



# Congruity Connections

## CLIFF'S NOTES

I am sure that all of us have pondered the answer to the question of what our favorite Christmas carol or song is. I find my answer to that question fluctuating between the sacred and the secular... between the serious and those silly songs. At the present moment, I am focusing on the song "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year". The title captures the essence of the Advent and Christmas season because it is truly the most wonderful time of the year as God comes to us in the Christ Child... Emmanuel which means God is with us.

Over the next several weeks as we sing our favorite carols during worship or while we are doing all the things that we need to get done: decorating our homes, wrapping presents, baking cookies, or sending out our Christmas cards, more than likely there will be Christmas music playing in the background. This wonderful music articulates the good news of the birth of the Christ Child in a Bethlehem stable. The season of Advent affords us the opportunity to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ and it is also a time to prepare for the return of Christ.

I hope that sometime over the next several weeks as we are shopping for gifts for family and friends, that we will spend some time reflecting on the gift that God has given to all of us, a gift wrapped in strips of rags and laying in a Bethlehem manger—the Christ Child. As we sing our favorite Christmas carols and songs, may our hearts be filled with the joy as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ.

I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ, *Cliff*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

## SPECIAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Join us for **Advent**, every Sunday in December
- Christmas **Poinsettia** Orders are due Sunday **Dec 3.**
- Join us for **Christmas Eve** service, Sunday Dec 24th, 7:30 pm

WEEKLY WORSHIP  
MEDITATIONS

**December 3**

Mark 13: 24-37

**December 10**

Mark 1:1-8

**December 17**

I Thessalonians  
5: 16-24

**December 24**

Luke: 1: 26-38

**December 31**

Luke: 2: 22-40

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.

- |        |                              |                                    |
|--------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dec 3  | New Alexandria,<br>Congruity | Cliff Foster, Pastor               |
| Dec 10 | New Kensington               | Becca Siddle, Pastor               |
| Dec 17 | Apollo, Pole Run             | Pete Goetschius, Pastor            |
| Dec 24 | Avonmore                     | Lynn Mance, CP                     |
| Dec 31 | Redstone Presbytery          | Chuck McPherson, Honorably Retired |

**LITURGIST FOR DECEMBER**

- |        |                     |        |               |
|--------|---------------------|--------|---------------|
| Dec 3  | Sarabeth Stoapansky | Dec 24 | Dave Foresman |
| Dec 10 | Ced Stopansky       | Dec 31 | Cliff Foster  |
| Dec 17 | Rhea Summit         |        |               |

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



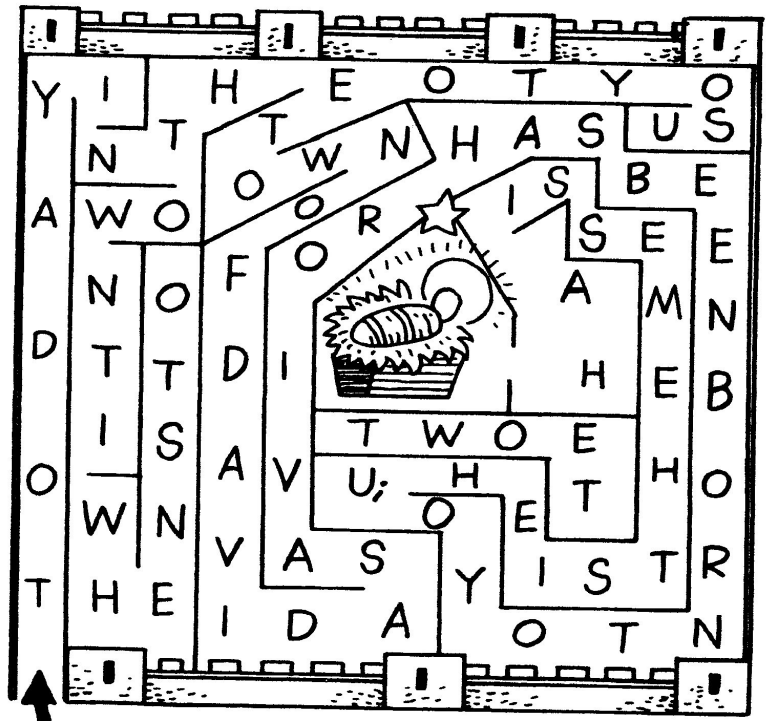
WEEKLY WORSHIP  
SERVICES

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

**KIDZ CORNER** SUBMITTED BY PAM FORESMAN

**A SAVIOR**

Read Luke  
2: 1-20 to  
find the  
message in  
the maze.  
Using only  
the letters  
on the cor-  
rect path to  
Jesus, write  
it in the  
space be-  
low.





## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Date	Anniversaries
12/23/1957	Harold & Meryle Kaufman

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Date	Person
12/4	Kathy Hamilton
12/6	Caroline D'Aurora
12/7	Sue Aaron
12/10	Bob McDonald
12/12	Greg Kaufman
12/15	Jay Perino
12/17	John Aaron
12/18	Owen Eidemiller Marty Kuzmkowski
12/20	Terri Hoffman
12/22	Kerstin Stellato
12/25	JESUS
12/26	George Kepple
12/27	Joe Stopansky
12/28	Alex Kuzmkowski
12/31	Michael Jobe Jill Hogue

**ORDER YOUR  
POINSETTIAS  
NOW!**



**ORDERS DUE BY  
SUNDAY DEC 3.**

\$10 for a 6-1/2 pot

Order envelopes are available in the church pews or call the office to place your order before Dec 3rd.

## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BY TERRY SELEMBO

**Congruity had the pleasure of hosting the Redstone PW Fall Gathering on Saturday November 4th!**

We served a continental breakfast followed by a worship service. Rev. Donna Havrisko led the Horizon Bible Study on Sacred Encounters by Olive Mahabir. Dan Carney, Executive Director of the Union Mission in Latrobe gave an inspirational talk about the work that they do there. The mission project for this gathering was the contributions of new men's underwear, socks, and t-shirts for the Union Mission. We concluded the gathering with a light lunch. **Many thanks to all of those who helped make this gathering a success!**

Kidz corner answer key:

Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah.

## 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

The Angel Gabriel appearing to Mary, is the subject of one of the beautiful windows in the front of the church sanctuary. Just in time for the Christmas Season. Look up Luke 1: 26-38 to learn more.

## ITEMS FROM SESSION

BY SARABETH STOPANSKY

The Session met on November 20, 2023 and reports the following :

- \* Did the annual review of the membership rolls.
- \* Heard a recap of the November Presbytery Meeting. The Presbytery is looking for male Elders to serve on the Committee of Ministry and the Presbytery Council. If interested please see Cliff for more details.
- \* Session was informed all employee contracts have been signed for 2024.

Session approved the following:

- \* The 2024 Budget, with the exception of Pastors terms of call, the Session made a recommendation that the congregation will vote on at the December 3, 2023 Congregational Meeting.
- \* Approved the First Fruit and special offering goals for 2024.
- \* Approved the Nominating Committee's slate of officers that will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting.
- \* Elected Caroline D'Aurora as Treasurer and Rebecca Rugh as assistant for 2024.
- \* Elected Sarabeth Stopansky as Clerk of Session for 2024.
- \* Approved the date of February 13, 2024 for the Redstone Mission Team's annual Pancake Dinner

The Session will be meeting next on December 18th at 7PM.

## DEACONS BY DAVE FORESMAN

JOIN US for the Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary, Saturday December 2, at 10 am.



The Deacons would like to say **"THANK YOU"** to everyone who donated or helped with the **HARVEST HOME** food collection for the month of November. Because of all the food and non-perishables that were collected, we were able to divide it up and give four boxes of food to **three different families** in need on November 19th. Thank you again for your generosity and concern for these families, it is greatly appreciated.



A **BIG THANKS** to those who participated in Hope in a Bag. Thanks to your generosity, the Presbytery was able to load up 4 cars full of donations.



## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION BY PHYLLIS FRYE

The women of the church are invited to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Simple Christmas tea on Sunday, Dec 10, at 3pm. This is an informal get-together to get caught up with our church friends. There will be no games or entertainment; just a time to relax and chit chat with each other. There is no charge, but please make reservations to either Terry Selembo (724-668-7577) or Phyllis Frye (724-468-3740) and bring your own teacup. Cookies would be appreciated.



There will be a sign-up sheet in the greeting room for reservations and cookie donations.

**The next meeting of the women's Association is on Dec 7, at 10 am.**

For the past 16 years, Congruity Women have supported a compassion child from Haiti. Her name is **Chaclenta Francois**. She has reached her 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday and has now **graduated from the program**. Her plan is to become a nurse and take care of those in her community. She asks us to pray for her "so that God can preserve my life and succeed in school and keep me in His love". Haiti is not a safe place to be, so please keep her in prayers.



## BUDGET+STEWARDSHIP+INTERPRETATION BY TIM D'AURORA

I want to thank everyone who helped make our most recent spaghetti dinner such a success. We served about 175 people including 14 Veterans that were not charged for their meal. We had separate donations that almost covered this cost. We had a great group of volunteers that helped keep everything run smoothly. We also had a tremendous response to our basket raffle. We had 28 baskets and raised close to \$700 on the baskets alone. **Together with the dinner receipts, we were able to achieve a profit of \$1500. Great job, everyone.**



A look at the financial statements show our overall financial condition has not improved. In fact, it has gotten even worse. At the end of October, we had a deficit of \$9,194.18. Usually our November and December numbers improve our situation, but this is a very deep hole. We need everyone to prayerfully consider their giving and if you can make any additional contribution, it would be a help. This also includes our First Fruits donations. We are very slightly behind our projected levels to achieve our pledge. **With your help, we will reach this.**



At our upcoming **Congregational Meeting, December 3rd**, we will be presenting the 2024 budget. As in years past, this is a bare bones budget that really has no room for reduction. You can note that 66% of our overall budget is for employee costs. Between that and the physical costs of maintaining and heating our building, we are already over \$100,000. Our only hope for continued existence is to increase our revenue. In these difficult times, it is difficult to ask for people to contribute even more. We have increased our number of hoagie sales and spaghetti dinners and while this is a help, it isn't the answer. **We will continue to face some difficult challenges in the future.** We will look for additional avenues to help lessen this burden.



ONLINE GIVING  
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**SUNDAY  
WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE**

**Oct 1, 2023:** 42  
**Oct 8, 2023:** 26  
**Oct 15, 2023:** 34  
**Oct 22, 2023:** 30  
**Oct 25, 2023:** 30

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

**General Fund**

	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Actual Balance</b>	<b>Year to Date Balance</b>
<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)
October	\$ 8,790.49	\$ 10,830.36	\$ 1,635.64	\$ (9,194.18)

\*Includes \$8000.00 transfer from Helen Seanor Fund and \$1843.00 Spaghetti Dinner

**First Fruits**

	<b>Received</b>	<b>Pledged</b>	<b>Balance</b>
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
October	\$ 289.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (51.00)

\*Includes Per Capita

**Special Offerings**

	<b>Previous</b>	<b>This Month</b>	<b>To Date</b>
Cents-Ability	\$ 220.80	\$ 8.00	\$ 228.80
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$ 1,673.00	\$ -	\$ 1,673.00
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$ 251.00	\$ -	\$ <b>251.00</b>
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,021.00	\$ -	\$ <b>1,021.00</b>
Pentecost	\$ 335.00	\$ 67.00	\$ <b>402.00</b>
Peacemaking	\$ 260.00	\$ 165.00	\$ <b>425.00</b>
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$ 187.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 362.00

**Included in General Fund Balance**

	<b>From 2022</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Fund Accounts</b>				
Memorial Fund	\$ 3,448.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,448.50
Local Mission	\$ 1,792.97	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 1,812.97
Building Maintenance	\$ 4,201.10	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 16,367.75	\$ 10,833.35

**Fund Raising**

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Profit</b>
Hoagie Sales*	\$ 6,314.00	\$ 2,991.00	\$ 3,323.00
Spaghetti Dinners*	\$ 3,445.00	\$ 705.00	\$ 2,740.00

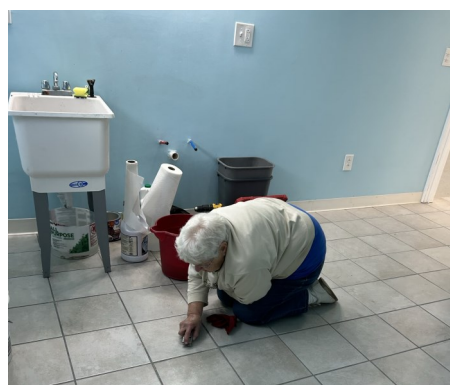
\*Profits reflected in the General Fund balance

## REDSTONE MISSION TEAM BY PHYLLIS FRYE

### Redstone Mission Team had a wonderful week in WV!

The weather was perfect and the work was rewarding. Mostly we worked on the Hezekiah House, doing finishing work. We installed doors, finished trim, set patio stones, painted, trimmed doors and floors, fashioned and installed a vent, glazed a window, did some carpenter work, and some other things. Ced, Gene and Dave went to a trailer and reset a set of outside steps and replaced a rotten subfloor. When they pulled back the carpet, an o'possum stuck its nose out! Hezekiah House is almost finished, but due to finances, it may be a while before it is ready for use. They still need a refrigerator and carpet throughout and a fire escape, which they have, but needs to be installed. Countertops were to come the following week. Check out the photos below, and see if you recognize anyone!

Those going on the trip were Ced Stopansky and Phyllis Frye (Congruity), Sue and Gene Jeffries (Union), Ed Moore (Rehoboth), Dave O'Hara (Revloc) and Bill Payne (Covenant, Rostraver). **Thank you for your prayers and support, and pray about joining us sometime!**





**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**

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