



Congruity Presbyterian Church

February 2023
Volume 47, Issue 2

Congruity Connections

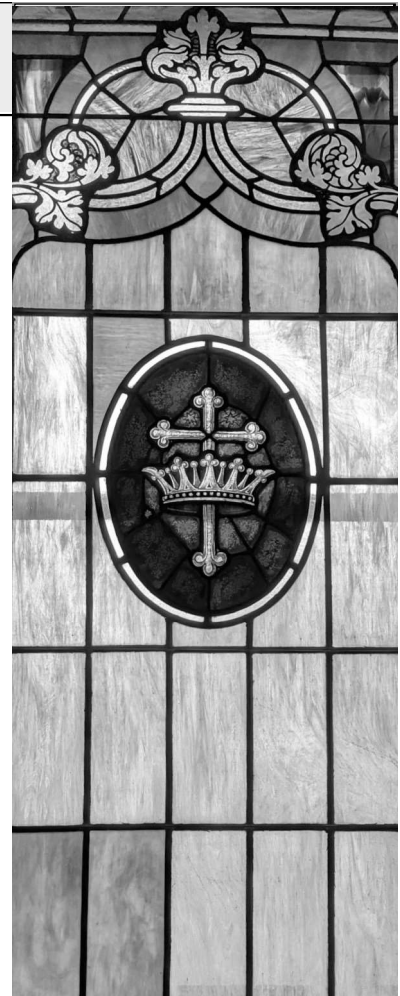
CLIFF'S NOTES

Every year as the calendar turns to February, I find myself thinking back to my days in Elementary School and the annual project of making a Valentine's Day box to hold the cards that I would be given by my classmates. I remember being excited for that day when we would have a party, exchange cards with one another and enjoy each other's company.

As we approach Valentine's Day this year, I find myself thinking of the words of Jesus found in John 15: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father." (Verses 13-15). To me this is a powerful reminder that through our faith we are friends of Jesus, and we experience the depth of love that he has for each and every one of us. I think that this is something for all of us to keep in mind especially as we begin our Lenten Journey on February 26th. We will journey through the Season of Lent being reminded just how much Christ loves all of us and all that he has done for us.

Throughout the pages of this newsletter, you will see that we are returning to some of the events that have been on hiatus during the pandemic, namely the Deacon White Elephant Sale and Covered Dish Dinner on February 12th and the Redstone Mission Team's Pancake Dinner on February 21st.

Yours in Christ, *Cliff*



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SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Congruity's Deacon Sunday** is Sunday, February 12, 2023 with **White Elephant Auction** and Covered Dish lunch.

WEEKLY WORSHIP
MEDITATIONS

February 5

Matthew 5: 13-20

February 12

1 Corinthians 3: 1-9

February 19

Matthew 17: 1-9

February 26

Romans 5: 12-19

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.

- | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Feb 5 | New Alexandria,
Congruity | Cliff Foster, Pastor |
| Feb 12 | New Kensington | Gary Lyons, Temporary Supply |
| Feb 19 | Apollo, Poke Run | Pete Goetschius, Pastor |
| Feb 26 | Redstone Presbytery | Ken Foust, Honorably Retired |

LITURGIST FOR FEBRUARY

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| February 5 | Sarabeth Stopansky |
| February 12 | Tim D'Aurora |
| February 19 | Phyllis Frye |
| February 26 | 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.



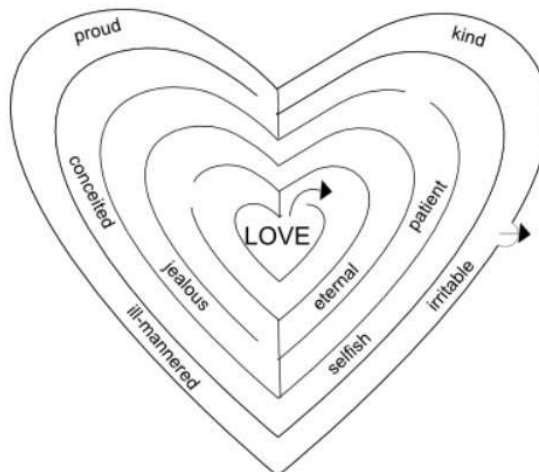
KIDZ KORNER SUBMITTED BY CHRISTIAN ED

LOVE MAZE—How will you show love in these ways?

1 Corinthians 13 is called the love chapter because its words describe how to show love to others. Some of these words are in this maze.

Draw a path through the maze from the center to the right side. **Some** of the words will be crossed out by the line you draw.

If a word **is not** crossed out, write it in the "LOVE IS" list.
If a word **is** crossed out, write it in the "LOVE IS NOT" list.



LOVE IS

LOVE IS NOT

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Date	Person
2/1	Charlotte Foresman
2/3	Dan Frye
2/4	Kathy (Blank) Todd Jeff Karstaedt
2/7	Dottie D'Aurora
2/8	Tom Dudek
2/9	Elijah Miller
2/17	Austin Heasley
2/18	Ken Sellinger, Jr.
2/20	Arlin Smith Kathy Schrecengost Soule
2/21	Daniel Witt
2/22	Elise Bish Diane D'Aurora
2/25	Clay Kaufman
2/25	Brian Kaufman
2/27	Stephanie Cunningham
2/27	Bob Frye



THANK YOU !!!

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the congregation for the very generous gift that you gave me at Christmas. Your generosity meant a lot to me. Thank you. ~ Cliff Foster

I would like to thank the congregation of Congruity Church for their most generous Christmas gift. Thanks to all!
~ Vicki Walters, Congruity Music Director

I would like to thank everyone in the Congruity congregation for the gift of money. ~ Ken Moyer, Congruity Custodian

Thank you to the Deacons and Congregation for the generous and much appreciated gift. ~ Debbie Perino, Congruity Secretary.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

The Deacons have posted the annual flower calendar inside the greeting room, and are accepting donations for \$40 per Sunday to brighten up the pulpit. Please help contribute.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING February 12th

“The Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-led, grassroots movement, the result of thousands of young people around the country joining together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities ... [its] mission is utilizing Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. .. The [Westmoreland County] food bank is asking churches, schools and individuals in the community to donate money to help those in need. ‘

~Tribune Review



ELDERS

Matt Cunningham
Tim D'Aurora
Evelyn Foresman
Phyllis Frye
Kathy Hamilton
Vince Kemerer
Nancy Lauffer
Ken Martz
Scott McIlnay

DEACONS

Stephanie Cunningham
Becky Davis
Sue Derek
Dave Foresman
Terry Selembo
Cedric Stopansky

ON THE COVER

This is an image from one of our beautiful medallion windows in the sanctuary. This window depicts the **Cross and Crown**, God's assurance that although there will be trials, there will also be rewards. Look up **James 1:12** to learn more.

ITEMS FROM SESSION BY S. STOPANSKY

The session met Monday, January 16, 2023 and reports the following:

- * Held the annual meeting of the Trustees and elected Ken Martz as president and Sarabeth Stopansky as secretary for 2023.
- * Voted to participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 12, 2023. Kettles will be placed in the greeting room and all money collected will go to the Westmoreland County Food Bank.
- * Approved changing Internet providers to Kinetic by Windstream at a substantial savings.
- * Assigned Session members to committees for 2023.
- * Approved the Women's Association's request to hold a turkey dinner on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

Next Session meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2023

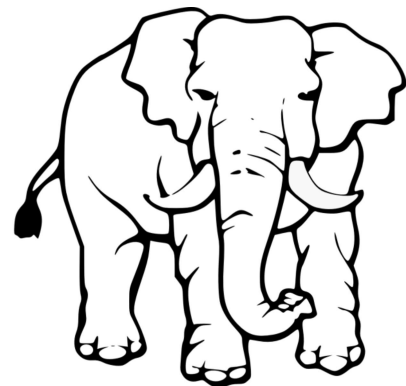
DEACONS BY DAVE FORESMAN

Deacons Sunday – February 12, 2023

White Elephant Auction!! Covered Dish Luncheon!!

The Deacons will be taking part in the Worship service this day. And right after the service, we will have the return of the **White Elephant Auction and Covered Dish Luncheon!**

Please bring a **covered dish** to share and a **wrapped gift** (or several) for the auction. The Deacons will provide table service, bread and drinks. This is a great afternoon – delicious food, awesome auctioneers, and a fun time for fellowship! This is also the only fundraiser the Deacons have all year and would really appreciate everyone's support. We can't wait to see you there.



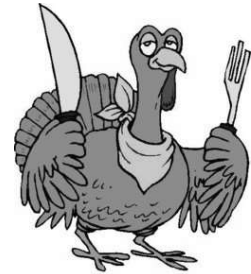
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BY PHYLLIS FRYE

The next meeting of the **Women's Association** is on Wed Feb 15, 2pm.



The Women's Association has set Saturday, **April 1st (no fooling!)** as the date for their **RUMMAGE SALE**. So start cleaning those closets and attics. There will be the sale, plus lunch and a bake sale. Please do not bring rummage until the week of the sale. **Watch for the March newsletter for more information.**

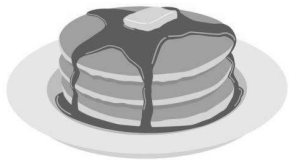
The Women are planning a **TURKEY DINNER** on **Sat, May 13, 2023**. There is a possibility of upgrading from take-out only to take out or buffet, or take-out with the church open to eat it there. We need your input and to pull these off **we will need YOUR help**, so **PLEASE** keep the date open.



REDSTONE MISSION TEAM BY PHYLLIS FRYE

Redstone Mission Team has selected the week of April 16-22, 2023, for their Spring Mission trip. Their destination will be **Bolair, WV**, about 10 minutes from Webster Springs. Redstone will be working under WVMA, which partners with Webster Springs Christian Mission, which oversees Mountain Market Place Mission. The team will be staying in the upstairs of this mission. Cost is \$300 per volunteer, with team member paying \$150 and the balance coming out of the Mission Team Fund. Work project will be building a ramp in Cowan, another town about 10 minutes away. If interested in going, contact Phyllis Frye (724-468-3740). Also you will be expected to help at the **Pancake Dinner** fundraiser on Feb. 21.

PANCAKES ARE BACK!



The Redstone Mission Team's **PANCAKE DINNER** (with a Mardi Gras theme) will be on **Fat Tuesday, February 21** from 4-7pm at Congruity Church. It is all you can eat, with pancakes (plain or with homemade blueberry sauce),

scrambled eggs, (plain or with cheese), sausage, fruit and beverage. There will be live piano music, silent auction, beads, and masks for the kids to decorate. **Tickets at the door are adults \$9, Children \$4** and children under 6 free. There will be a sign-up sheet in the greeting room for donations to help with expenses. All proceeds benefit the **Redstone Mission Team**.



SOME IDEAS FOR GIVING EACH MONTH BY CHRISTIAN ED

Give Loving Service

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Have some friends over for family home evening 	Visit the sick 	Really listen to someone 	Forgive someone 	Give a sincere compliment 	Call and cheer someone up 
Write to a missionary 	Volunteer to do the dishes 	Make a treat for the bishopric 	Share your smile 	Send a letter to someone 	Think good thoughts about someone 	Take a meal to someone who is sick 
Give someone a ride to church 	Share a talent 	Bake 2 and share 1 	Hug someone 	Read to a small child 	Try to understand someone's feelings 	Make a new friend 
Make someone feel welcome at church 	Share a treat for family home evening 	Tell a friend what you like about him or her 	Do someone a favor 	Show someone you care 	Smile at a frowning face 	Visit an elderly neighbor 
Help a busy mother with her children at church 	Say "I love you" 	Clean your room without being asked 				

CONGRUITY'S COMMITTEES NEED YOU!

One way to serve at Congruity is to volunteer for one of our Committees for the year. We need you to **'Discover your Purpose'**. Just talk to one of the Session or Deacons.

The 2023 committees are being formed, including:

Worship to enhance the ways we worship together., **'Finding God'**;

Christian Ed to support the education of the congregation, **'Growing in Faith'**;

Congregational Life to create new ways to join in fellowship with each other;

Budget+Stewardship+Interpretation to guide the financial stability of the church;

Personnel to liaise with the church's staff;

Property to maintain the church and grounds; and

Mission to seek ways to provide assistance and to our friends and neighbors, **'Making a Difference'**.



BUDGET + STEWARDSHIP + INTERPRETATION

BY TIM D'AURORA

As mentioned in the last newsletter, 2022 was not a very successful year for our finances. We needed to transfer \$12,000.00 from the Helen Seanor Fund to be able to meet our obligations. Without that added money, our expenses exceeded our income by \$10,715.54. Obviously, this level of shortfall is not sustainable. As we begin 2023, we hope to be a more active and vibrant church, which will automatically help with our finances. We need you to be involved to make that happen.

One way that you can actively support the church when you aren't regularly attending is by taking advantage of our on-line giving option. This is a very easy to use donation tool that is accessible through our church website at congruitychurch.org or by getting the app for **Vanco Mobile**. Android users should go to google play and Apple users go to the App store to download Vanco Mobile where you will search for **Congruity Presbyterian Church**. You have the option of making a one-time donation or setting it up to be a recurring one. You have the control to give the way you choose.



As a reminder to anyone who used this method in 2022, your **on-line giving** will NOT be reported in your statement from the Financial Secretary. You need to go to the website and get that information on your own. The Financial Secretary doesn't receive this information.

Also, I want to remind everyone about their **per capita** responsibility. Every member is responsible for the \$44.00 per capita amount. That is not per family, but per person. Again, this money is used for the administrative costs of running Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly as well as supplying the mission funds our Presbytery uses. Please denote either First Fruits or per capita on your payment.

OFFERING TOTALS

Dec 4, 2022

\$668.00

Dec 11, 2022

\$700.00

Dec 18, 2022

\$1,525.00

Dec 24, 2022

\$1,1900.00

Dec 25, 2022

\$666.00



ONLINE GIVING
QR CODE

REMINDER to ONLINE GIVERS

Any on-line giving is not reported by the financial secretary on her statements. For tax purposes you can log into your account to obtain a record of your on-line donations. Please remember that any on-line donations are not deposited into Congruity's bank account until the first banking day of the next month.

TREASURER'S REPORT BY JOHN BLANK

General Fund

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance	To Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 9,535.36	
January	\$ 18,247.97	\$ 8,771.09	\$ 19,012.24	\$ 9,476.88
February	\$ 9,623.42	\$ 9,872.34	\$ 18,763.32	\$ 9,227.96
March	\$ 6,082.13	\$ 10,132.96	\$ 14,712.49	\$ 5,177.13
April	\$ 6,818.65	\$ 10,598.19	\$ 10,932.95	\$ 1,397.59
May	\$ 8,804.79	\$ 9,173.94	\$ 10,563.80	\$ 1,028.44
June	\$ 8,555.12	\$ 8,420.32	\$ 10,698.60	\$ 1,163.24
July	\$ 4,187.15	\$ 7,999.73	\$ 6,886.02	\$ (2,649.34)
August	\$ 7,812.40	\$ 8,051.03	\$ 6,647.39	\$ (2,887.97)
September	\$ 5,169.92	\$ 10,719.69	\$ 1,097.62	\$ (8,437.74)
October	\$ 7,949.21	\$ 7,985.74	\$ 1,061.09	\$ (8,474.27)
November	\$ 8,539.78	\$ 8,387.77	\$ 1,213.10	\$ (8,322.26)
December*	\$ 21,019.00	\$ 11,402.28	\$ 10,829.82	\$ 1,294.46
Year to Date	\$ 112,809.54	\$ 111,515.08	\$ 10,829.82	\$ 1,294.46

*Includes \$12,000 from Helen Seanor Fund

Memorial Fund

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 2,873.50
January	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,873.50
February	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 2,923.50
March	\$ -		\$ 2,923.50
April	\$ 380.00		\$ 3,303.50
May	\$ 125.00		\$ 3,428.50
June	\$ 20.00		\$ 3,448.50
July	\$ -		\$ 3,448.50
August	\$ -		\$ 3,448.50
September	\$ -		\$ 3,448.50
October	\$ -		\$ 3,448.50
November	\$ -		\$ 3,448.50
December			\$ 3,448.50
Year to Date	\$ 575.00	\$ -	\$ 3,448.50

First Fruits

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 1,192.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 692.50
February*	\$ 928.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,121.00
March*	\$ 736.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,357.50
April*	\$ 779.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,636.50
May*	\$ 388.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,524.50
June	\$ 520.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,544.50
July	\$ 135.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,179.50
August*	\$ 583.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,262.50
September	\$ 440.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,202.50
October	\$ 230.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 932.50
November	\$ 505.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 937.50
December	\$ 195.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 632.50

*Includes Per Capita

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
*Per Capita to Date	\$ 2,512.50	\$ -	\$ 2,512.50

Building Maintenance

	NET Receipts	NET Expenses	Actual Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 2,637.10
January	\$ 250.00	\$ 327.00	\$ 2,560.10
February	\$ 180.00		\$ 2,740.10
March	\$ 135.00		\$ 2,875.10
April	\$ 270.00		\$ 3,145.10
May	\$ 235.00		\$ 3,380.10
June	\$ 275.00		\$ 3,655.10
July	\$ 155.00		\$ 3,810.10
August	\$ 275.00	\$ 649.00	\$ 3,436.10
September	\$ 220.00		\$ 3,656.10
October	\$ 150.00		\$ 3,806.10
November	\$ 290.00		\$ 4,096.10
December	\$ 105.00		\$ 4,201.10
Year to Date	\$ 2,540.00	\$ 976.00	\$ 4,201.10

Local Mission

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 2,117.97
January	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,817.97
February	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,917.97
March	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,917.97
April	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,917.97
May	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,917.97
June	\$ -	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,692.97
July	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,692.97
August	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,792.97
September	\$ -		\$ 1,792.97
October	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,792.97
November	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,792.97
December			\$ 1,792.97
Year to Date	\$ 200.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 1,792.97

Special Offerings

	Previous	This Mnth	To Date
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 330.00	\$ -	\$ 330.00
Cents-Ability	\$ 136.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 144.00
Presby Disaster Assistance* *\$235.00 Ukraine	\$ 1,014.00	\$ -	\$ 1,014.00
	Received	GOAL	Balance
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 873.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (127.00)
Pentecost ***	\$ 465.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 65.00
Peace Global Witness **	\$ 232.50	\$ 375.00	\$ (142.50)
Christmas Joy	\$ 520.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 120.00

**25% - Welcome Home Shelter

***40% - Blackbum Center

ATTENDANCE

Dec 4, 2022:	31
Dec 11, 2022:	31
Dec 18, 2022:	31
Dec 24, 2022:	27
Dec 25, 2022:	14



PER CAPITA DUE

Each year we are responsible to provide a per capita amount on each person in the congregation to help support the Presbytery. It helps Congruity if you earmark one your tithes specifically for the \$44 per person to 'Per Capita'. Thank you!

CONGRUITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Cliff Foster

CLERK OF SESSION:
Sarabeth Stopansky

ASST. CLERK: Ken Martz

DEACON MODERATOR:
Dave Foresman

TREASURER: Caroline D'Aurora

FINANCIAL SECRETARY:
Lana Munsell

CHURCH SECRETARY:
Debbie Perino

MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Vicki Walters

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Kathy Hamilton

CONGRUITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER



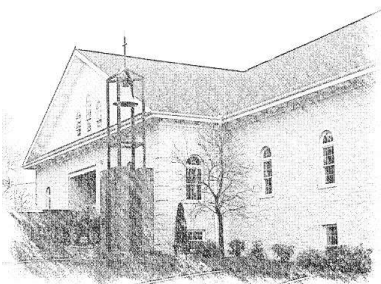
Email Newsletter items to congruitynewsletter@gmail.com

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



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

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