



Congruity Connections

CLIFF'S NOTES

It is hard to believe that the month of September has begun, isn't it? Children have returned to school, and we are resuming our fall schedule on September 10th with our Rally Day breakfast at 9AM, Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45AM and worship at 11 AM. I found myself remembering that commercial that aired a few years ago, where parents were singing "It's the most wonderful time of the year" as they were doing back to school shopping for their kids.

I remember those back-to-school shopping trips when I was growing up. Getting new clothes for school and spending some time picking out what I was going to wear on the first day of school... getting a new pair of sneakers (what we called tennis shoes), gathering pens and pencils, notebooks and binders, erasers, and a new box of crayons as well as all of the other essential school supplies that were needed for the school year. There was excitement in the air as the first day of school approached.

I am sure that we all remember those days. Part of the excitement was reconnecting with our friends as well as not knowing what would unfold during the school year. As a church family we are in a similar position, not sure what will unfold in the coming months in terms of our finances, our ministry and mission and our outreach to our community and beyond. We need to remember that we do not traverse into the future alone—God is right there with us through each and every step of the way and we also have each other to lean upon and to hold each other up as we face the challenges that lay ahead of us.

Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:13 that "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." May we hold fast to this assurance we have through our faith as we step out into the uncharted future to which God is calling us. May our faith fill us with excitement as we see where God takes us.

Yours in Christ,

Cliff



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SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **Sunday Services will now be at 11 am** for the Fall and Winter starting September 10th.

WEEKLY WORSHIP
MEDITATIONS

Sept 3

Exodus 3: 1-15

Sept 10

Romans 13: 8-14

Sept 17

Matthew 18: 21-35

Sept 24

Exodus 16: 2-15

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.

Sept 3 New Kensington Becca Siddle, Covenant Pastor

Sept 10 Apollo, Poke Run Pete Goetschius, Pastor

Sept 17 Avonmore Brenda Barnes, Moderator

Sept 24 Redstone Presbytery Cliff Buell, Honorably Retired

LITURGIST FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept 3 Cliff Foster

Sept 10 Sarabeth Stopansky

Sept 17 Dave Foresman

Sept 24 Ced Stopansky

*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.



RALLY DAY Submitted by Christian Ed. Committee

The Christian Education Committee is hoping you all had a fun and relaxing Summer and now that the school year is starting and Summer will soon be Fall, it's time for Sunday School classes to start up again at Congruity! In the last few years our attendance has dropped quite a bit so we are hoping that the 2023-2024 school year brings everyone back to our classes. We have great Sunday School teachers and interesting, thought-provoking, and fun classes. So, join us on **RALLY DAY** which is on **Sunday, September 10, 2023**. We will start off the morning with a delicious **Continental Breakfast at 9:00 am**, followed by Sunday School classes for all ages at **9:45 am**, and a return to our **11:00 am** time for Worship. ***We hope to see you all there for this kick-off to a new year of Sunday School!***

***Mark your calendars for September 10 for Rally Day and a Wonderful Sunday School year!**

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Date	Anniversaries
9/3/1983	Keith & Rose Ann Orr
9/13/1969	Tom & Karen Dudek
9/13/1986	Jim & Michelle Kepple
9/16/2006	Glenn & Helen Hawkey
9/25/1999	Dan & Adrian Frye



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Date	Person
9/1	Nathan Foresman
9/1	Matthew Schweppe
9/2	Jim Blank
9/6	Cody Kaufman
9/6	Courtney Kaufman
9/7	Jimmy Carnathan
9/7	Julia Carnathan
9/9	Myrah Jan Hawkey
9/10	Bob Schweppe Jr.
9/11	Allison Hufford
9/13	Bill Hufford
9/18	Colton Cramer
9/19	Yvonne McIlroy
9/19	Magnolia Kaufman
9/20	Dave Foresman
9/20	Chuck Heasley
9/21	Mary Ann Kaufman
9/21	Joshua Wilhelm
9/22	Harold Kaufman
9/25	John Blank
9/25	Abigail MacDonald
9/26	Joan Wilhelm
9/30	LaRue Gray
9/30	Sydney Swatchick



CONGRATS!



Michael Kash Kepple was Baptized June 11, 2023. Kash is the son of Brittany and Michael Kepple, grandson of Michelle and Jim Kepple and great-grandson of George Kepple.

Anastasia Lynn Cunningham was Baptized August 27, 2023. She is the daughter of Stephanie and Matt Cunningham.

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the Hamilton family on the passing of Scott's mother Dorothy on July 20, 2023.



Fall is for Giving Back!

And the King will answer them, Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me. ~Matthew 25:40

As we start into the Giving Season, we are reminded of Jesus' words in the book of Matthew. We are called to be prepared for Jesus coming again (verses 1-13); be good stewards of the goods and talents God has given us (verses 14-30); and minister to those in need (verses 31-46).

In line with this, we have several mission projects underway that we hope you will support:

- **HOPE in a BAG** is a project of Redstone Presbytery, see insert on the next page ;
- **SHOE your Love** shoe collection is an ongoing project of Union Mission;
- **Sock it to Them** Sundays and **Undie Sundays** socks and underwear project is the mission project of the Presbyterian Women for the Fall Gathering at Congruity;
- **PDA** is collecting for wildfire victims of Hawai'i

Please, if you are able, to prayerfully, help support these worthwhile causes, while helping to fulfill our mission to serve Jesus Christ.

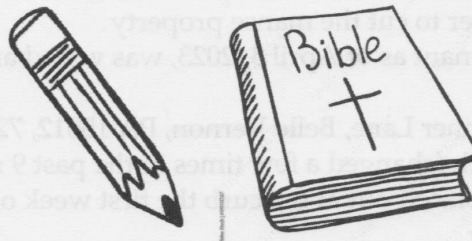
Please contribute something on Sundays to the **blue PDA buckets** in the back of the sanctuary. We are collecting donations for the wildfire victims in Hawai'i for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. It's core budget is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing that we participate in every year.



Please find a way to help give during this giving season!

Addiction Ministry Network
of the Presbytery of Redstone and

HOPE IN A BAG



Addiction takes away everything.



Hope in a Bag started when Renah's Uncle Mike died from a drug overdose. Renah from Smithton at the age of 12 started collecting toiletries and other small items for people who entered addiction treatment. Making the choice to enter treatment for addiction is a big step. Unfortunately, many people try to "get clean" without the simple things like soap, razors, or a toothbrush. The Addiction Ministry Network of Redstone Presbytery is sponsoring a presbytery-wide collection by asking congregations to contribute some or all the items listed below and **bring them to our Presbytery meeting in September 26 in Latrobe.**

YOU CAN HELP!

Please consider donating the following items for recovery

Small Bible	Shampoo/Conditioner	Dental Floss
Pens and Pencils	Toothbrushes	Nail Clippers
Journals	Toothpaste	Q-Tips
Cards	Deodorant	Small Blankets
Soap/Body Wash	Razors	Hardtack Candies
	Feminine Hygiene Products	

Items for **Hope In a Bag**: can be brought to the church and put in a box in the greeting room. Deadline for this project is Sept 24.

REDSTONE MISSION TEAM BY PHYLLIS FRYE

REDSTONE MISSION TEAM SOUP SALE

Orders are due on Sunday, October 1st.

Church: _____



Soup Flavor	# Quarts		@ \$8.00 Each
Chicken Noodle			
Chicken Noodle W/O Onions			
Chili			
Vegetarian Vegetable			
Total			

Name: _____ Phone: _____

SOUP SALE—Saturday October 7

The Redstone Mission Team will be having its 3rd **TAKE-OUT ONLY Soup Sale** on **Saturday Oct 7, 2023**. There will be chili, vegetarian vegetable, and chicken noodle (with or without onions). Orders are \$8 and include bread and cookies and are due on Sunday, Oct 1st. There are order forms included in this newsletter or call the church office at 724-668-7740. Pick-up time is Saturday from 11am-1pm. Please support our team, which is going to West Virginia the end of October.



UPCOMING MISSION TRIP:

Redstone Mission Team has selected the week of **Oct 22-28, 2023** for a fall trip to **St Albans, WV**. Cost is \$300 with the volunteer paying \$150 and the balance coming out of the team fund. These trips involve construction of some kind, but even if you don't know how to do anything you can always learn. You are also asked to participate in the October Soup Sale fundraiser. **There are jobs for anyone with a heart for mission.** If interested in going, contact Phyllis Frye, 724-468-3740.

CONGRUITY MISSION COMMITTEE BY PHYLLIS FRYE

The church's **Mission Committee** has several projects underway:

- Church members participated in the **food booth** at Watt's Truck show on Aug 26th.
- Congruity's church members take a meal in to **Union Mission** every few months. The mission holds 24 men, and they are having a **SHOE DRIVE**, collecting new or slightly worn shoes (no skates) to be sent to third world countries as a fund raiser. Congruity will have a **BOX FOR SHOES in the greeting room** for any donations, which will be taken to the mission periodically.
- We had a workday July 19th at **ROOT International** with Sue and Steve Derek, Carole and John Johnson, Phyllis Frye. All hands on, working on a home and loading up the trailer. Another workday is scheduled for mid September.



DEACONS' GIVING REPORT BY DAVE FORESMAN

Congruity donated \$250.00 to Church World Services (CWS) this year. That was for **Blanket Sunday** on Mother's Day and **Tool Sunday** for Father's Day. Our Congregation's support of CWS equips families worldwide with the tools they need to build brighter futures. As for Blanket Sunday, our contributions provide warmth, comfort and hope to neighbors near and far. On both occasions, our church's support for CWS means relief and hope to many people around the world.

Because of our congregation, Church World Services is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed. **Thank you for your contributions and for your compassion!**

ELDERS

Matt Cunningham

Tim D'Aurora

Evelyn Foresman

Phyllis Frye

Kathy Hamilton

Vince Kemerer

Nancy Lauffer

Ken Martz

Scott McInay

DEACONS

Stephanie Cunningham

Becky Davis

Sue Derek

Dave Foresman

Terry Selembo

Cedric Stopansky

ON THE COVER

Jesus blessing the children is the subject of one of the beautiful windows in the church. Just in time for Back to School. Look up Mark 10: 15, Luke 18: 15-17, and Matthew 19: 13-15 to learn more.

ITEMS FROM SESSION BY SARABETH STOPANSKY

The Session met on August 21, and reports the following:

- Approved the baptism of Anastasia Lynn Cunningham 8/27/23 and Theo Pugliese 9/3/2023.
- Will receive Lynn Cunningham into membership by letter of transfer on August 27, 2023.
- Approved the use of Fellowship Hall for a second polling precinct for Salem Township.
- Approved the Sunday School teachers for 2023-24
- Approved the Mission Committee request to place collection boxes for several mission projects during the fall, including Bags of Hope, underwear and socks for Union Mission and Shoes for Union Mission . See Mission Committee for more details.
- Approved the date of the next Spaghetti Dinner, November 11th

Session discussed the following :

- The extreme shortfall between offerings collected and expenses.
- The possibility of having a homecoming weekend.
- Ways to encourage young parents and their children to have a relationship with the church after their children are baptized.

Session sends out a reminder to everyone that Worship returns to 11:00 AM on September 10th. We hope to see you then.

The Session will be meeting next on October 16th at 7PM. September Session has been cancelled.



FROM THE DEACONS BY DAVE FORESMAN

Clergy Appreciation Day is always the second Sunday in October and all of **October** is celebrated as **Clergy Appreciation Month**. The celebration was established in 1992 with a mission of uplifting and encouraging pastors, missionaries, and religious workers.

Let's look for ways to show our appreciation this October and throughout the year!

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BY PHYLLIS FRYE

The Women's Association has the honor of hosting the **Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women of Redstone Presbytery** on Saturday, November 4, from 9am-1pm. We will be serving a continental breakfast of sorts and lunch for about 30 people.

The Gathering itself includes a worship service, a Bible study (with Donna Havrisko), a couple speakers (including Dan Carney from Union Mission), and a **MISSION PROJECT** The host church decides the mission project and **Congruity chose Union Mission**. We will be collecting new men's socks, underwear and tee shirts of any size or color. We decided to open this up to our congregation, along with gathering participants, so we will be having:

- SOCK-IT -TO THEM SUNDAYS in September
- UNDIE SUNDAYS in October



Monetary donations will also be accepted. Any items will be dedicated at the gathering in November. If you are interested in attending the Gathering itself, registration is \$12, Check made out to 'PW in Redstone Presbytery' and sent to Susan Blank by Sat Oct 28. There is no registration fee just to help, and we will give you lunch!

MORE FROM THE DEACONS

JOIN the Hunger Walk 2023

As part of the New Alexandria Ministerium, Congruity will be taking part in the **Hunger Walk**, which will be held on **Sunday, September 24, 2023**. Registration is at 1:30 pm and the walk starts at **2:00 pm at Keystone State Park**. Please join us for a walk around the lake or just come to cheer on and support those walking! For more information, or to sponsor a walker, contact Reverend Foster.



ATTENDANCE

June 4, 2023:	21
June 11, 2023:	81
June 18, 2023:	17
June 25, 2023:	29
July 2, 2023:	25
July 9, 2023:	31
July 16, 2023:	27
July 23, 2023:	25
July 30, 2023:	43

The Deacons would like to remind everyone to that there is still room on the **2023**

FLOWER CHART, posted in the greeting room.



Please sign your name to the chart or call the church office to get your name on the list. Floral arrangements are made by Export Floral and cost \$40 payable to Congruity Deacons.

Many Thanks from the Congruity Deacons

ONLINE GIVING
QR CODE



PLEASE USE THIS
CODE TO GIVE
ONLINE.



TREASURER'S REPORT BY CAROLINE D'AURORA

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)
April	\$ 9,604.30	\$ 9,464.63	\$ 2,246.54	\$ (8,583.28)
May	\$ 5,892.36	\$ 8,530.14	\$ (391.24)	\$ (11,221.06)
June	\$ 5,185.12	\$ 8,536.42	\$ (3,742.54)	\$ (14,572.36)
July	\$ 8,707.74	\$ 8,645.85	\$ (3,680.65)	\$ (14,510.47)

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
April*	\$ 734.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,175.00
May*	\$ 330.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,005.00
June	\$ 375.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 880.00
July	\$ 185.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 565.00

*Includes Per Capita

Special Offerings

	Previous	This Month	To Date
Cents-Ability	\$ 160.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 168.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 251.00	\$ -	\$ 251.00 Total
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,021.00	\$ -	\$ 1,021.00 Total
Pentecost	\$ 335.00	\$ 67.00	\$ 402.00 Total

	Year to Date	Year to Date	Year to Date	Year to Date
<u>Fund Accounts</u>	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	\$ 5,055.00	\$ 567.75	\$ 8,688.35

BUDGET+STEWARDSHIP+INTERPRETATION BY TIM D'AURORA

As was disclosed in the July newsletter, we were very concerned about our financial situation over the summer. Unfortunately, it is probably even worse than expected. At the end of July, our year-to-date balance is -\$14,510.47. That means **we have spent over \$14,500 more than we have collected**. Our actual general fund balance is -\$3,680.65. That means that if we didn't have money in other classifications like the Memorial Fund and the Building fund, we would not be able to pay any bills or paychecks. As it is, we had to transfer money from the Helen Seanor Fund to keep the general fund afloat. We already did this once last December, and now that well is almost dry. Our budget for 2023 is \$127,081.30. That means we need to collect \$10,590.11 every month. We are only averaging \$7,374.21 of income every month. That's a **significant shortfall**. Unfortunately, I don't know what the answer is. We looked into sharing Cliff's services with another church, but that doesn't look like a possibility for the near future. We can only hold so many hoagie sales and spaghetti dinners before we see a diminishing return. So again, **we ask that you prayerfully consider trying to give a little more**. Our future is certainly not secure and we need to do what we can to try to right the ship.

I did want to express my **appreciation for everyone who helped with our hoagie sale in July and our Spaghetti Dinner in August**. It was great to see how many stepped up to make both of these events a success. The hoagie sale made a record profit of \$1,198 as we sold 275 hoagies. And it was nice to see so many people show up to help assemble them. That really makes a difference. The Spaghetti Dinner did not serve as many people as we usually do, but it was still a successful night. We served around 122 and did well with our basket raffle. I especially want to thank the people who stepped up with basket donations. We were very concerned about the expected number of baskets, but several people showed up with baskets that we didn't expect. One person donated 4 baskets herself. That was a positive surprise.

We did make a combined profit of almost \$1,400.00. While these fundraisers are not the answer to our financial problems, they do help. And we thank everyone for making them so successful. We will be doing another **Hoagie Sale in October** and a **Spaghetti Dinner on November 11**. Details will be in the next newsletter and we hope we can count on **your help**.

AUGUST SPAGHETTI DINNER BY L.HEASLEY

Another successful dinner, and these girls were all about sharing. They put most of their tickets in the candy basket. They even got another sheet of tickets shared equally. That is the ticket they won it with. Two very happy little girls. Ayla Heasley (age 4) and Viviana Koury (age 7).



**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



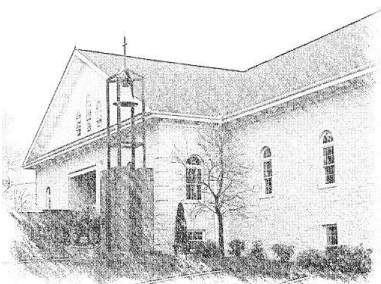
Email Newsletter items to congruitynewsletter@gmail.com

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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