



# Congruity Connections

## CLIFF'S NOTES

The last several weeks have brought us into some uncharted and unprecedented days as we live into the new normal of the Corona virus pandemic. We have been faced with social distancing, donning masks and maintaining a safe distance from each other. We have posted weekly scripture and sermons of Facebook and have mailed devotional items out. We have wrestled with the question of being the church while separated from one another. Like you, I am looking forward to when we can be together again in worship.

May 31<sup>st</sup> this year is Pentecost, the day when we celebrate the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ... the day we remember when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples and they were able to proclaim the Gospel message in various languages so that those gathered in Jerusalem from all around the world could hear the message of God's love. I have found myself thinking about Pentecost as we strive to find new and creative ways of sharing the Gospel message in the midst of a pandemic that calls for social distancing and separation. In many ways, I think that we can experience what the disciples went through all those years ago, and like them may God's Spirit blow upon us so that we might take the Gospel message to the ends of the world in new and creative ways.

I hope and pray that you are well and I look forward to when we can all be together again. But until then, may we continue to share with those around us the Good News of God's love.

Yours in Christ, *Cliff*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Announcements.....	2
Celebrations .....	3
Session .....	4
Deacons.....	4
Committees.....	2,4,5,7
Treasurer's Report.....	6
Calendar.....	insert

## SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Church events have been temporarily postponed and will resume at the earliest and safest time. In the meantime, please reach out with God's love to support your family, friends and neighbors.

WEEKLY WORSHIP  
MEDITATIONS

**May 3**

John 10:1-10

**May 10**

John 14:1-14

**May 17**

1 Peter 3: 13-22

**May 24**

John 17: 1-11

**May 31**

Acts 2: 1-21

For a printed copy,  
please call the church  
office at 724-668-  
7740

SEPARATED BY SPACE + UNITED IN PRAYER

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

May 3	New Alexandria, Congruity	Cliff Foster, Pastor
May 10	New Kensington, United	Wendy Keys, Pastor
May 17	Apollo, Poke Run	Pete Goetschius, Pastor
May 24	Avonmore, First	Larry Armstrong, Stated Supply
May 31	Redstone Presby- tery	Becky Maiman, Member-at- Large

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

WEEKLY WORSHIP  
SERVICES FOR MAY

Over the course of  
our time of social  
distancing and no  
in-person worship  
services, a short  
worship service  
has been uploaded  
to the Congruity  
Facebook page  
each Sunday  
morning.

CHRISTIAN ED BY PAM FORESMAN

Psalm 119:

105 Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

107 I have suffered so much. Give me a new life, oh Lord, as  
you promised.

I know everything seems dark now and we are missing being  
together in Sunday school and church to worship on  
Sundays, but if we continue to push through this time and  
listen to God's Word I am sure this time will pass and bring  
us together again. So let's continue to read our Bibles, fol-  
low Reverend Foster's videos, reach out to our friends and  
family members safely while we follow social distancing  
and pray fervently. God bless all of you ~ stay safe and  
healthy.

## MAY CELEBRATIONS



Date	Anniversaries
5/3/1980	Steve & Sue Derek
5/5/2007	Mike & Kerstin Stellato
5/10/1986	Scott & Kathy Hamilton
5/14/1983	Gary & Tammy Kulik
5/16/1998	Tom & Becky Davis
5/25/2014	Alex & Stacey Burns

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



Date	Person
5/1	Dave Bish Lisa Kaufman
5/2	Nancy Lauffer
5/3	Larry Swatchick
5/12	Roni Kaufman
5/15	Lucha Batera Ron Kaufman Linda Youngbauer
5/16	Bryce Kaufman
5/17	Linda Hazlett Joelyn Watt
5/18	Susan Blank
5/19	Ivy Sullivan
5/20	Cindy Karstaedt
5/23	Rose Ann Orr
5/24	Jennifer Carnathan
5/28	Becky Swatchick

## IN SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the Youngbauer family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of Linda's mother Ruth Ruble's death .

And to the Ahlborn family as they walk through the valley of the shadow of John'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*

## 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

## ITEMS FROM SESSION/DEACONS

BY SARABETH STOPANSKY

The Session has not met since the joint meeting with the Deacons back on March 15th. In case you are wondering how official church business is conducted during this time we have used email/phone communication. We do this from time to time if something comes up between our regular meetings too. This has become "our new normal". Cliff sends out a email to all Session members (and phones those that do not use email). Session members then reply to that email and Cliff reports the vote to me. When we meet next we will ratify all those email decisions and they will be recorded into our official minutes.

**On a personal note.** I hope this finds you all safe and well during this time of self quarantining. I came across this quote the other day and have been saying it to myself every morning " Rise above the storm and you will find the sunshine" Mario Fernandez. My prayer for each and one of you is that you find a little sunshine in each day.

Sarabeth

## MISSION BY PHYLLIS FRYE

Redstone Mission Team is still hopeful we will be able to fulfill our commitment to St Alban's WV in July. In talking with the co-ordinator of the work camps, WV hasn't been a hotspot for the virus. There have been areas where there have been more cases, but they have mostly been in nursing home environments. Our trip is scheduled for July 11-18. We are open for volunteers 14 years old and older. Cost has not been determined yet. If interested, contact Phyllis Frye, 724-468-3740.

**CONGREGATIONAL LIFE** BY TERRY SELEMBO

Usually this space is used to inform the congregation of an exciting upcoming event where we can gather as a large group and share a delicious covered dish dinner and fellowship. Unfortunately with the social distancing mandates, our “normal” Congregational Life get-togethers have had to be postponed.

Rather than focusing on what we are unable to do. Let’s focus on what we are able to do. Such as getting out your Congruity Church directory and calling members of our church family just to say Hi...We all certainly have time for a phone call. How about cleaning out the “junk” drawer? Or in my case “junk” drawers. Take a look in your pantry to see what is REALLY in there. Get out your old photo albums and take a trip down memory lane.

I’m sure we are all looking forward to the day when all of these restrictions will be lifted... but until that happens...stay calm...stay well... and stay home!

**WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION** BY PHYLLIS FRYE

Even though all church activities are on hold for a while. The Women’s Association still has hopes of holding a rummage sale in the future. If you are holding “stuff” for the sale and need a place to store it, there is room on the third floor at the church and also in the back rooms in the basement. You may call either the church to see when it is open, or contact Phyllis Frye to open the door. All other activities are ‘wait and see’ how things go.

**OFFERING TOTALS**

**Mar 22, 2020**

\$0.00

**Mar 29, 2020**

\$1,865.00

**Apr 5, 2020**

\$1,800.00

**Apr 9, 2020**

\$0.00

**Apr 12, 2020**

\$1,975.00

ONLINE GIVING  
QR CODE



**TREASURER'S REPORT BY JOHN BLANK**

**General Fund**

	<b>NET Receipts</b>	<b>NET Expenses</b>	<b>Actual Balance</b>	<b>To Date Balance</b>
<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)
March	\$ 8,305.00	\$ 8,378.69	\$ 3,373.21	\$ (6,607.56)
Year to Date	\$ 21,262.57	\$ 27,870.13	\$ 3,373.21	\$ (6,607.56)

**Memorial Fund**

	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 32,196.96
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,196.96
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,196.96
March		\$ 6,500.00	\$ 25,696.96
Year to Date	\$ -	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 25,696.96

**First Fruits**

	<b>Received</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>Balance</b>
January*	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 541.74	\$ 618.26
February*	\$ 710.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 786.60
March*	\$ 875.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 1,119.94

\*Includes Per Capita

	<b>Previous</b>	<b>This Mnth</b>	<b>To Date</b>
<b>*Per Capita to Date</b>	\$ 1,420.00	\$ 575.00	\$ 1,995.00

**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>			\$ 4,242.86
January	\$ 170.00	\$ -	\$ 4,412.86
February	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 4,572.86
March	\$ 165.00	\$ -	\$ 4,737.86
Year to Date	\$ 495.00	\$ -	\$ 4,737.86

**Local Mission**

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

**Special Offerings**

	<b>Previous</b>	<b>This Mnth</b>	<b>To Date</b>
<b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b>	\$ 247.00	\$ -	\$ 247.00
<b>Cents-Ability</b>	\$ 16.00	\$ 39.40	\$ 55.40

	<b>Received</b>	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b>	\$ 254.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (746.00)
<b>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</b>	\$ 6.00	\$ -	\$ 6.00

## MISSION INTERPRETATION + STEWARDSHIP BY TIM D'AURORA

I want to begin by thanking everyone who was able to make a contribution in March. Thanks to your continued generosity, we were able to get through the month in relatively good financial shape. Our expenses only exceeded our income by a slight margin and that was with no in church services on 2 Sundays. We need that positive giving to continue. As a reminder, there are 2 main ways to make your donations. You can mail them to the church with a notation on the envelope "Financial Secretary" or you can make an online donation. Your continued support is desperately needed.

We are attempting to participate in the Payroll Protection Program and have already tendered an application. However, the money for the first round of the program was exhausted very quickly and so we are in line if more funding becomes available. This would provide us with approximately 2 months of our payroll costs and some expenses. Obviously, this would be a tremendous help to our situation. We will keep everyone updated on this situation.

I ran across this piece that was shared by Robert Hay in The Presbyterian Foundation News and thought it could be relevant to many of us.

### Share your CARES money (if you can) April 15, 2020 by Robert Hay

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, is giving most Americans a stimulus check that the U.S. Treasury says should be directly deposited in many bank accounts today (April 15). As this money arrives, many people are beginning to think about how they will spend it – and I want to invite you to #ShareYourCares, if you can.

Some of us desperately need this money. Some have lost jobs or been furloughed, or our work schedule has been impacted such that our pay is significantly less than normal. The stimulus check for some of us will help to cover our basic living expenses. But some of us are doing financially okay during this crisis. We still have jobs and steady paychecks. We might even be saving some money because we are not spending it eating out, driving, traveling or enjoying entertainment as we did before. This is where I find myself during this crisis.

For those of us like me who are doing okay during this crisis, what can we do with this CARES Act money that we were not expecting, and we do not need? We could put this money in our savings account or in our retirement account. We could purchase that new gadget that we have been wanting. Or we could do some good with this money. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors, and this is an opportunity to live out that commandment. I plan to give every penny of my CARES stimulus check away to someone who needs it. This stimulus check does not belong to me – and it never did. Nothing I have belongs to me. Everything I have belongs to God and God has entrusted me with it. I am to be a good steward of God's assets. I believe the best way to be a good steward of my stimulus check is to give it to someone who needs it.

#ShareYourCARES is an opportunity to love your neighbors. Maybe you have a family member who needs it or an actual neighbor who needs it. Maybe it is your housekeeper or your hairdresser. Maybe it is the small business owner in your community. Maybe it is the nonprofit in your community that is helping those in need during this crisis. Maybe it is your church who is still providing ministry during this crisis. #ShareYourCARES is an opportunity to love your neighbors. This is our opportunity to say thank you to God for the generous blessing of good health and financial security. Can you share your CARES? If you decide to do so, post about it in social media and use the hashtag #ShareYourCARES. We'd love to see what God calls you to do during this time.

**CONGRUITY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**CHURCH STAFF**

PASTOR: Cliff Foster

CLERK OF SESSION:  
Sarabeth Stopanksy

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**

Newsletter items should be emailed to

[congruitynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:congruitynewsletter@gmail.com)

Cliff is in the office most mornings.

**Congruity  
Presbyterian Church**

136 Fennelton Road  
New Alexandria PA 15670

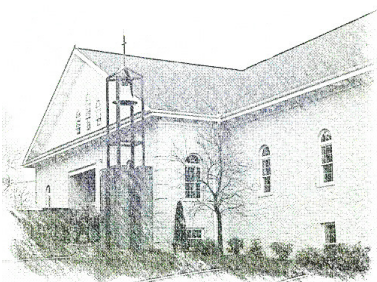
*Address Service Requested*

Phone: 724-668-7740

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

PLEASE

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT No 8  
DELMONT PA 15626**



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