

January 2019

Volume 43 Issue 1

CONGRUITY CONNECTION



Cliff's Notes

In a few days we will be crossing the threshold of the new year of 2019. The other day I was thinking about the New Year and making some tentative plans and looking forward to some of the things that will unfold in these next 12 months—those various mile markers along the way of birthdays, anniversaries and other special celebrations. I was reminded in the 365 days that will comprise 2019, that none of us knows for sure what will transpire or happen during this upcoming year, we have plans and hopes and dreams.

As I was thinking about 2019, two passages of Scripture came to my mind as we embark on a brand new year of life. The first is from Isaiah 43:19 and the Lord says "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert..." The second is from Revelation 21:5 which goes like this: "And the one seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new'." I think these are wonderful verses to keep in mind as we begin our journey through the year 2019. Our faith enables us to know that God is going to do new and amazing things in the days that lay before us and as the beloved children of God may we live into this brand new year with the confidence and assurance that comes to us through our faith.

One of the themes that you will be hearing a lot about in 2019 is generosity. We will be challenged to express our gratitude and thanks for all that God has done for us and continues to do for us through expressions of generosity in our time, our talents and abilities and with our financial resources. It is my hope and prayer that the feeling of generosity that fills the air in the Season of Christmas might permeate throughout 2019 in all that we do as individuals and as a church family.

In the unfolding year of 2019, may we find new and creative ways of generosity to God for the wonderful new things that God is about to do in and around and among us in these next 12 months. Happy New Year to each of you and yours!

Yours in Christ,
Cliff

Worship Leaders For January

1/6 Evelyn Foresman

1/13 Doug Stine

1/20 Rhea Summit

1/27 Tim D'Aurora



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

Those scheduled to served communion on January 13 are: Vince Kemerer, Kathy Hamilton Sarabeth Stopansky, Tom Davis & Lana Munsell

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:

1/6 Apollo, Poke Run —Pete Goetschius, Pastor

1/13 Avonmore—Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply

1/20 Delmont—Caroline Vickery, Pastor

1/27 Redstone Presbytery Member At Large—Becky Maiman



Worship Attendance

Worship		Sunday School		
		Youth	Adult	Total
11/25	61	6	20	26
12/2	66	11	22	33
12/9	62	9	16	25
12/16	69	8	21	29

Thank you

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Congruity Church family for the generous gift you gave me this Christmas. Your gift is very much appreciated. Love, Cliff

Auditing Committee

Richard Youngbauer

Auditing Committee Notice

On January 13th, 2019 the auditing committee will be auditing the church's financial books. Please have the books in the office by the thirteenth of January.

January Celebrations

Birthdays

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



Anniversaries



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



Congregational Meeting

Phyllis Frye



Each family is asked to bring a quart of vegetable soup to the congregational meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2019. We will put it all together and enjoy it, after church, along with chipped ham BBQ sandwiches and cake while we listen to all the exciting things Congruity has done throughout the year of 2018.



Items From Session

Sarabeth Stopansky

The Session met on December 18, 2019 and reports the following:

Cliff thanked Linda Youngbauer for her 6 years of service. The December meeting was Linda's last meeting. Cliff welcomed Evelyn Foresman and Perry Miller to the meeting, both will begin their terms on January 1, 2019.

Cliff made 21 visits since the last meeting. He also officiated at the Funeral of Wilbur "Bud" Hawkey on November 20, 2018. Cliff officiated at the Wedding of Alyssa Martz and Joshua Rader on November 24, 2018.

2019 Committee assignments were given:

Christian Ed- Evelyn Foresman, Congregational Life-Terry Selembo,
Communications-Sarabeth Stopansky, MIS-Tim D' Aurora and Carol Hohman,
Property- Tim D' Aurora, Kathy Hamilton, Vince Kemerer and Perry Miller,
Personnel- Vince Kemerer, and Kathy Hamilton, Nominating-Carol Hohman,
Worship-Carol Miller and Sarabeth Stopansky.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE ON ANY COMMITTEE, PLEASE SEE ONE OF THE SESSION MEMBERS SERVING ON IT.

Session ratified the email vote to permit Tim And Caroline D' Aurora to host a fraud protection information evening in conjunction with First Commonwealth Bank. This event was held on Tuesday December 11, 2018.

Session approved a motion to just send the monies collected to First Fruits. (In the past if our pledge was not met we had taken money from the General Fund to make up the difference) Due to the amount of money taken in for First Fruits the Session voted to lower the 2019 Pledge to \$6500

Items From Session Continued

Session approved the Communion dates for 2019. They are:

January 13-Baptism of the Lord

March 3-Transfiguration of the Lord

April 18-Maundy Thursday

June 9- Pentecost

August 4

October 6-World Communion

November 24 Christ the King Sunday

December 22- Fourth Sunday of Advent.

If you would like to see any complete Session Minutes please see Cliff Foster or Sarabeth Stopansky



Mission
Phyllis Frye

The Redstone Mission Team is to meet on Sunday, February 3 at 3pm at Phyllis Frye's home to finalize plans for the trip to Ronceverte, WV on March 24-30, 2019. If you would like to go, contact Phyllis at 724-468-3740. We still have lots of room for more volunteers. We will be working in Greenbriar County.

Out of pocket expense is \$100 due at the pancake dinner on March 5 (members of Mission will help serve the dinner). The rest of the \$250 camp fee (\$150) will be taken out of the mission team fund.



Christmas at Congruity



Mission Interpretation & Stewardship Committee

Tim D'Aurora

As we prepare to embrace a new year, we need to reflect on the positives and negatives of the previous one. 2018 was a bit of a struggle financially for our church. Where we had achieved a position of financial security by the end of 2017, that security was mostly eroded by the end of 2018. While we don't have the end of the year totals available at the time of this writing, it is pretty clear that we will fall short of where we need to be. Our First Fruits collection was also significantly below the expected totals however as we have done in other years the Session voted to make up the shortage from the General Fund. We did lower our pledge to Presbytery for 2019 to hopefully prevent this from happening again.

In the past, we have tried to encourage increased giving by asking everyone to prayerfully consider what they can give and also to remind everyone when we are in dire financial conditions. This "sky is falling" approach may not be the most successful available. This year, we are going to try to focus on the positives and encourage giving by stressing generosity as a theme. When we remember how generous God has been to us, we should want to reciprocate that generosity. And we hope to highlight the many good works that we accomplish through our giving. Obviously, there is a large commitment required just to provide a regular place of worship and a staff for that worship. But we want to go above and beyond that. With the help of everyone, we can achieve great things.

As part of every member's financial responsibility to the church, we collect the Per Capita for each member. This is the amount that we have to send to Presbytery for every member on our rolls. This year that amount is \$42.50 per person and should be given over and above your normal giving. Please mark either your check or your envelope "per capita".

In closing, I want to share with you a quote from J. Hudson Taylor. "God's work, done in God's way, will never lack for funds. Generosity is contagious. God never promised to meet our budget, only our needs."

Treasurer's Report by John Blank

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	Year To Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 7,569.77	
January	\$ 8,972.33	\$ 9,145.74	\$ 7,396.36	\$ (173.41)
February	\$ 5,912.32	\$ 9,030.81	\$ 4,277.87	\$ (3,291.90)
March	\$ 8,043.97	\$ 9,013.81	\$ 3,308.03	\$ (4,261.74)
April	\$ 9,674.34	\$ 8,704.09	\$ 4,278.28	\$ (3,291.49)
May	\$ 5,887.00	\$ 7,812.13	\$ 2,353.15	\$ (5,216.62)
June	\$ 6,708.96	\$ 9,733.22	\$ (671.11)	\$ (8,240.88)
July	\$ 5,926.25	\$ 8,158.97	\$ (2,903.83)	\$ (10,473.60)
August	\$ 8,257.23	\$ 7,387.59	\$ (2,034.19)	\$ (9,603.96)
September	\$ 11,356.09	\$ 8,058.12	\$ 1,263.78	\$ (6,305.99)
October	\$ 10,302.66	\$ 7,604.24	\$ 3,962.20	\$ (3,607.57)
November	\$ 9,068.50	\$ 11,140.86	\$ 1,889.84	\$ (5,679.93)
Year to Date	\$ 90,109.65	\$ 95,789.58	\$ (5,679.93)	\$ (5,679.93)

Memorial Fund

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 28,445.07
January	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 28,645.07
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,645.07
March	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
June	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
July	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
August	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,720.07
September	\$ -	\$ 864.62	\$ 27,855.45
October	\$ 1,377.02	\$ 864.63	\$ 28,367.84
November	\$ 120.00	\$ 179.95	\$ 28,307.89
Year to Date	\$ 1,772.02	\$ 1,909.20	\$ 28,307.89

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 522.00	\$ 583.37	\$ (61.37)
February*	\$ 1,143.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 498.30
March*	\$ 843.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 757.97
April*	\$ 524.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 698.64
May*	\$ 480.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 595.31
June	\$ 250.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 261.98
July	\$ 520.00	\$ 583.33	\$ 198.65
August	\$ 265.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (119.68)
September*	\$ 295.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (408.01)
October*	\$ 471.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (520.34)
November	\$ 335.00	\$ 583.33	\$ (768.67)

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
<u>*Per Capita to Date</u>	\$ 2,214.00	\$ -	\$ 2,214.00

(INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND)**Building Maintenance**

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance
-			
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 1,866.86
January	\$ 180.00		\$ 2,046.86
February	\$ 210.00		\$ 2,256.86
March	\$ 215.00		\$ 2,471.86
April	\$ 305.00		\$ 2,776.86
May	\$ 140.00		\$ 2,916.86
June	\$ 210.00		\$ 3,126.86
July	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 736.86
August	\$ 230.00		\$ 966.86
September	\$ 515.00		\$ 1,481.86
October	\$ 240.00		\$ 1,721.86
November	\$ 260.00		\$ 1,981.86
Year to Date	\$ 5,265.00	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 1,981.86

Online Giving
QR Code**Local Mission**

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 556.47
January	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 356.47
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
March	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
June	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
July	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
August	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 356.47
September (Auction)	\$ 831.50	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
October	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
November	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
Year to Date	\$ 831.50	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,187.97

Offering Totals

11/25	\$2,011
12/2	\$1,956
12/9	\$6,569
12/16	\$1,214

Special Offerings

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 225.00	\$ -	\$ 225.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 185.36	\$ -	\$ 185.36

	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,018.31	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 18.31
Pentecost	\$ 825.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 425.00
Peace/Global Witness	\$ 359.00	\$ 375.00	\$ (16.00)
Christmas Joy	\$ -	\$ 450.00	\$ (450.00)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 317.00	\$ -	\$ 317.00

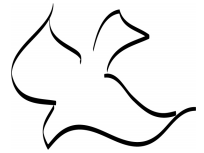
Congruity Presbyterian Church
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New Alexandria PA 15670



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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 McIlnay
Webmaster	John Blank

Elders

Tim D'Aurora
Evelyn Foresman
Kathy Hamilton
Carol Hohman
Vince Kemerer
Carol Miller
Perry Miller
Terry Selembo
Sarabeth Stopansky

Deacons

Tom Davis
Sue Derek
Dave Foresman
Kathy Kepple Fink
Phyllis Frye
Nancy Lauffer
Lana Munsell
Janet Rugh
Shirley Stoltz



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