

March 2020

Volume 44 Issue 3

# CONGRUITY CONNECTION



## *Cliff's Notes*

When I was growing up, I remember always looking forward to the month of March. Part of the anticipation was preparing to enjoy a feast of Corned Beef and Cabbage on St. Patrick's Day, which in a predominate Irish Catholic small town was almost a high holy day. One of the things that always stood out in my mind was that on March 17th everyone was Irish and that it was a day for "the wearin' of the green". Another part of looking forward to the arrival of March was that the days grew longer and it wouldn't be long until spring arrived with the sight of the first robin or the annual flowers breaking through the ground.

The other day I found myself thinking about those things as we are getting ready for the arrival of March this year. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8 and we will spring ahead so that we can enjoy a longer period of sunshine (hopefully). I would like to highlight a couple of things that will begin this month, and there is more information in this Newsletter about the following activities: the schedule of the Community Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings at 7PM; and beginning on March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be having our Lenten Lunch Learning time. Although we have not had a "bad" winter, we begin our Lenten journey towards the empty tomb of Easter amidst the sights and sounds of rebirth and renewal. In the Lenten Season may we experience a time of renewal and rebirth as well.

As you may be aware, I am proud of my Irish heritage but I also like the image conveyed on St. Patrick's Day that everyone is Irish because as people of faith we know that we all belong to God and that we are part of God's great family of faith—the Church, the Body of Christ. In the Season of Lent, let us affirm and celebrate our oneness in Christ and experience those powerful words of Paul from the end of Romans 8 that "nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Yours in Christ,

*Cliff*



## Worship Leaders For March

March 1	John Blank
March 8	Caroline D'Aurora
March 15	Doug Stine
March 22	Janet Rugh
March 29	Cliff Foster



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

## Separated By Space - United In Prayer

The Redstone Presbytery District congregations and pastors from District1 for our prayer support

March 1	Delmont	✝	Caroline Vickery, Pastor
March 8	Lower Burrell, Grace Community	✝	Ken Foust, Pastor
March 15	Lower Burrell, Puckety	✝	Skip Noftzger, Interim
March 22	Murrysville, First	✝	Ed Gray, Pastor
March 29	Redstone Presbytery	✝	Lisa Dormire, Member-at-Large



## IMPORTANT DATES

### New Alexandria Ministerial Association COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	SERVICE
March 4	7PM	UMC	Cliff Foster, preaching
March 11	7PM	Congruity	Charlie Brownawell, preaching
March 18	7PM	CUP	Sharon Waltenbaugh, preaching
March 25	7PM	No Walls	Wayne Duffield, preaching
April 1	7PM	UMC	Dan Schall, Concert
April 10	7PM	Congruity	Good Friday, Tenebrae Service

# March Celebrations



## Birthdays

3/2	Jason Orr
3/3	Janet Rugh
3/4	Karen Dudek
3/7	Jacob Derek
3/8	Geri Kaufman Debbie Marchelletta Nancy Schweppe
3/9	Alicia D' Aurora
3/10	Ken Walters
3/11	Jessica D' Aurora
3/13	Nancy Walters
3/14	Alison Derek Sullivan Janet Henry
3/18	April Hawkey Richards Dana Kaufman
3/19	Michael Kaufman Betty Murphy
3/20	Sandy Kemerer Matt MacDonald
3/24	Colten Tarpay
3/25	Pam Foresman Lana Munsell
3/26	Bill Heasley
3/27	Adrian Frye
3/28	Robert Watt
3/29	Marlene Kifer
3/30	Perry Miller IV

## Anniversaries



Date	Anniversaries
3/3/2006	Vince & Sandy Kemerer
3/28/1981	Tom & Rosemary Orr
3/29/1981	Ron & Mary Ann Kaufman

## Worship Attendance

Worship	Sunday School			Total
	Youth	Adult		
1/26	54	10	19	29
2/2	34	8	14	22
2/9	43	5	18	23
2/16	46	4	17	21

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The 2020 World Day of Prayer will be held at Community United Presbyterian Church on **Saturday March 7 at 9:30 am**. There will be a continental breakfast. The country in the forefront is **Zimbabwe**.



## 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, March 22nd.

-Kathy Hamilton

*Items From Session*  
Sarabeth Stopansky



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

The Session met Monday, February 17, 2020 and reports the following items:

- Approved A request from Becky Davis for a memorial plaque in honor of Ronda Weinell.
- Approved the follow the following dates for spaghetti Dinners May 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Approved goals for Special Offerings for 2020. OGHS-\$1000, Pentecost-\$400, Peace and Global Witness-\$375 and Joy-\$400.
- Approve Rev. Foster's vacation request for April 13-19. This is 7 days including 1 Sunday.
- Voted to rescind the vote that approved using Congruity as a drop off station for Operation Shoebox. John Blank brought some concerns to MIS asking them to revisit the decision and provided Session with several articles about the organization, the usefulness of the items sent in the shoeboxes and several alternative options to help those in need both locally and worldwide.
- Voted to have a Lenten program for children . The children will be excused after the Children's Sermon and work on a few projects for Palm Sunday and Easter.
- Voted to only have one Service on Easter Sunday. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 AM and Worship will be at 10:00 AM. The Children will take part in that Service. Post cards will be sent out reminding folks of all worship opportunities from Palm Sunday-Easter and Highlighting the time change.
- Heard from Sue Derek and Dave Foresman about a training session they attended on Church Safety issues. The Session and Deacons will investigate to this further at their joint meeting next month.

For a complete set of any minutes, please see Sarabeth Stopansky or Cliff Foster.

*Christian Life*  
Terry Selembo



**Who's Who?**

Mark your calendars!!! On Sunday, March 29th we will be having a covered dish dinner immediately following the worship service.

We would like everyone to bring a photo of themselves when they were younger.  
And we will attempt to guess Who's Who in our church family.

And don't forget your photo ... in addition to your covered dish...

## *Items From Deacons*

*Dave Foresman*

### **\*\*Help Provide Flowers for Sunday Service\*\***



Please help out the Deacons by signing up to provide flowers for Sunday services. It is \$40 per Sunday and the sign-up calendar is on the wall in the greeting room at the back of the sanctuary. There are plenty of Sundays available to provide memorial flowers or flowers in honor of your loved ones.

-- Congruity Deacons

### **THANK YOU!**

Thanks to all, the Deacons made a profit of \$1068 at February's White Elephant Sale.



*Mission  
Phyllis Frye*

Please pray for the Redstone Mission Team going to Point Pleasant WV March 21-28.

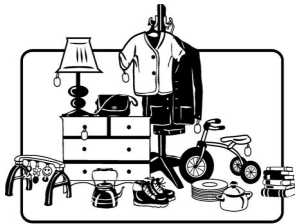
### **THANK YOU!**

to all who helped to support the team at the pancake dinner last month!

If interested in more information on mission work, please contact Phyllis Frye at 724-468-3740 or e-mail at [pfrye1234@windstream.net](mailto:pfrye1234@windstream.net).



*Women's Association  
Debbie Perino*



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

Rummage sale April 4. Start saving your items!!!  
We are also looking for ideas or someone to take the leftovers.

Reminder: The **World Day of Prayer** will be held at Community United Presbyterian Church, **Saturday, March 7th at 9:30am**. A continental breakfast will be served.

Please bring **cookies** to share for the **community Lenten service March 11th** at Congruity,



## Mission Interpretation & Stewardship Committee

*Tim D'Aurora*

I wanted to begin by thanking everyone who has already paid their Per Capita for 2020! While there are still a significant number of members who we hope will still make their contribution, we are pleased to report that at the end of January, we have collected almost twice as much as last January. This is a great start and we hope everyone continues this positive momentum. As a reminder, the **Per Capita for this year is \$42.50 per member**, not per household.

Also, thanks to everyone who contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year we collected \$247.00. Great Job!!

<b>2020 Special Collection Goals:</b>	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1000.00
	Pentecost	\$ 400.00
	Peace & Global Witness	\$ 375.00
	Christmas Joy	\$ 400.00

Last year we were excited to exceed our goals for each of these special offerings. With your help, we can do that again this year.

We have set the dates for our **Spaghetti Dinners** for the year. The first one will be held on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the second one will be Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be asking for donations of ingredients and also baskets for the basket raffle. Details will be forthcoming.

This year we are going to try a little different approach for our **Hoagie Sales**. We will meet on Friday and deliver the hoagies on Saturday with the opportunity to sell hoagies at a few select locations. Hopefully, this will let us significantly grow our sales and profits. The dates haven't been selected yet, as we are trying to avoid conflicts with established selling organizations like the band and the Boy Scouts. Once again, details will be forthcoming.



## Join Us Through Lent

*Rhea Summit*

Lent is a season of preparation and a time to open the doors of our hearts wider and to draw nearer to God. If Jesus is calling you to a closer walk with Him ... to be blessed, transformed, restored, and challenged prayerfully consider joining us on a Lenten journey.

We will spend 40 days with Jesus, drawing on select devotionals from Sarah Young's bestselling **Jesus Calling** and supporting passages from the Bible. We will meet **every Tuesday in March from 12:00 to 1:00 pm** in Congruity's Fellowship Hall, just bring your Bible and your lunch.

Devotional booklets for our study will be available so you may begin the journey on Ash Wednesday and be prepared for our first meeting on **March 3, 2020**. Please see Cliff to sign up and receive your material.



# Treasurer's Report

by John Blank



## TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT -2020

### General

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	To Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 9,980.77	
January	\$ 6,808.84	\$ 8,808.87	\$ 7,980.74	\$ (2,000.03)
Year to Date	\$ 6,808.84	\$ 8,808.87	\$ 7,980.74	\$ (2,000.03)

### Memorial

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$
Year to Date	\$ -	\$ -	\$

### First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 541.74	\$ 618.26

\*Includes

### \*Per Capita to Date

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
	\$ -	\$ 910.00	\$ 910.00

## *Offering Totals*

### Building Maintenance

	NET Re-	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	Date	Offering
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 4,242.86	01/19/20	\$ 817.00
January	\$	\$ -	\$ 4,412.86	01/26/20	\$ 1,215.00
Year to Date	\$	\$ -	\$ 4,412.86	02/02/20	\$ 1,517.00

### Local Mission

	Re-	Expenses	Balance	Date	Offering
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 2,492.97	02/09/20	\$ 967.00
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97	02/16/20	\$ 680.00
Year to Date	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97		

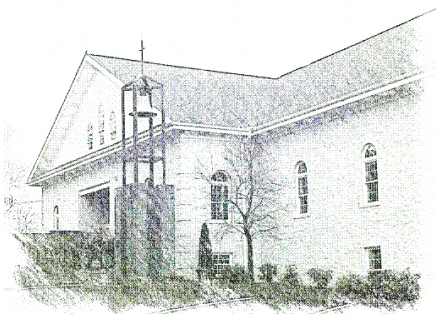
Online  
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 136 Fennelton Road  
 New Alexandria PA 15670  
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We're on Facebook & the web!  
[congruitychurch.org](http://congruitychurch.org)

**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.