



Congruity Presbyterian Church

May 2023  
Volume 47, Issue 5

# Congruity Connections

## CLIFF'S NOTES

A few days ago I received a letter from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary announcing the upcoming Alumni days and I realized that it has been 37 years since I graduated from seminary. I have joked throughout the years that someday I was going to write a book about all the things that were not taught in seminary that are part of day-to-day life in ministry. One of the chapters would be how to navigate through a global pandemic, something that we have learned on the fly doing the last three years.

I have been thinking and wondering how to recapture the momentum and energy that existed pre-pandemic in terms of attendance in worship and Sunday school, programming, our finances, and our ministry and mission. We have been living in an unprecedented time. This month we will be celebrating Pentecost on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church of Jesus Christ, we remember the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples and the disciples were able to share the Gospel message with many different people in various languages. We ask everyone to wear something RED on Pentecost.

I am asking all of us throughout the month of May, to spend some time praying and thinking about our mutual ministry and mission as we look towards the future, to come and join us for in-person worship, to financial support our congregation as well as sharing our gifts and talents. It is my hope and prayer that together we can be about the business of building the kingdom of God in our communities and to the ends of our global neighborhood. The old hymn reminds us "because He lives, we can face tomorrow... because He lives, all fear is gone... because I know He holds the future and life is worth the living Just because He lives." As an Easter people, we know that Christ is alive and Christ calls us to be his disciples at work in our world today.

Yours in Christ, *Cliff*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

## SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Come for the **PEN-TECOST** service and Communion **Sunday May 28th.**



## 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



## CONGRATS!



To Krystal and Jason Maciupa on the birth of their daughter Malia Mae who was born on April 15, 2023 and was 7lb 10z and 20 inches.

To Brittany and Mike Kepple on the birth of their son Michael Kash who was born on April 20, 2023 and was 7lb 2 oz.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU !

The Congruity Women's Association sends a special THANK YOU to all who contributed to the **Rummage-Bake Sale**. You helped make \$2038.44 for the Women's Association. \$370 was made on the bake sale alone, and the bake sale was sold out by 11am.!

## 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 windows in the sanctuary. This window depicts the Anchor, reminding us of God's commitment and steadfastness. **Hebrews 6:19**

## ITEMS FROM SESSION/DEACONS

BY SARABETH STOPANSKY/DAVE FORESMAN

The session met on Monday, April 17th for their monthly meeting and reports the following.

Discussed the financial issues the church is facing.

Discussed how to revive Sunday School and talked of trying to have a mini VBS this summer open to all the children in the area.

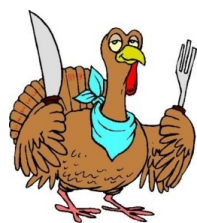
Heard a report from Ken Martz, Elder Delegate to the March Presbytery Meeting, and elected Sarabeth Stopansky as Elder Delegate to the May Presbytery Meeting.

Approved the following items:

- \* 3 hoagie sales for 2023, with dates to be announced later.
- \* The Deacons request to collect both the Blanket and Tool offerings.
- \* The Women's Association request to collect items for Union Mission. The collect will be part of the PW's fall gathering mission project.
- \* Approved a fellowship time with light refreshments after Worship on Pentecost.

The next Session meeting will be Monday, May 16th.

## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BY PHYLLIS FRYE



Spring TURKEY DINNER:

**Buffet or Take-out Sat May 13, 4-7pm**

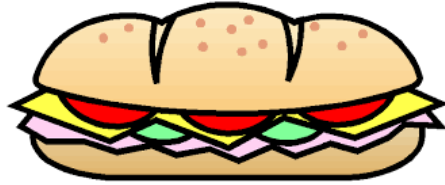
**Adults \$12, Children 6-12 \$5, children under 6 free.**

**RESERVATIONS ONLY.**

To reserve, call either Terry (724-668-7577) or the church (724-668-7740). If possible when making reservations, please state whether you want buffet or take-out. We will accept donations of corn, butter, Miracle Whip, coffee and lots of milk. We will also need people to make cakes and do turkeys. If you would like to donate, please call either Terry or Phyllis (724-468-3740)

**Help is needed all day Sat** with cooking and set up, as well as doing take-outs and serving at the buffet. Hopefully, this will be a little simpler than the sit-down dinner and still accommodate those who like to sit down and fellowship with others.

**Congruity Presbyterian Church  
Hoagie Order Form**



**May 19, 2023**

**Pick up after 6:30**

Additional hoagies will be available on Saturday the 20th at the First Commonwealth Bank in New Alexandria, at the BP at Rts 22 & 819.

**Traditional Italian** w/or w/o onions: Ham, bologna, cooked salami, provolone, american cheese, lettuce, tomato(bagged separately)

**Turkey & Swiss:** Turkey, swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato

Hoagies are **\$7.00**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Italian w</u>	<u>Italian w/o</u>	<u>Turkey</u>	<u>Total</u>
-------------	------------------	--------------------	---------------	--------------

Orders are to be turned in to Tim D'Aurora by Monday, May 15th at 724-668-8319. Let's all work to make this a successful sale!



CONSIDER GIVING  
ONLINE!



BY USING THIS  
ONLINE GIVING  
QR CODE

**ATTENDANCE**

**Mar 5, 2022:** 28  
**Mar 12, 2022:** 22  
**Mar 19, 2022:** 35  
**Mar 26, 2022:** 29

**TREASURER'S REPORT BY CAROLINE D'AURORA**

**TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT -2023**

**General Fund**

	Receipts	Expenses	Actual Balance	Year to Date Balance
<i>Adjusted Balance as of January 1</i>			\$ 10,829.82	
January	\$ 7,884.65	\$ 9,374.38	\$ 9,340.09	\$ (1,489.73)
February	\$ 8,812.88	\$ 10,196.69	\$ 7,956.28	\$ (2,873.54)
March	\$ 5,532.40	\$ 11,381.81	\$ 2,106.87	\$ (8,722.95)

**First Fruits**

	Received	Pledged	Balance
January*	\$ 1,462.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 962.00
February*	\$ 639.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,101.00
March *	\$ 340.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 941.00

\*Includes Per Capita

**Special Offerings**

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Cents-Ability	\$ 16.00	\$ 58.00	\$ 74.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ -	\$ 251.00	\$ 251.00 <b>Total</b>
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 111.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 391.00

**Fund Accounts**

	From 2022	Income	Expense	Balance
Memorial Fund	\$ 3,448.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,448.50
Local Mission	\$ 1,792.97	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 1,812.97
Building Maintenance	\$ 4,201.10	\$ 420.00	\$ -	\$ 4,621.10

**REPORT FROM REDSTONE MISSION TEAM**

**BY PHYLLIS FRYE**

**We are to bloom where we are planted!** At the last minute, the Redstone Mission Team was transferred from Webster Springs to St Albans WV, where they are working on a project called Hezekiah House. Hezekiah House is a project of St Paul Missionary Baptist Church. The house, intended for a drug and alcohol rehab center, has been completely gutted and has been worked on by many volunteer groups. It is now at the finishing up stage.



## **BUDGET + STEWARDSHIP + INTERPRETATION**

BY TIM D'AURORA

Though this is being written before we actually have the dinner, I want to thank everyone who helped. Obviously, we don't know how we did yet, but regardless, it can only be successful with your help. If you take a look at the Treasurer's Report, anything we do make will be a much needed help. March was our worst month financially of the year. Our expenses exceeded our income by almost \$5,800.00. This is an **alarming trend** and soon will require us to make some very difficult decisions. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving. A contributing factor has been our continued low attendance at worship. Encourage friends and family to come to church. There is a definite correlation with increased attendance and increased giving.

Another way to help our financial situation is by participating in the upcoming **Hoagie Sale**. **On Friday, May 19**, we will be meeting at 4:30 to begin making hoagies. They can be picked up beginning at 6:30. We will also be selling hoagies on Saturday, May 20. Help is needed to presell, make, and man the selling stations (probably at First Commonwealth Bank in New Alexandria and at the BP at Five Points). Let Tim know if you would be willing to help Friday evening and if you are able to help at a location. We will again offer Italian and Turkey & Swiss and they will be \$7.00. There is an **order form** in this newsletter as well as additional copies in the Greeting Room at church. Turn these order forms in to Tim either at church or by calling your totals in by Monday evening, May 15<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser has been very successful in the past and with your help, this one can be our best ever. Who doesn't like a delicious hoagie. Get out there and **sell, sell, sell**.

**There is a saying that when it rains, it pours.** We are trying to avoid the situation of having it pour in the sanctuary when it rains. Our roof on that part of the building is in very bad shape and we are in the process of soliciting bids to replace it. This will be a very expensive undertaking but it is one that can't be delayed. We will begin collecting for the roof repair and ask that any donations made be marked for the building fund. We will update you when we have the actual cost figures. This certainly comes at an inopportune time considering our other financial concerns. Let us pray that God will help us all find a way to fulfil our responsibilities as good stewards of His House.

## **REPORT FROM REDSTONE MISSION TEAM CONTINUED**

Sue and Chuck trimming windows; Dave and Ed siding; Sylvia, and others sanding, priming and painting



**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](mailto: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](http://congruitychurch.org)



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

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO 8**