

# Congruity Connections

## CLIFF'S NOTES

Over the years I have jokingly said that at some point I was going to write a book. The book would cover all those things I needed to know about ministry but were not taught in Seminary. A chapter in that book would be on what to do in the midst of a pandemic like the one we are experiencing with the Corona virus. We are faithfully walking through some uncharted waters as we seek new and creative ways to be the church in the midst of a time of social distancing and prevention to curb the spread of the virus.

I was thinking earlier today about the hand game that we used to play, about opening the doors and seeing all of the people. Do you remember playing that game with your kids or grandkids? In this unique time in history, I found myself thinking about the disciples and Mary Magdalene and the other women who went to the tomb on that first Easter morning. Little did they know, how everything was about to change because of the resurrection. The disciples who were cowering in fear after the resurrections courageously proclaimed the Gospel message to the ends of the world. The disciples went out and literally changed the world because Christ had been raised from the dead.

In our present moment, it is my hope and prayer that God's Spirit moves through us in new and creative ways so that we live into the words at the end of Romans 8: "that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." As we journey into the future, may we demonstrate faith, hope and trust because of the love that God has shown us in Christ in the midst of all of the uncertainty of the Corona virus pandemic. May our faith give us comfort and strength for these trying and troubling days as well as all our days.

Yours in Christ,



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## SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Rummage Sale set for April 4th is now POSTPONED
- Maundy Thursday Service will be held April 9th.
- Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 10:00am April 12th, continental breakfast starts at 8:30am.

**SUNDAY SERVICE  
WORSHIP LEADERS  
FOR APRIL**

**April 5**  
Rhea Summit

**April 12**  
Ced Stopansky

**April 19**  
Phyllis Frye

**April 26**  
Dave Foresman

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

**SEPARATED BY SPACE + UNITED IN PRAYER**

Please Pray for the following Redstone District 1 Pastors and congregations.

April 5	Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul, Pastor
April 12	Murrysville, Union	Pete Goetschius, Moderator
April 19	New Alexandria, Community	Cliff Foster, Moderator
April 26	Redstone	Chuck MacPherson,

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

**THOSE SCHEDULED  
TO SERVE  
COMMUNION FOR  
MAUNDY  
THURSDAY,  
APRIL 9TH**

Tim D'Aurora  
Kathy Kepple Fink  
Evelyn Foresman  
Phyllis Frye  
Nancy Lauffer

**NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER BY JOHN BLANK**

These are trying times for all of us including Congruity's General Fund. We started the month of March with \$3,446.90 in the General Fund. Typically receipts to the General Fund follow worship attendance trends. With no "in-person" worship this would translate into a precarious situation for the General Fund. Congruity still needs to pay the normal bills (utilities, insurance, payroll, etc.) and this creates a great concern for our financial situation. Typical monthly expenses range for \$9,000 to \$10,000.

If you have the QR app on your phone you can make contributions that way. Or you can simply mail a check to the church.

## APRIL CELEBRATIONS

Date	Anniversaries
4/7/1984	Darrell & Diane D'Aurora
4/13/2005	Michael & Kim Matvey
4/27/1969	Ron & Geri Kaufman
4/27/2002	Bob & Mimi Kaufman



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Date	Birthday
4/2	Ashley Bish
4/6	John Ahlborn Elaine Kaufman Meryle Kaufman
4/7	Alyssia Thomas
4/8	William Kaufman
4/9	Jill Blank John Blank III
4/11	Rich Youngbauer
4/15	Missy Martz
4/16	Lisa Heasley
4/17	Colton Boggs Phyllis Frye
4/18	Steve Derek Dan Lapcevic
4/19	Christine Kuzmkowski
4/20	Shirley Stoltz
4/23	Mimi Kaufman
4/26	Sue Derek
4/30	Tom Hamilton



## LENTEN SCHEDULE

### April 1, 2020

7pm Dan Schall  
CONCERT at UMC  
POSTPONED

### April 5, 2020

11am Palm Sunday  
WORSHIP

### April 9, 2020

7:30pm Maunday  
Thursday COMMUN-  
ION SERVICE

### April 10, 2020

7pm Community  
Good Friday SER-  
VICE at Congruity

### April 12, 2020

8:30am Easter  
BREAKFAST

10am Easter  
WORSHIP

## ELDERS

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

## DEACONS

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

## ITEMS FROM SESSION/DEACONS

BY SARABETH STOPANSKY

The Session and Deacons met on Sunday, March 15 for their Annual Joint Meeting as required by the Book of Order.

Members of both Boards were given a copy of the By-Laws of Congruity.

Session members were given copies of the updated Session Manual and Deacons were given copies of the updated Deacon's Handbook.

Rev. Foster informed both boards that the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Self-Certification Forms, and Child Protection policy and Self-Certification forms are being completed and will be up to date by next month.

Communion Procedures were discussed and for the time being there will be no Communion by Intinction.

Committee Chairs were asked to provide a roster of all committee members to Sarabeth Stopansky by April 1, 2020.

A Safety Committee was formed with members of both Session and Deacons. The committee is tasked with coming up with safety procedures for all types of emergency situations. Committee members are Dave Foresman, Phyllis Frye and Nancy Lauffer, Rev. Foster and Sarabeth Stopansky. Members of the Congregation are welcome to give suggestions to any committee member.

**In an email/phone vote on March 17 the Session voted on the difficult decision to suspend in person Worship on March 22 and 29 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.**

## CHRISTIAN ED BY PAM FORESMAN

As you all know, Easter is April 12th and is right around the corner and as of right now our plans are to have our Continental Breakfast at 8:30 am and at 10:00 am we'll have our Easter worship service. The children will be participating in the service. **We will be sure to keep everyone up-to-date if these plans change.**

## CHRISTIAN LIFE BY TERRY SELEMBO

### Who's Who Covered Dish Dinner

### POSTPONED

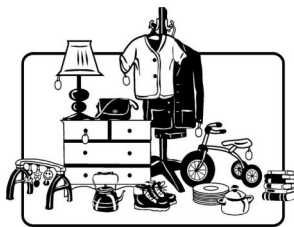
The scheduled covered dish dinner immediately following the worship service on Sunday, March 29th was postponed. Please watch for news of the rescheduled date.



## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BY JANET RUGH

### ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

### POSTPONED



Due to health concerns, we have postponed the annual Rummage Sale until a later date.

Please watch for news of the re-scheduled date.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

### February 23, 2020

WORSHIP 44

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth 4

Adults 20

Total 24

### March 1, 2020

WORSHIP 56

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth 13

Adults 18

Total 31

### March 8, 2020

WORSHIP 55

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth 9

Adults 23

Total 32

### March 15, 2020

WORSHIP 36

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth 1

Adults 17

Total 18

## OFFERING TOTALS

**Feb 23, 2020**

\$1,606.00

**Mar 1, 2020**

\$3,420.00

**Mar 8, 2020**

\$1,452.00

**Mar 15, 2020**

\$1,052.00

ONLINE GIVING  
QR CODE



## 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)
February	\$ 6,148.73	\$10,682.57	\$ 3,446.90	\$ (6,533.87)
Year to Date	\$12,957.57	\$19,491.44	\$ 3,446.90	\$ (6,533.87)

#### Memorial

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$32,196.96
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$32,196.96
February			\$32,196.96
Year to Date	\$ -	\$ -	\$32,196.96

#### First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 541.74	\$ 618.26
February*	\$ 710.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 786.60

\*Includes

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
<u>*Per Capita</u>	\$ 910.00	\$ 510.00	\$ 1,420.00

#### Included in General Fund

##### Building Maintenance

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 4,242.86
January	\$ 170.00	\$ -	\$ 4,412.86
February	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 4,572.86
Year to Date	\$ 330.00	\$ -	\$ 4,572.86

##### Local Mission

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 2,492.97
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
Year to Date	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97

#### Special Offerings

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
<b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b>	\$ -	\$ 247.00	\$ 247.00
<b>Cents-Ability</b>	\$ -	\$ 8.00	\$ 16.00

## MISSION BY PHYLIIS FRYE

Mission trips have been temporarily postponed. Please watch for further updates.

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*“For I am convinced that [nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39*

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## MISSION INTERPRETATION + STEWARDSHIP

BY TIM D'AURORA

We are certainly going through some times that we haven't seen before., and unfortunately, no one has a crystal ball to know when things might get back to normal. For our Church, this presents some special challenges: the lack of a church service will especially put a severe crunch on our finances. There may be a significant drop off in giving but not much of a drop in expenses. Salaries and fixed expenses account for the majority of our budget and these costs are incurred whether we have services or not. If you look at the financial page, you can see that February was a particularly bad month for our overall financial picture. Our expenses outpaced our income by over \$4500. Our year to date figure is a negative \$6,533.87. Normally, we make up ground with the Easter season. That will probably not be the case this year if we continue to have to cancel services. So we are asking people to continue with their contributions by mailing them to the Church and marking **Attn: Financial Secretary** on the envelope to insure privacy or by using our online giving program. We need everyone to prayerfully consider their continued contributions during this challenging time.

As of this time, we are probably postponing the Spaghetti Dinner that was scheduled for Saturday, May 2. This decision is not final as yet. More information will follow.

On a positive note, the construction of our new pavilion should begin very soon. The majority of the cost for the pavilion will be covered by designated memorial funds in memory of Bob Ott, George Selembo, and Ron Martz. We are still going to need additional funds to complete this project and plan to set up a Capital Campaign to raise the rest of these needed funds. If you are willing and able to help, please mark **Pavilion Fund** on any donation made. We look forward to this being an enjoyable and useful addition to our Church facilities.



## **CONGRUITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

### **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:  
Debbie Perino

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Vicki Walters

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  
Kathy Hamilton

WEBMASTER: John Blank

## **CONGRUITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER**

You may have noticed, the newsletter has been reformatted. All the expected news, announcements and notifications are included, and hopefully easy to find and read. Comments on how to serve you better are appreciated, and may be sent to the email listed below.

**Cliff is in the office most mornings.**

Newsletter items should be emailed to [congruitynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:congruitynewsletter@gmail.com)

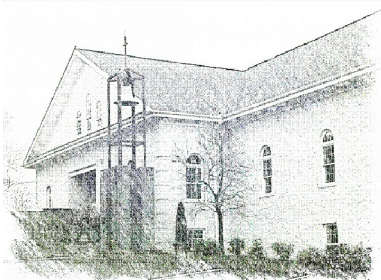
## **Congruity Presbyterian Church**

136 Fenneltown Road  
New Alexandria PA 15670

*Address Service Requested*

Phone: 724-668-7740

Website :  
[congruitychurch.org](http://congruitychurch.org)



**Please Join us for**  
Sunday School 9:45 am  
Worship 11:00 am

PLEASE  
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