



Congruity Connections

CLIFF'S NOTES

What comes to your mind when you think about Thanksgiving? Do you think of gathering with family and friends on Thanksgiving? Are you looking forward to a wonderful feast filled with turkey and stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy or a piece of pumpkin pie? Maybe you are looking forward to sitting on the couch and napping through a football game? Perhaps you are looking forward to planning your strategy for shopping on Black Friday? Or maybe it is a combination of all of the above.

I have seen in movies and on television shows that depict a family Thanksgiving celebration, that before grace is said and the meal is served, those gathered around the table say what they are thankful for. I have always thought that is a nice idea and without the food getting cold perhaps this is a question that all of us could think about as we prepare for our Thanksgiving celebration. What are you thankful for?

As I was thinking about my answer to that question, several things came to mind of things that I am thankful for. Among that list is hearing the sound of children during worship. The sound of kids being kids is one of my favorite sounds. I was reminded of some words I recently came across: "It's ok if they grow restless. It's ok if they try to escape out of the pew. It's ok if you need to walk to the nursery, ten times. It's ok if they whine. Don't ever feel embarrassed or intimidated for your child being a child. Without children, the church will never continue to grow. Just as much as your children need church, that's exactly just how much the church needs your children." These words are from a woman named Sue Jude Grace

In this season of Thanksgiving, as we think about the things, we are thankful for, I am thankful for the sound of children in worship and for the continued opportunity to serve as your minister.

I would like to wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving !

Yours in Christ, *Cliff*



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SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Join us Saturday, November 11th for **Spaghetti Dinner**
- Nov 19th is **Harvest Home Sunday**
- **Hanging of the Greens** is Dec 2nd.

WEEKLY WORSHIP
MEDITATIONS

November 5

Matthew 23: 1-12

November 12

Joshua 24: 1-3, 14-25

November 19

Matthew 25: 14-30

November 26

Matthew 25: 31-46

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 5 Murrysville, Curtis Paul, Pastor; Travis
Newlonsburg Webster, Associate Pastor

Nov 12 Murrysville, Union Bob Ruefle, Pastor

Nov 19 New Alexandria, Len Morgan, CP

Nov 26 Redstone Presbytery Ken Faust, Honorably Retired

LITURGIST FOR NOVEMBER

Nov 5 Ced Stopansky

Nov 12 Dave Foresman

Nov 19 Caroline D'Aurora

Nov 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
CORNER**

SUBMITTED
BY PAM
FORESMAN

Giving Thanks

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4
The puzzle is based on Psalm 100

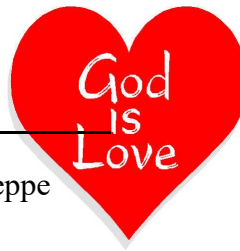


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WORSHIP	EARTH	JOY	LOVE	ENTER
ENDURES	FOREVER	SHEEP	THANKS	SHOUT
SONGS	PASTURE	GLADNESS	GATES	PRAISE

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

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

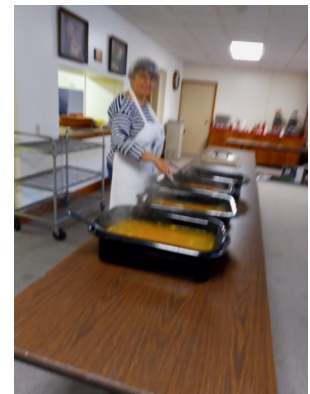


NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Date	Person
11/9	Tammy Kulik
11/11	Madeline Burns Brandy Sellinger
11/14	Mike Marchelletta
11/18	Erik Eidemiller Erin Kaufman
11/19	Kay Frye
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



REDSTONE MISSION TEAM SOUP SALE



REDSTONE MISSION TEAM sends out



a SPECIAL Thank you to all who supported Redstone Mission Team's Soup sale. We sold 189 Quarts. We made extra and took some to ROOT and saved enough to take on our trip to St Alban's, WV. See the photos in the sidebar on this page!

ELDERS

Matt Cunningham
Evelyn Foresman
Tim D'Aurora
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

A lesson of faith, when Jesus invites Peter to walk on water, is the subject of one of the beautiful medallion windows in the church sanctuary. Look up Matthew 14: 28-31 to learn more.

ITEMS FROM SESSION

BY SARABETH STOPANSKY

The Session met on October 16, 2022 and reports the following:

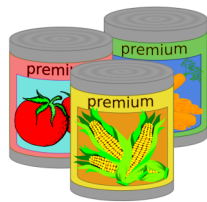
- Received Lynn Cunningham into membership on August 27th .
- Baptized Anastasia Lynn Cunningham on August 27th and Theo Puglise on October 1st.
- Discussed the continuing financial shortfall.
- Discussed ways to engage families with small children and encourage them to become more active in the life of the church .
- Held a discussion on the new Book of Order and Rev Foster highlighted some of the changes.
- Heard an update on the recent activities of the Redstone Mission Team and received a thank you from the team for the use of Fellowship Hall for the recent soup sale.

Approved the following:

- Vacation requests for Rev. Foster for October 25-27 and November 12-15.
- Deacons Harvest Home food collection for the month of November and Hanging of the Greens on December 2nd.
- Women's Association's Simple Tea on December 10th.
- Work List to be posted for volunteers—see side bar page 7

The Session will be meeting next on November 20th at 7PM.

DEACONS BY DAVE FORESMAN



Sunday, November 19th, 2023 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.

Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 is Hanging of the Greens at Congruity. This is always a lot of fun getting the church decorated for the holiday season. A great time for fellowship, listening to Christmas music and pizza for lunch afterwards. All are welcome to join in and help the Deacons for this fun time start-



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BY PHYLLIS FRYE

Women's Association's next meeting is Friday November 3, at 10:30 am.



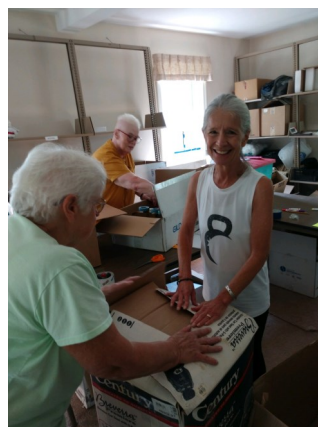
Our Women's Association will be hosting the **Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women on Sat Nov 4, from 9am until 1pm.** This involves women from all over the presbytery and includes a Horizon's Bible study by Donna Havrisko and a presentation by Dan Carney of Union Mission, who will be accepting the donations of socks and underwear. We will be needing help in the kitchen as we will be serving refreshments before the gathering and also lunch at noon. The last time we hosted was in 2012. Please be generous and offer your time to help us, as some of us will need to be upstairs at the gathering at least part of the time.

Save the date: There will be a third Simple Christmas Tea on Sun Dec 10 at 3pm for the women of the church. Watch for more info.



REDSTONE MISSION TEAM BY PHYLLIS FRYE

The team has been on the move. The end of Sept Phyllis Frye, Ced Stopansky, Becky Moore helped Ron Elsbury and his friend Ron at **Mantle House Mission (1)** to help construct a building for a new store, where we put on siding, set in some windows, built in a stairway, insulated and did general clean-up. In October, Sue Derek, Judy Koontz, Patti Hart, Phyllis Frye went to **ROOT International** in Mercer County and loaded boxes (2,3,4) from a trailer (which the team had gutted and floored) to a U-Haul and took it to a warehouse in Polk and unloaded it onto a warehouse floor, then divided the boxes by location to either Mexico or Navajo and put them on skids to be shrink wrapped and stored until they are put on a trailer truck and shipped to El Paso the end of the month. It was heavy work, but we did it! Please pray for safe travels for both the truck driver and for Becky Vogan, who will be flying out with her 96 year-old mother the beginning of November.



(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)



ONLINE GIVING
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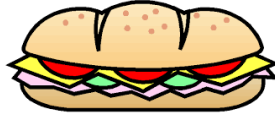
TREASURER'S REPORT BY CAROLINE D'AURORA

<u>General Fund</u>					
		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)	
August*	\$ 20,280.53	\$ 7,943.60	\$ 8,656.28	\$ (2,173.54)	
September	\$ 5,300.50	\$ 10,281.27	\$ 3,675.51	\$ (7,154.31)	
*Includes \$8000.00 transfer from Helen Seanor Fund and \$1843.00 Spaghetti Dinner					
<u>First Fruits</u>		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		
August*	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 465.00		
September*	\$ 195.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 160.00		
*Includes Per Capita					
<u>Special Offerings</u>		Previous	This Month	To Date	
Cents-Ability		\$ 187.80	\$ 33.00	\$ 220.80	
Per Capita		\$ 1,673.00	\$ -	\$ 1,673.00	
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
Peacemaking		\$ -	\$ 260.00	\$ 260.00	
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance		\$ 187.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 362.00	
Included in General Fund Balance					
<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	\$ 22,335.00	\$ 16,367.75	\$ 10,168.35

BUDGET + STEWARDSHIP + INTERPRETATION BY TIM D'AURORA

I wanted to take a minute to thank everyone who helped make our **hoagie sale** a success. We had a good crew to help assemble hoagies including several friends that aren't even members. We sold 275 hoagies and even though costs continue to increase, due to the increase in the price to \$8.00, we were able to make a nice profit.

Thanks again, everyone!



Spaghetti Dinner Our next fundraiser is a spaghetti dinner.

Yes, it's back.

It will be on **Saturday, November 11th**
from **4:00 pm to 6:30 pm.**

It will be a eat-in or take-out and as usual will include spaghetti, meatball, salad, bread and dessert. It will be \$9.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 6–12, and under 5 are free. We will also have a basket raffle.

The **basket raffle** is important because we raise almost as much on this as we do on the dinner. So now is where I ask for your help. There will be a list in the Greeting Room for donations. Remember, anything we get donated, we won't have to spend money on. We also need baskets. We've done a great job on this in the past, but it's important to have a nice selection. If you can put a basket together, great. If you can donate some items for a basket, but don't want to organize or assemble them, that's ok. We can do that. We just need to have the items by Friday, if possible. We also need you to spread the word. We need people to know about it and be encouraged to come and participate. Finally, we could use help on Saturday. We need some set-up help, some serving help, and probably most importantly, some clean-up help. If you can, let Tim know if you are bringing a basket or are able to help. It's thanks to all of you that these events are successful.



As you can see from the **financial statements**, we had an improved August **BUT** a significantly more disappointing September. I don't want to keep sounding like Chicken Little saying "The sky is falling" but something has to change or our options and our future will become limited. If you are even able to contribute an extra dollar per week, it would be a help. Remember, when everyone gives a little, we get a lot.

ATTENDANCE

Sept 3, 2023: 27

Sept 10, 2023: 31

Sept 17, 2023: 25

Sept 24, 2023: 30

CONGRUITY WORK LIST

The Session at its October meeting has decided to put together a list of jobs/projects that need done around the church. The list will be posted on the bulletin board near the kitchenette. If you have an hour or two to spare and would like to tackle these jobs/projects, it would be greatly appreciated. Remember that when we all do a little, we can accomplish a lot.



CONGRUITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR: Cliff Foster

CLERK OF SESSION:
Sarabeth Stopansky

ASST. CLERK: Ken Martz

DEACON MODERATOR:
Dave Foresman

TREASURER:
Csaroline 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 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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