

February 2020

Volume 44 Issue 2

# CONGRUITY CONNECTION



## *Cliff's Notes*

What comes to your mind when you think of the month of February? Is it Valentine's Day? Perhaps it is Super Bowl Sunday and looking forward to the big game or watching the various commercials, or participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring where funds are collected for the Westmoreland County Food Bank. Is it waiting to hear the prediction that Punxsutawney Phil will make for how many more weeks of winter there will be? Maybe it is looking forward to the Deacon White Elephant Sale and Covered Dish dinner on February 16<sup>th</sup> which is always a fun and laughter filled event? Are you patiently awaiting the start of the Daytona 500 and the new NASCAR season? Perhaps you are waiting for the start of the Pirate's Spring Training and counting the days? Or is it the fact that 2020 is a leap year in which there are 29 days in February? Maybe you are looking forward to the annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner which will be on February 25<sup>th</sup>? For the shortest month of the year, February sure has a lot of things that fill our calendar.

One of the things that struck me as I was thinking about all of the various activities associated with the month of February is the image of love. In addition to Valentine's Day, we begin the Season of Lent at the end of the month... that period of reflecting on all that God has done for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Lent affords us the opportunity to spend some time reflecting on the full extent of love that God has shown us. Some of us may give something up for Lent as a way for us to focus on all that Christ did for us, others of us may add some new activity or set aside additional time for prayer, reading the Bible or some other discipline.

I like the idea of focusing and reflecting on love during the month of February especially as it leads us into our Lenten journey that will end at the empty tomb on Easter morning. As we commence our journey through Lent, may we keep the benediction from 2 Corinthians 13:13 in mind: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."

Yours in Christ,

*Cliff*



## Worship Leaders For February

February 2 Sarabeth Stopansky  
 February 9 Tim D'Aurora  
 February 16 Dave Foresman  
 February 23 Phyllis Frye



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

Those scheduled to serve Communion on February 23:

Sarabeth Stopansky, Terry Selembo, Matt Cunningham, Lana Munsell, Dave Foresman

## Separated By Space -

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

<b>February 2</b>	New Kensington	✝ Wendy Keys, Pastor
<b>February 9</b>	Apollo, Poke Run	✝ Pete Goetschius, Pastor
<b>February 16</b>	Avonmore	✝ Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply
<b>February 23</b>	Redstone Presbytery	✝ Cliff Buell, Member- at- Large

## CONGRUITY NEWSLETTER



Please submit any newsletter articles to [congruitynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:congruitynewsletter@gmail.com) or put it in the folder at the church by Sunday, February 16th.

-Kathy Hamilton

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I want thank to my Congruity family and friends for your very generous gift this Christmas season.

Recently a covered dish dinner was held for me after church to honor my years as the church secretary. It was so nice to be thought of in this way. I want to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts, support and well wishes. I am truly blessed with this loving church family.

Thank you one and all!

Love  
Dorothy Martz



## February Celebrations



### Birthdays

2/1	Charlotte Foresman
2/3	Dan Frye
2/4	Kathy (Blank) Todd
	Jeff Karstaedt
2/7	Dottie D' Aurora
2/8	Tom Dudek
2/9	Elijah Miller
2/17	Austin Heasley
2/18	Ken Sellinger, Jr.
2/20	Arlin Smith
	Kathy Schrecengost Soule
2/21	Daniel Writt
2/22	Elise Bish
	Diane D' Aurora
2/25	Clay Kaufman
2/25	Brian Kaufman
2/27	Stephanie Cunningham

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be collecting funds for the Souper Bowl of Caring, with proceeds going to the **Westmoreland County Food Bank**. Their 2019 annual report says, "Souper Bowl of Caring helps empower youth, unite communities and inspire care and compassion for others." Last year we collected \$211. By working together, we can demonstrate how our COLLECTIVE EFFORTS make a SIGNIFICANT IMPACT on our neighbors in need." May our **efforts** make an **impact** in the lives of our neighbors in need.



### Worship Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School		
		Youth	Adult	Total
12/22	55	12	12	24
12/24	102	-	-	-
12/29	30	6	12	18
1/5	45	11	12	23
1/12	64	12	16	28
1/19	31	5	12	17

### IN SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the McInay family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Scott's mother Violet's death. May God's presence bring you comfort and strength in your time of loss.

May time  
help the hurt  
just as *Memories*  
fill the  
*Heart*

### THANK YOU!

To everyone at Congruity Church,

Thank you very much for the  
Christmas gift.

Signed, Ken Moyer

## *Items From Session* *Sarabeth Stopansky*



### **Finding God \* Growing in Faith \* Discovering Purpose \* Making a Difference**

The Session met Monday, January, 20, 2020 and reports the following items:

- Tim D'Aurora was elected president of the Board of Trustees for 2020.
- Approved Dates for the Deacon's events throughout 2020 including the White Elephant Auction on February 16, 2020.
- Set the date for the annual joint meeting of the Deacons and Session for Sunday March 15, 2020
- Approved updated Committee Responsibilities document and the Deacon's Handbook.
- Approved the use of Fellowship Hall as a drop off location for Operation Shoebox. Phyllis Frye has offered to head up this project.
- Approved a request from Union Mission to hold a Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall sometime in 2020. The Mission's dinner will not be in conflict with any dinners planned by Congruity.
- Voted to go ahead with the Pavilion Project with Greg Kaufman to build it.
- Approved April 4, 2020 as the date of the annual Rummage Sale.

If you would like to see complete minutes of any meeting please see Cliff Foster or Sarabeth Stopansky .



### *Mission Interpretation & Stewardship Committee* *Tim D'Aurora*

Our committee is looking for a few good men ... and women. We could use some new blood and would appreciate additional involvement from the congregation. This committee deals with the church finances and our mission concerns. We meet 4 to 6 times a year and will be moving our meetings to after church on the third Sunday of the month. Please contact Tim D'Aurora at 724-668-8319 or Rev. Cliff Foster to help out.

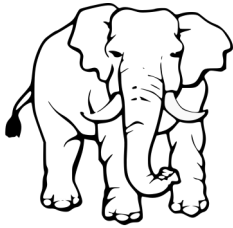
**Please prayerfully consider donating your Per Capita of \$42.50**  
and noting it as Per Capita on your donation.

For several years, we have had an ongoing struggle with our understanding of our **First Fruits** giving and the relationship with our **Per Capita** apportionment. First Fruits encompasses all of our donation to Redstone Presbytery to assist in covering costs for administration and the Presbytery's Mission Projects. We pledge to the Presbytery every year and have always made up any shortfall from our General Fund. Per Capita is the amount that has been calculated by Presbytery to cover their combined expenses. This is part of our First Fruits giving. Many years ago, we used the term Benevolence instead of First Fruits. Our Per Capita amount this year is **\$42.50 per person**. That is not a total per family or giving unit, but for each individual member of our congregation. While we have improved the amount of Per Capita we have collected over the last few years, we have still come up significantly short of what should be collected.

## Items From Deacons

Dave Foresman

### \*\*Deacon Sunday—February 16, 2020—White Elephant Auction!!\*\*



The Deacons will be taking part in the worship service and after church we'll have our Annual White Elephant Auction and Covered Dish Luncheon. Please bring a covered dish to share and a wrapped gift or two for the auction. The Deacons will provide table service, bread, and drinks. This is a great afternoon : delicious food and a fun time for fellowship! This is also the only fundraiser the Deacons have all year ~ we would really appreciate everyone's support! We can't wait to see you all there!



Mission  
Phyllis Frye

### PANCAKE DINNER

(Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras) will be hosted on Tuesday, Feb 25, 4-7pm  
at Congruity Presbyterian Church.  
Adults \$8, Children 6-12 \$3, under 6 free.



All you can eat regular and blueberry pancakes, regular and cheesy scrambled eggs, sausage, fruit and beverage. There will be a Mardi Gras theme with live music and silent auction. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more info contact the church at 724-668-7740. All proceeds benefit the mission trips. There will be a sign-up sheet for donations in the greeting room. Please come out and support the Mission Team.

Volunteers are expected to help at the Pancake Dinner fund-raiser on Tues Feb 25 at Congruity.

The Redstone Mission Team has set the week of March 21-28 for a spring mission trip to Hampdon, WV (Mingo County). Cost is \$100 . There is also a summer trip planned for July 11-18 to St Albans WV (near Charleston) which is open to youth ages 14 and up. More about the summer trip later. If interested in either trip, please contact Phyllis Frye at 724-468-3740 or e-mail at [pfrye1234@windstream.net](mailto:pfrye1234@windstream.net).



Women's Association  
Debbie Perino



For anyone interested in purchasing Rada knives and more, there will be a book in the back of the church to place your order or see Debbie Perino.



**\*\*Save the Date\*\***

Rummage sale April 4. Start saving your items!!!



# Treasurer's Report

## by John Blank

### TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT December-2019

#### General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	Year To Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 12,214.89	
January	\$ 6,097.39	\$ 8,738.55	\$ 9,573.73	\$ (2,641.16)
February	\$ 4,022.93	\$ 10,022.70	\$ 3,573.96	\$ (8,640.93)
March	\$ 5,637.13	\$ 8,460.52	\$ 750.57	\$ (11,464.32)
April	\$ 8,987.70	\$ 9,291.08	\$ 447.19	\$ (11,767.70)
May	\$ 13,002.33	\$ 11,114.79	\$ 2,334.73	\$ (9,880.16)
June	\$ 13,281.89	\$ 8,550.55	\$ 7,066.07	\$ (5,148.82)
July	\$ 8,836.42	\$ 10,182.29	\$ 5,720.20	\$ (6,494.69)
August	\$ 6,993.87	\$ 7,175.81	\$ 5,538.26	\$ (6,676.63)
September	\$ 9,717.37	\$ 7,279.12	\$ 7,976.51	\$ (4,238.38)
October	\$ 7,906.11	\$ 8,097.48	\$ 7,785.14	\$ (4,429.75)
November	\$ 11,226.65	\$ 11,507.55	\$ 7,504.24	\$ (4,710.65)
December	\$ 12,216.92	\$ 9,467.31	\$ 10,253.85	\$ (1,961.04)
Year to Date	\$ 107,926.71	\$ 109,887.75	\$ 10,253.85	\$ (1,961.04)

#### Memorial Fund

	Adjusted Balance as of January 1	Adjusted Balance as of January 1	Adjusted Balance as of January 1	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>					\$ 28,617.89
January	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 28,617.89
February	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 28,617.89
March	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 28,617.89
April	\$ 500.00			\$ -	\$ 29,117.89
May	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 29,117.89
June	\$ 400.00				\$ 29,517.89
July	\$ 2,384.07				\$ 31,901.96
August	\$ 100.00				\$ 32,001.96
September	\$ 70.00				\$ 32,071.96
October	\$ 100.00				\$ 32,171.96
November	\$ -				\$ 32,171.96
December	\$ 25.00				\$ 32,196.96
Year to Date	\$ 3,579.07			\$ -	\$ 32,196.96

#### First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 880.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 338.34
February*	\$ 555.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 351.68
March*	\$ 382.50	\$ 541.66	\$ 192.52
April*	\$ 480.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 130.86
May*	\$ 457.50	\$ 541.66	\$ 46.70
June*	\$ 847.50	\$ 541.66	\$ 352.54
July*	\$ 252.50	\$ 541.66	\$ 63.38
August*	\$ 305.00	\$ 541.66	\$ (173.28)
September*	\$ 332.50	\$ 541.66	\$ (382.44)
October	\$ 410.00	\$ 541.66	\$ (514.10)
November*	\$ 832.50	\$ 541.66	\$ (223.26)
December	\$ 275.00	\$ 541.74	\$ (490.00)

\*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
<u>*Per Capita to Date</u>	\$ 2,719.50	\$ -	\$ 2,719.50



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

	<b>NET Receipts</b>	<b>NET Expenses</b>	<b>Actual Balance</b>
-			
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 2,186.86
January	\$ 195.00	\$ -	\$ 2,381.86
February	\$ 130.00	\$ 2,610.00	\$ (98.14)
March	\$ 220.00	\$ 2,610.00	\$ (2,488.14)
April	\$ 230.00	\$ -	\$ (2,258.14)
May	\$ 5,360.00		\$ 3,101.86
June	\$ 240.00		\$ 3,341.86
July	\$ 170.00		\$ 3,511.86
August	\$ 170.00		\$ 3,681.86
September	\$ 125.00	\$ 159.00	\$ 3,647.86
October	\$ 255.00		\$ 3,902.86
November	\$ 150.00		\$ 4,052.86
December	\$ 190.00		\$ 4,242.86
Year to Date	\$ 7,435.00	\$ 5,379.00	\$ 4,242.86



Online  
Giving  
QR

**Local Mission**

	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 1,187.97
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
March	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
June	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
July	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
August	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
September	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
October	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,187.97
November(auction)	\$ 1,305.00	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
December	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
Year to Date	\$ 1,305.00	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97

*Offering  
Totals*

12/15/19	\$	1,197.00
12/22/19	\$	1,390.00
12/24/19	\$	3,359.00
12/29/19	\$	993.50
1/5/2020	\$	1,850.42
1/12/2020	\$	2,323.00

**Special Offerings**

	<b>Previous</b>	<b>This Month</b>	<b>To Date</b>
<b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b>	\$ 211.00	\$ -	\$ 211.00
<b>Cents-Ability</b>	\$ 277.14	\$ 8.00	\$ 285.14
	<b>Received</b>	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>OGHS</b>	\$ 1,211.59	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 211.59
<b>Pentecost</b>	\$ 445.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 45.00
<b>Peace/Global Witness</b>	\$ 445.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 70.00
<b>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</b>	\$ 188.00	\$ -	\$ 188.00
<b>Christmas Joy</b>	\$ 575.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 175.00

Congruity Presbyterian Church  
136 Fenneltown Road  
New Alexandria PA 15670



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We're on Facebook & the web!  
[congruitychurch.org](http://congruitychurch.org)

Finding God \* Growing in Faith \* Discovering Purpose \* Making a Difference



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



## *Church Staff and Officers*

### *Church Staff*

<b>Pastor</b>	Cliff Foster
<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Sarabeth Stopansky
<b>Asst. Clerk</b>	Tim D'Aurora
<b>Deacon Moderator</b>	Dave Foresman
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Blank
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Michelle Kepple
<b>Church Secretary</b>	Debbie Perino
<b>Music Director</b>	Vicki Walters
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Kathy Hamilton
<b>Webmaster</b>	John Blank

### *Elders*

Matt Cunningham  
Tim D'Aurora  
Evelyn Foresman  
Kathy Hamilton  
Vince Kemerer  
Nancy Lauffer  
Terry Selembo  
Sarabeth Stopansky

### *Deacons*

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



Cliff is in the office most mornings.  
Please put newsletter items in the folder at the church or email to  
[congruitynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:congruitynewsletter@gmail.com)