have our two Hoagie Sales and two Spaghetti Dinners that we will be looking for help with. More information to follow. And don't forget we have added an on-line giving option for those opting for a cash or check free lifestyle. Go to our website and follow the prompts for on-line giving. Once you set it up, it is very simple to use.



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
December	\$ 11,858.49	\$ 11,247.69	\$ 12,669.38	\$ 6,288.00
Year to Date	\$ 110,784.37	\$ 104,496.37		

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
December	\$ 445.00		\$ 28,445.07
Year to Date	\$ 7,173.50	\$ 1,396.41	\$ 28,445.07

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*	\$ 435.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 1,005.64
May	\$ 365.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 787.31
June/July	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,166.66	\$ 320.65
August	\$ 485.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 222.32
September	\$ 350.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (11.01)
October	\$ 330.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (264.34)
November	\$ 255.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (592.67)
December	\$ 593.74	\$ 583.33	\$ (582.26)

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
*Per Capita to Date	\$ 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
December	\$ 356.74		\$ 1,866.86
Year to Date	\$ 6,756.74	\$ 6,914.88	\$ 1,866.86

Offering Totals

Local Mission

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance		
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 736.47	12/24/17 am	\$2,348.03
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47	12/24/17 pm	\$3,062.00
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47	12/31/17	\$1,175.03
March	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47	1/7/18	\$1,371.00
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47	1/14/18	\$ 795.00
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 736.47		
June/July	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 756.47		
August	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756.47		
September	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756.47		
October	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 756.47		
November	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 556.47		
December	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 556.47		
Year to Date	\$ 20.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 556.47		

Special Offerings

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 160.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 166.14	\$ 8.00	\$ 174.14
Sudan Abundance Grant	\$ 115.00	\$ -	\$ 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
Christmas Joy	\$ 810.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 360.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 471.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 546.00

Congruity Presbyterian Church
136 Fenneltown Road
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

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