



Congruity Connections

CLIFF'S NOTES

In many conversations that I have had over the last several weeks, one of the themes that run through those conversations is that many people can't wait for 2020 to be finished. During the last 9 months or so we have traversed some unprecedented times during the global pandemic of the Corona Virus. We have learned to adapt and change so many of the aspects of our lives to hopefully bring this pandemic to a close. The vaccines have been approved and the process of making those vaccines available to everyone is underway. We are filled with hope and excitement as we stand on the threshold of a brand new year.

The other day as I was thinking about the new year that will soon be upon us, I thought about those words found in Revelation 21: 5-6: "And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new'... 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end'." I find great comfort in those words because they remind us that even though things seem to be out of control at the moment, our God is indeed in charge and everything will be ok. I can think of no better words to hold onto as we begin a brand new year than know God is right here with us through each and every step of our journey through 2021 and beyond.

I would like to express my thanks to each of you for your continued support of our mutual ministry and mission through 2020 with your time, talents and financial gifts. As we enter into 2021 may we face this new year with confidence in knowing that our God is in the business of "making all things new". I wish all of you a Happy and a blessed New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Cliff



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SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Join us for in-person worship on Sunday, starting again January 10, 2021.
- Following safety recommendations, **in-person worship may have to be cancelled.**

WEEKLY WORSHIP
MEDITATIONS

January 3

Ephesians 1:3-14

January 10

Mark 1:4-11

January 17

John 1:43-51

January 24

Jonah 3:1-5,10

January 31

Mark 1:21-28

For a print copy, 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.

Jan 3	Lower Burrell, Grace Community	Ken Foust, Pastor
Jan 10	Lower Burrell, Puckety	Brian Kilbert, Pastor
Jan 17	Murrysville, First	Ed Gray, Pastor
Jan 24	Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul, Pastor
Jan 31	Redstone Presbytery	Becky Maiman, Member-at-Large

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

WEEKLY WORSHIP
SERVICES FOR JANU-
ARY

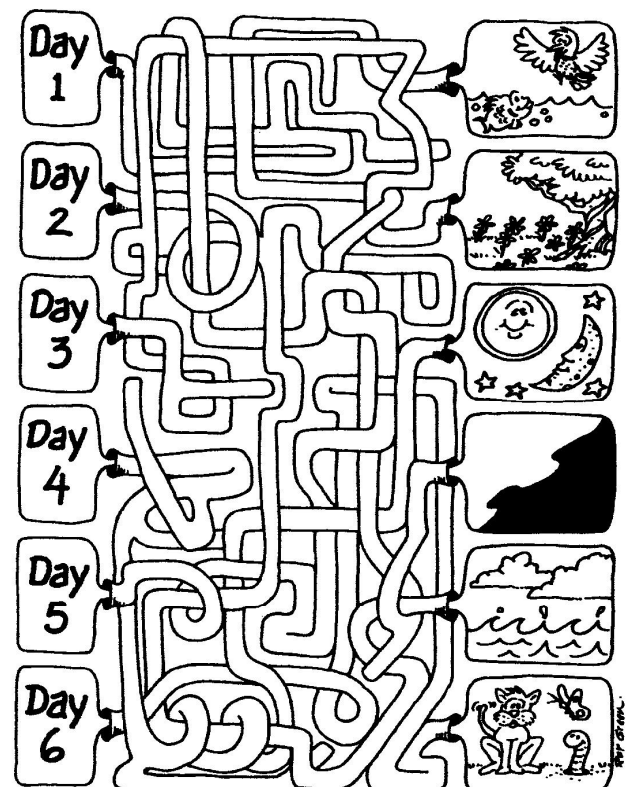
Over the course of our time of social distancing, a short meditation with Pastor Cliff has been uploaded to the Congruity Facebook page each Sunday morning.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on January 31, 2021 to receive various reports of 2020. There will be no Soup and Sandwich Luncheon this year.

CHRISTIAN ED

Sunday School has been suspended until further notice. Try out this puzzle (from Big Book of Bible Puzzles) for the New Year.

Let There Be... Read Genesis 1:1-25. Starting with Day 1, find the correct path through the maze to the things God created on that day. Do this until all the days are matched with the correct pictures. Answers, page 6



JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



Date	Anniversaries
1/30/2010	Dan & Hillary Lapcevic

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our congratulations to the Klasterka family on the birth of Mila Grace On November 29, 2020. Mila is the great-granddaughter of Marlene Kifer, granddaughter of Lisa and Randy Domke.



IN SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to the Frye family as they walk through the valley of Wilson's death.

May the *love* of those
help you
around you
through the
days ahead.

ELDERS

Matt Cunningham

Tim D'Aurora

Evelyn Foresman

Vince Kemerer

Nancy Lauffer

Ken Martz

Scott McIlnay

Terry Selembo

Sarabeth Stopansky

DEACONS

Dorothy Brant

Tom Davis

Sue Derek

Dave Foresman

Kathy Kepple Fink

Glenn Henry

Lana Munsell

Janet Rugh

Cedric Stopansky

ITEMS FROM SESSION/DEACONS

BY SARABETH STOPANSKY/DAVE FORESMAN

The Session met on December 21, 2020 and reports the following:

- The elevator was recently inspected.
- All employee contracts have been signed and placed on file.
- The date for ordination and installation of Elders and Deacons is set for January 17, 2021.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held January 31, 2021. This meeting will be during worship. Please note there will not be a soup and sandwich luncheon afterwards due to COVID-19. If the Church is not meeting in person the Church Manual will be set aside for this year and the meeting will be held the first Sunday we return to in person Worship.
- Christmas ornament kits were delivered to all Sunday School children.
- The session elected John Blank as Treasurer for 2021.
- The Session approved the purchase of Quickbooks software to be used by the treasurer.
- If the 2020 First Fruits pledge is not met, the session voted to instruct the treasurer to make up the difference by using money from the General Fund.

PLEASE GIVE to OUR STAFF (using enclosed envelopes)

Due to the unfortunate Pandemic this year, Congruity Deacons were unable to collect for the annual Christmas gifts for church staff. Please use the envelopes enclosed with this newsletter to help us continue to share gifts with our Pastor, Secretary, Custodian and Music Director. If you would prefer, you may also send something directly to them to thank them for their ministry.

- Many thanks from the Congruity Deacons

CONGRUITY'S NEW LENDING LIBRARY

We have started a new lending library at Congruity! This is for members and friends of the congregation that share a passion for reading. Most of the books currently in the collection are novels: mysteries; romance; best sellers; and a few science fiction and historical books. The library is set up on the honor system, take a few books at a time, keep them as long as you like. Currently the library is in Cliff's office, but when it expands enough, it will move to a more permanent location.

If you have any books you would like to donate, please drop them off at the church office. If you have any questions call Cliff at the office, or Sarabeth Stopansky at 734-831-8112.

MISSION INTERPRETATION + STEWARDSHIP BY TIM D'AURORA

I have often said I really don't ever want to wish my life away. We never know what the future will bring, but 2020 was a year that I think everyone will be glad to see in the rear view mirror. As a congregation, we have probably been more fortunate than many others. We have not had an abundance of illnesses from the Corona virus, and we have weathered the financial storm pretty well. Obviously, that is due to everyone's tremendous response throughout the year. Even though we have had to cancel a significant portion of the year's in-person worship, you have continued to support the church. At the end of November, our year to date balance was - \$6,123.63. When you add in the payroll protection loan that will be forgiven, we are actually sitting on a positive balance of \$9,376.77. Our First Fruits donations have been down a little, and at the end of November, we were sitting on a shortfall of \$960. But as of December 25, that has been reduced to \$415.00. I'm hopeful that by the end of the year, that number will be even lower. The Session has voted to make up any remaining shortfall from the General Fund. Hopefully, this will be a small amount.

Looking forward to 2021, we are excited about our opportunities moving forward. We certainly missed the working fellowship and the funds generated by the spaghetti dinners. We would like to return to having 2 of them during 2021. We did have success with a hoagie sale, and are considering adding a third one this year. These are chances for you to make a positive difference in the financial well-being of our church without having to stretch your own finances to do it. The more involvement from everyone, the more successful we will be.

One area we did improve on in 2020 over previous years was our Per Capita response. This year we want to do even better. As most of you know, Per Capita is the per person amount we pay to Presbytery to cover their costs as well as the costs for Synod and General Assembly. Also, a large portion goes to support Mission. This year, the Per Capita amount is again **\$42.50 per person**, not per family. We ask that each member donate that amount above and beyond their regular giving and note it as such on whatever form of payment you make.

An area of concern is the continuing expense of the elevator. While the elevator has been a huge blessing for many of our members (and for Tim having to move things to the 3rd floor), it is also 12 years old and seems to continue to have expensive repairs. Anything extra that you can spare can be donated to the building maintenance fund acknowledging the elevator.

As a closing thought, it looks like we may be receiving another round of stimulus checks. While many people desperately need whatever help they can get, there are others that have continued to work or have cut expenses and look at this money as somewhat of a luxury. Why not give part of that luxury to the church.

Another way to help is to think of the church when you do your estate planning. You are not limited to donating cash to the church. Stocks, bonds, real estate, etc. are perfectly acceptable forms of giving. And doing so may have a definite tax advantage. Check with your accountant for more information.

For 2021, get more involved! Together, we can make this coming year a positive rebound to the disappointment that 2020 was for so many.

OFFERING TOTALS

Nov 1, 2020

\$995.00

Nov 8, 2020

\$565.00

Nov 15, 2020

\$1,215.00

Nov 22, 2020

\$1,460.00

Nov 29, 2020

\$1,460.00

ONLINE GIVING
QR CODE



Answers to page 2
puzzle:

Day 1: Picture 4,
light/dark; Day 2:
Picture 5, water/sky;
Day 3: Picture 2,
trees/plants; Day 4:
Picture 3, sun/moon/
stars; Day 5: Picture
1, sea creatures/
birds; Day 6: Picture
6, animals

TREASURER'S REPORT BY JOHN BLANK

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	YR 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)
March	\$ 8,305.00	\$ 8,378.69	\$ 3,373.21	\$ (6,607.56)
April	\$ 12,239.08	\$ 8,151.41	\$ 7,460.88	\$ (2,519.89)
PPP Loan ***	\$ 15,500.00	\$ -	\$ 22,960.88	\$ 12,980.11
May	\$ 6,984.71	\$ 6,922.59	\$ 23,023.00	\$ 13,042.23
June	\$ 8,421.40	\$ 7,318.93	\$ 24,125.47	\$ 14,144.70
July	\$ 6,468.69	\$ 6,449.75	\$ 24,144.41	\$ 14,163.64
August	\$ 7,430.96	\$ 7,572.39	\$ 24,002.98	\$ 14,022.21
September	\$ 5,333.60	\$ 7,625.08	\$ 21,711.50	\$ 11,730.73
October	\$ 6,081.94	\$ 10,487.71	\$ 17,305.73	\$ 7,324.96
November	\$ 11,422.38	\$ 9,370.97	\$ 19,357.14	\$ 9,376.37
Year to Date	\$ 101,145.33	\$ 91,768.96	\$ 19,357.14	\$ 9,376.37
Due on PPP Loan			\$ (15,500.00)	\$ (15,500.00)
*** Paycheck Protection Program Loan			\$ 3,857.14	\$ (6,123.63)

Memorial Fund

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<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
April	\$ 325.00	\$ -	\$ 26,021.96
May	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,490.00	\$ 24,731.96
June	\$ 2,735.00	\$ 5,681.00	\$ 21,785.96
July	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,490.00	\$ 21,045.96
August	\$ 120.00	\$ 16,260.00	\$ 4,905.96
September	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,905.96
October	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,905.96
November	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,905.96
Year to Date	\$ 4,130.00	\$ 31,421.00	\$ 4,905.96

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 541.74	\$ 618.26
February*	\$ 710.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 786.60
March*	\$ 875.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 1,119.94
April*	\$ 897.50	\$ 541.66	\$ 1,475.78
May*	\$ 182.50	\$ 541.66	\$ 1,116.62
June*	\$ 512.50	\$ 541.66	\$ 1,087.46
July	\$ 160.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 705.80
August*	\$ 402.50	\$ 541.66	\$ 566.64
September	\$ 240.00	\$ 541.66	\$ 264.98
October	\$ 150.00	\$ 541.66	\$ (126.68)
November	\$ 250.00	\$ 541.66	\$ (418.34)

*Includes Per Capita

<u>*Per Capita to Date</u>	Previous	This Month	To Date
	\$ 2,975.00	\$ -	\$ 2,975.00

Included in General Fund			
<u>Building Maintenance</u>			
	NET	NET	TO DATE
	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
-			
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			
January	\$ 170.00	\$ -	\$ 170.00
February	\$ 160.00	\$ -	\$ 330.00
March	\$ 165.00	\$ -	\$ 495.00
April	\$ 125.00	\$ 645.00	\$ (25.00)
May	\$ 40.00		\$ 15.00
June	\$ 225.00		\$ 240.00
July	\$ 135.00		\$ 375.00
August	\$ 280.00		\$ 655.00
September	\$ 5,140.00	\$ 5,999.32	\$ (204.32)
October	\$ 145.00	\$ -	\$ (59.32)
November	\$ 195.00		\$ 135.68
Year to Date	\$ 6,780.00	\$ 6,644.32	\$ 135.68

Local Mission

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
March	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
June	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
July	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
August	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,492.97
September	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 2,342.97
October	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,342.97
November	\$ 91.25	\$ 91.25	\$ 2,342.97
Year to Date	\$ 91.25	\$ 241.25	\$ 2,342.97

Special Offerings

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 247.00	\$ -	\$ 247.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 141.40	\$ 8.00	\$ 149.40
	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing Pentecost **	\$ 384.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (616.00)
	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
Peacemaking ***	\$ 380.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 5.00
Christmas Joy	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 191.00	\$ -	\$ 191.00

**40% to Blackburn Center

***25% Welcome Home Shelter

ATTENDANCE

- Nov 1, 2020:** 22
- Nov 8, 2020:** 25
- Nov 15, 2020:** 24
- Nov 22, 2020:** 25
- Nov 29, 2020:** 22



GOOD WITH NUMBERS?

Congruity is looking for someone who loves numbers and is willing to learn the **Treasurer** duties from John Blank. If you would like to learn more about how you can serve the church this way, please send an email to congruitynewsletter@gmail.com or talk to anyone on Session.

**CONGRUITY PRESBY-
TERIAN 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 Wal-
ters

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Kathy Hamilton

WEBMASTER: John Blank

CONGRUITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU AND WELCOME

We wish to thank the following whose terms as Elders and Deacons have been completed: Elders: Kathy Hamilton and Vince Kemerer; Deacons: Phyllis Frye, Shirley Stoltz and Dave Foresman.

We welcome the newly elected Elders and Deacons who will be ordained/installed on January 17, 2021: Elders: Ken Martz, Scott McIlroy and Vince Kemerer; Deacons: Glenn Henry, Ced Stopansky and Dave Foreman

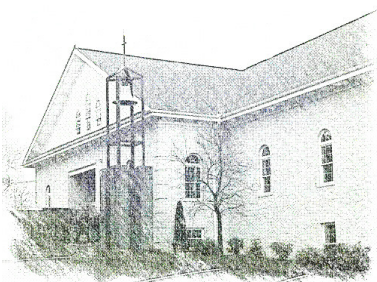
Email Newsletter items to congruitynewsletter@gmail.com

Cliff is in the office most mornings.

**Congruity
Presbyterian Church**
136 Fenneltown Road
New Alexandria PA 15670

Address Service Requested

Phone: 724-668-7740
Website :
congruitychurch.org



**Please Join us for
Worship 11:00 am**

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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