



Congruity Connections

CLIFF'S NOTES

Last month I was anticipating having knee replacement surgery, but with an increase in Covid numbers my surgery has been postponed until after Easter. After that decision had been made, I found myself thinking about a phrase that I have heard from time to time: "If you want to hear God laugh, tell God about your plans". I was curious about this phrase and so I googled it and I discovered that it is an old Yiddish proverb that says, "We plan, God laughs"; and it is a line in the song "Help Somebody" by Van Zant, the line goes: "and if you wanna hear God laugh tell him your plans".

I have found myself thinking about that phrase over the last few weeks, not only because my surgery has been re-scheduled, but in terms of how we deal with setbacks and those times when our plans don't work out the way we had anticipated. As I have been thinking about hearing God's laugh, I find myself reflecting on the opening line of the Brief Statement of Faith: "In life and in death we belong to God". This is a declaration of God's engulfing love of us no matter what we encounter along the road of life, even in the midst of disappointments and setback.

The assurance we have that we belong to God are wonderful words for us to keep in mind as we approach our celebration of Thanksgiving. As we look forward to gathering with family and friends around the Thanksgiving table to share a wonderful feast may we be reminded that when we hear God laugh that we are also never beyond the loving reach of God. May we be challenged by those words of Paul in Philippians 4 to "be content" in whatever circumstance or situations we find ourselves. It is my hope and prayer that this season of Thanksgiving will be a wonderful reminder for all of us that we do indeed belong to God and that we can express our thanks to God for all that God has done for us and have given to us.

Happy Thanksgiving! Yours in Christ,

Cliff



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SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Congruity's Harvest Home** is on Sunday, November 21, 2021
- Continue following safety recommendations, **in-person worship is back in full force!**

WEEKLY WORSHIP MEDITATIONS

November 7

Mark 12:38-44

November 14

I Samuel 1:4-20

November 21

John 18:33-37

November 28

I Thessalonians

3:9-13

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.

Nov 7 Lower Burrell, Doug Marshall, Interim
Grace Community

Nov 14 Lower Burrell, Brian Kilbert, Pastor
Puckety

Nov 21 Murrys ville, First Ed Gray, Pastor

Nov 28 Redstone Presbytery Rod Murray, Honorably
Retired

LITURGIST FOR NOVEMBER

Nov 7 Caroline D'Aurora

Nov 14 Dave Foresman

Nov 21 Phyllis Frye

Nov 28 Cliff Foster

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

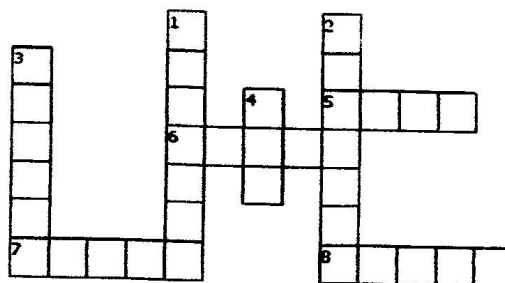
WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

A short meditation
with Pastor Cliff
is being uploaded to the
Congruity Facebook
page each Sunday
morning.



KIDZ KORNER SUBMITTED BY CHRISTIAN ED

Try this Puzzle based on Psalm 100:4 'Enter His gates
with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give
thanks to Him and praise His name.



ACROSS

5. A short piece of music that is sung
6. To talk or exclaim in a very loud voice
7. A small animal with a wooly coat
8. The planet where people live

DOWN

1. To express one's love and adoration for God
2. A field covered with grass where animals eat
3. An expression of appreciation
4. A feeling of great happiness

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Date	Anniversaries
11/1/2014	Matthew & Megan Schweppe
11/7/1976	Bill & Cindy Karstaedt
11/16/1996	Bernie & Rhea Summit
11/20/1965	Chuck & Mary Lou Heasley

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Date	Person
11/9	Tammy Kulik
11/11	Madeline Burns Brandy Sellinger
11/13	John McAdams
11/14	Mike Marchelletta
11/18	Erik Eidemiller Erin Kaufman
11/20	Matt Cunningham Ron Kaufman
11/21	Katrina Kaufman
11/22	Tyler Johnston
11/23	Jen Hufford Deana Karstaedt
11/24	Wes Kirkpatrick Delbert Thompson
11/25	Jon Hamilton Vivian Schweppe
11/26	Vince Kemerer Sarabeth Stopansky Virgil Walters
11/29	Bob Kaufman Mila Grace Domke

THANKS!!!

We extend A big Thank You to all those who helped out at the **Cemetery Cleanup**. We especially would like to thank Ken Martz for organizing it, as well as Tim D'Aurora, Stephanie and Matt Cunningham, Dave Foresman, Phyllis Frye, Ced Stopansky, and Cliff Foster for giving their time. It was a lot of hard work and looks great!



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

Glenn Henry

Lana Munsell

Janet Rugh

Cedric Stopansky

ITEMS FROM SESSION/DEACONS

BY SARABETH STOPANSKY/DAVE FORESMAN

There was no scheduled in person Session meeting in October. The next meeting will be November 15th.

November 21st, 2021 is Harvest Home at Congruity. This is when we collect non-perishable food items all throughout the month of November and then distribute them to needy families in the area. If you know of such a family please contact the church office at 724-668-7740 or any Deacon with the names and addresses of the families in need.

Thanks so much! From the Deacons

MISSION INTERPRETATION STEWARDSHIP BY TIM D'AURORA

I just wanted to take a minute to update everyone on our current financial situation. As we head into the home stretch of 2021, we are still seeing a pretty substantial shortfall. Even with September being a positive month, **our income is currently behind our expenses by \$10,461.70.** Usually we do a little better in the final quarter of the year, but we have our work cut out for us this year. We are slightly ahead of our budget on our First Fruits giving. But even there, we need to continue to maintain our commitment. September saw that amount fall short.

I wanted to thank everyone who helped make the **September Hoagie Sale a success.** While we did not achieve the record results from our previous sale, we were able to make over \$700 profit. Great job everyone.!

We are finalizing next year's budget. If any committee needs to adjust their budgeted amount, please let Tim know by November 14th. This budget needs to be approved at the November Session meeting.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!

T. Alyssa Selembo graduated from Penn State University with a B.S. in Communication Sciences and Disorders. The next day started an M.S. in Speech Language Pathology at Francis Marion University (Florence, SC). She is the daughter of George and Priscilla Selembo (Charlotte, NC). And the granddaughter of Terry Selembo and the late George Selembo Sr.



MISSION BY PHYLLIS FRYE

The ten volunteers of the Redstone Mission Team did restoration and **renovation at three different properties** at their trip to West Virginia last week. The first property was a porch and wheelchair ramp; the second one was vinyl siding and skirting on a mobile home. The third was a house that had flood damage in Hurley, Virginia, where they replaced a porch, built a second deck, re-sided part of the house, painted the kitchen and installed upper cabinets, and did general clean-up of flood debris.



We were **blessed to meet all three homeowners** and hear their stories and give them each one of our mission crosses. The team then took a tour of Hurley, VA to see the damage caused by Hurricane Ida, where there were mud slides and flooding along an eight mile stretch of a small creek. The work day began at six or seven in the morning with breakfast and leaving camp for the job site at eight to travel and pick up supplies, then working until about 4:30 and travelling back to camp. It was almost an hour drive over the mountains to the worksite in Virginia, though it was only fifteen miles away, so until we got packed up and on the road it was six o'clock until we got back to camp. Then there were showers, supper and devotions.



Redstone Mission Team to West Virginia: Front row L-R: Duffy Greba, Sue Derek, Patricia Hart, Phyllis Frye, Sylvia Carlson; Back row L-R Chuck MacPherson, David O'Hara, Ced Stopansky, Ed Moore, Becky Moore

We thank God for a **very rewarding and eye-opening trip**. Some of us were able to attend the Sunday morning worship service at the host church (Free Gospel Assembly House of Prayer in Hampdon) to start off the week. We had sunshine all week, though some days it was very hot. Saturday we woke up to pouring rain. The team plans to meet in January to plan next years trips and also make plans for the (hopefully) pancake dinner in February. Start praying about it now, and maybe **next time YOU can join the team!**

OFFERING TOTALS

Sept 5, 2021

\$1,435.00

Sept 12, 2021

\$1,425.00

Sept 19, 2021

\$1,197.00

Sept 26, 2021

\$4,019.00

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE



DON'T PEAK!

Answers to the puzzle
on page 2:

Worship, Pasture,
Song, Earth, Joy,
Shout, Thanks, Sheep

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>			\$ 21,994.04	
January	\$ 8,549.71	\$ 9,591.83	\$ 20,951.92	\$ (1,042.12)
February	\$ 6,713.68	\$ 8,645.45	\$ 19,020.15	\$ (2,973.89)
March	\$ 7,772.17	\$ 8,839.50	\$ 17,952.82	\$ (4,041.22)
April	\$ 5,675.18	\$ 10,420.52	\$ 13,207.48	\$ (8,786.56)
May	\$ 8,176.57	\$ 9,879.14	\$ 11,504.91	\$ (10,489.13)
June	\$ 6,242.30	\$ 7,788.74	\$ 9,958.47	\$ (12,035.57)
July	\$ 7,209.92	\$ 8,147.26	\$ 9,021.13	\$ (12,972.91)
August	\$ 8,682.43	\$ 9,715.03	\$ 7,988.53	\$ (14,005.51)
September	\$ 8,175.36	\$ 4,621.61	\$ 11,542.28	\$ (10,451.76)
Year to Date	\$ 67,197.32	\$ 77,649.08	\$ 11,542.28	\$ (10,451.76)

Memorial Fund

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 4,905.96
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,905.96
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,905.96
March	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 4,930.96
April	\$ 925.00	\$ -	\$ 5,855.96
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,855.96
June	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,855.96
July	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,855.96
August	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 5,905.96
September	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 6,055.96
Year to Date	\$ 1,150.00	\$ -	\$ 6,055.96

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 890.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 390.00
February*	\$ 324.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 214.00
March*	\$ 859.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 573.50
April*	\$ 302.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 376.00
May*	\$ 426.45	\$ 500.00	\$ 302.45
June*	\$ 205.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 7.45
July*	\$ 535.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 42.45
August*	\$ 1,117.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 659.95
September	\$ 240.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 399.95

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Month	To Date
<u>*Per Capita to Date</u>	\$ 2,124.40	\$ -	\$ 2,124.40

An Apology goes out to John Blank, who works so hard to keep track of these numbers. A few were accidentally left off from last months financial report. All the numbers should now be included and have been updated for this month's report.

Included in General Fund			
<u>Building Maintenance</u>			
	NET	NET	TO DATE
	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
-			
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ -
January	\$ 470.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 20.00
February	\$ 145.00	\$ 402.50	\$ (237.50)
March	\$ 145.00	\$ -	\$ (92.50)
April	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 157.50
May	\$ 367.30	\$ -	\$ 524.80
June	\$ 537.30	\$ -	\$ 1,062.10
July	\$ 380.00	\$ -	\$ 1,442.10
August	\$ 365.00	\$ -	\$ 1,807.10
September	\$ 155.00	\$ -	\$ 1,962.10
Year to Date	\$ 2,814.60	\$ 852.50	\$ 1,962.10

Local Mission

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 2,342.97
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,342.97
February	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,342.97
March	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,342.97
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,342.97
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,342.97
June	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,342.97
July	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,342.97
August	\$ -	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,117.97
September	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,117.97
Year to Date	\$ -	\$ 225.00	\$ 2,117.97

Special Offerings

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 152.00	\$ -	\$ 152.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 82.57	\$ 68.00	\$ 150.57
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 239.00	\$ 127.00	\$ 366.00
	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,104.25	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 104.25
Pentecost ***	\$ 487.11	\$ 400.00	\$ 87.11
Peace Global Witness **	\$ 85.00	\$ 375.00	\$ (290.00)

**40% to Blackburn Center

***25% Welcome Home Shelter

ATTENDANCE

Sept 5 2021: 24

Sept 12, 2021: 36

Sept 19, 2021: 29

Sept 26, 2021: 29



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 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

CONGRUITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER



HARVEST HOME at CONGRUITY on Nov 21, 2021.

Bring non-perishable food items for needy families.

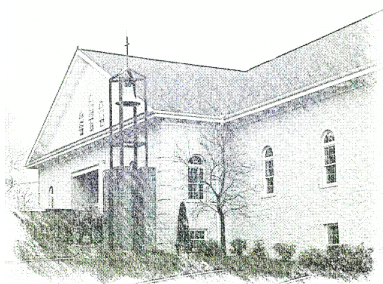
Email Newsletter items to congruitynewsletter@gmail.com

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**

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