

Steepleviews

First Congregational Church of Frankfort
431 Forest Ave
Frankfort MI 49635

Website: www.fccfrankfort.org
Rev. Dinah Haag: pastor431@gmail.com
Church Office: secretary431@gmail.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Jessie Grant
Pat Hessler
Amy & Mark Steigerwald
- 2 Dick & Joanne Brown
- 3 Mason Gokey
Colton Henry
Christy Driggett
Sherry Gigous
- 9 Abrianna Nostrandt
- 10 Naomi Kolehmainen
- 14 Melissa Koenig
- 15 Carsen Nostrandt
- 16 Charlie Ottinger
Amy Steigerwald
- 14 Cheryl Acklin
- 15 Brian Nostrandt
Evelyn Osborn
- 19 Chris Porter
- 21 Levi Hubbard
John King
Jacob MacKenzie
Joshua MacKenzie
Sterling Porter
- 22 Bill Bruinsma
Betty Milliron
- 24 Ron Phillips
- 25 Kimberly Gilbert
- 26 Andrea Frost
Julie Robinson
Our Church Family
- 28 Hugh Hessler
- 31 Cory & Jessica Baklarz

January 2021

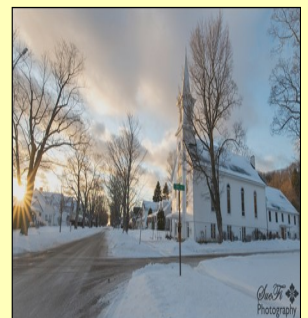


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|------------|----------------------------------|
| January 1 | Happy New Year!!! |
| January 5 | Coffee's on Dinah at home |
| January 10 | In-Person Worship Service Begins |
| January 21 | Al's Academy |

2021
HAPPY NEW YEAR

**Our In-Person worship service
will begin on January 10, 2021**

**Our Annual Meeting will follow the
Worship Service online & in person on
Sunday, January 24, 2021. Copies of the
Report will be available
at the Sanctuary doors
January 10th. Proxy
ballots are available at
the end of the Report.**



*Cheryl
Photography*

Pastor's Page

An old man meets a young man who asks: "Do you remember me?" And the old man says no. Then the young man tells him he was his student, And the teacher asks, "What do you do, what do you do in life?" The young man answers, "Well, I became a teacher." "Ah, how good, like me?" asks the old man. "Well, yes. In fact, I became a teacher because you inspired me to be like you."

The old man, curious, asks the young man at what time he decided to become a teacher. And the young man tells him the following story.

"One day, a friend of mine, also a student, came in with a nice new watch, and I decided I wanted it and I stole it. I took it out of his pocket. Shortly after, my friend noticed the fight and immediately complained to our teacher, who was you. Then you went to the class. "This student's watch was stolen during classes today. Whoever stole it, please return it."

I didn't give it back because I didn't want to. Then you closed the door and told us all to get up and you were going to search our pockets one by one until the watch was found. But you told us to close our eyes, because you would only look for his watch if we all had our eyes closed.

So we did, and you went from pocket to pocket, and when you went through my pocket, you found the watch and took it. You kept searching everyone's pockets, and when you were done you said, "Open your eyes. We have the watch."

You didn't tell me and you never mentioned the episode. You never said who stole the watch either. That day you saved my dignity forever. It was the most shameful day of my life.

But it was also the day my dignity was saved and I

decided not to become a thief, a bad person, etc. You never said anything, nor even scolded me or took me aside to give me a moral lesson. I received your message clearly.

And thanks to you, I understood what a real educator needs to do. Do you remember this episode, professor?

And the professor answered, "I remember the situation, the stolen watch, which I was looking for in everyone's pocket, but I didn't remember you, because I also closed my eyes while looking."

This is the essence of teaching. Actually, it is the essence of grace. There is a common line out there, that says, "Forgive and forget." But someone once told me that we shouldn't forget, because we are to learn from those situations—both what to do and how to change.

There is no question that Jesus was a good teacher. But he taught with grace and tact and insight. Those are traits of really great teachers because they inspire us to do the same—to take on the same traits in being able to offer them to others.

Forgiveness is also not a one-and-done thing for all people. For some, forgiveness takes longer. But the real value of working toward forgiveness is the room you find in your head and heart when you no longer obsess about the injustice.

There is always a lot of room for forgiveness. And we will have a lot of room in the coming year to think about how we deal with people. And how we'd like people to deal with us. So let us take this time/year to search our hearts and minds and spirits, to do some good housekeeping in those places—not for only the sakes of others, but for our own sakes as well. Blessings in this coming year of your journey—Pastor Dinah

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Mt. 6:12

Congratulations!

- Clark Robinson, US Army National Guard who recently retired in December. Thank you so much for your service.



Thank you!

- Dawn Schulz for arranging poinsettias on the altar. Lovely.
- Serenity Schulz for her verse of "Silent Night" in Cherokee and reading scriptures on Christmas Eve.
- Paul and Ann Osborn for removing the plastic coating on plexiglass sheets that will safeguard the sanctuary windows and for Christmas decorations. Even though they didn't get used this year, we're ready for next year!
- Mary Ann Harness and Ann Osborn for changing the church marquee. You always do such a good job with it!
- to the Benzie Senior Resources "Meals on Wheels." The gifts were picked up and delivered and greatly appreciated. Thank you for making a wonderful difference.

Big Al (Bryant) isn't letting any virus stop investigations into odd history, aka

Al's Academy.

So request a Zoom link for Thursday, January 21 from pastor431@gmail.com or else. The information drop off will begin at 3:00 p.m. There is no fee for this job, but if you bring any money, make sure it is in small bills, hermetically sealed in a zip-lock baggie.



January is our Financial Worker's Appreciation Month

From the Financial Secretaries to the Investment People, to the Treasurers, these are the people who work behind the scenes to keep our finances and accounts in order. Not everyone has the ability to serve us in such ways, so thank you — all of you — for your gifts.



Thank You

to all for the Christmas gifts, cards, anonymous gifts of cash and the incredibly generous bonus this year. The generosity of this church family is astounding and humbling. Bless you all.

FCCF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m..

The Minutes from the November 11 meeting were reviewed. With no corrections noted, the Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Rob Burch

Offerings for November totaled:	\$10,138.00
Budgeted expenses for November totaled:	9,797.49
YTD Carryover:	-10,383.66

Other items in the Report this month: 1) Rob informed the Council that there was increased giving in November; 2) He will be meeting with Amy Plumstead, Chris Anthony, Assistant Treasurer Kelly Ottinger, and Pastor Dinah next week for the purpose of ensuring that the Pohlman Funds are in compliance with General Accepted Accounting Procedures and perhaps rolling this fund into the Profit and Loss section of the monthly Treasurer's Report; and 3) The CD is coming due and Rob recommends that it be converted to cash and put into the savings account #5620. A motion was then made by Rob that Council approve the above recommendation; Jim MacKenzie seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Memorials: Judy Welch – there was a total of \$125.00 given in memory of Andy Mollema and Kay Van Order.

Finance: Judy Welch – work has begun on the 2021 budget.

Investment: Ann Osborn for Andrea Frost – as of December 9, Stocks: \$432,746.16; Bonds: \$283,118.83; Pohlman Fund: \$127,101.97; the total in the Baird Investment Fund: \$842,966.95.

Constitution & By-Laws: Jim MacKenzie – Pastor Dinah worked on the revisions to our By-Laws, as shown on Page 20 of December's Council Documents. A motion was made by Rob Burch that Council approve these revisions; Bill Hirschfeld seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Missions: Paul Osborn – this account remains fully funded.

Nominating: Myra Elias – The Committee recommends the following nominations to fill outgoing Council seats for 2021: Jeanne Hafer, Kris Richards, Linda Schweyer, and Bill Hirschfeld (serving a second 3-year term). The Investment Committee additions will be Scott Harrison and Chris Porter. A motion was made by and unanimously approved.

Outreach: Kelly Ottinger – 1) The Covid version of our annual Silver Tea will take place on Saturday, December 12. Orders for cookies have already started (225 so far) and the boxes are in so all will be ready for packing and pickup; 2) Al's Academy by Zoom may happen in the near future; 3) Coffee with Dinah At Your House will begin after the first of the year; and 4) A possible Movie Discussion by Zoom is being considered

Personnel: Myra Elias – Christmas bonuses (see New Business)

Property: Myra Elias – 1) The parsonage chimney has been repaired; 2) Other upcoming parsonage projects include: new garage windows, repair of low spots in the driveway, a possible back porch enclosure, and a reconfiguration of the kitchen to allow for a dishwasher.

Religious Education: Bill Hirschfeld – No report

Women's Fellowship: Mary Reed – No report

Worship: Ann Osborn – 1) There will be only one Christmas Eve Service on Facebook Live at 7:00 pm on December 24; 2) Poinsettia orders were taken as in past years; 3) De-decorating the Sanctuary is still planned for January 5; and 4) The Committee reviewed the budget for 2021.

Pastor's Report: Dinah Haag – Report submitted

Unfinished Business: 1) The Ad Hoc ReOpening Committee will meet tonight, December 9, regarding in-person services for the remainder of the month; and 2) By-Law Revisions (see Constitution & By-Laws Committee Report).

New Business: Christmas Bonuses – Council discussed the amount Christmas bonuses should be this year for the Church's employees. Our Pastor took a voluntary \$3,000.00 pay cut so it was decided that this amount should be reinstated. A motion was made by Rob Burch that Council approve these bonuses and salary reinstatement; Jim MacKenzie seconded the motion. Motion approved. ** See addendum

The meeting was called for adjournment at 5:17 pm by Council Chair, Myra Elias.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Osborn, Church Council Clerk

** **Addendum to New Business:** Treasurer Rob Burch and Pastor Dinah were doing a follow-up to what account these bonuses would be withdrawn. The cash savings account (#5620) has a fair amount of money in it; so it was decided that the bonus monies could come from that account. A motion needed to be made. Rob made the motion via email that we withdraw Christmas bonus monies from said account: Kelly Ottinger seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Florida Keys Python? No, not really!



Stuart Scripps wrestled this 285 pound , 40 foot long behemoth from the mangroves Saturday during our K2. Six hundred and forty pounds of rope was pulled out from just a little corner of one tiny island. A tuna scale was needed to weigh it all. That's a mighty big catch!

INSPIRATION

EMAIL NEWSLETTER IDEAS

2021



Hello Out There

We are looking for anyone who would like to submit articles for this newsletter. The content could be what's happening in your world today during Covid-19. Tell us about your family and how you are handling the separation. Have you developed a different way of interacting with family. How are you coping? Are you zooming, whatsapping or facetimeing? We're missing you as much as you might be missing us so please send your thoughts or crazy pictures (including pets) to the church at secretary431@gmail.com

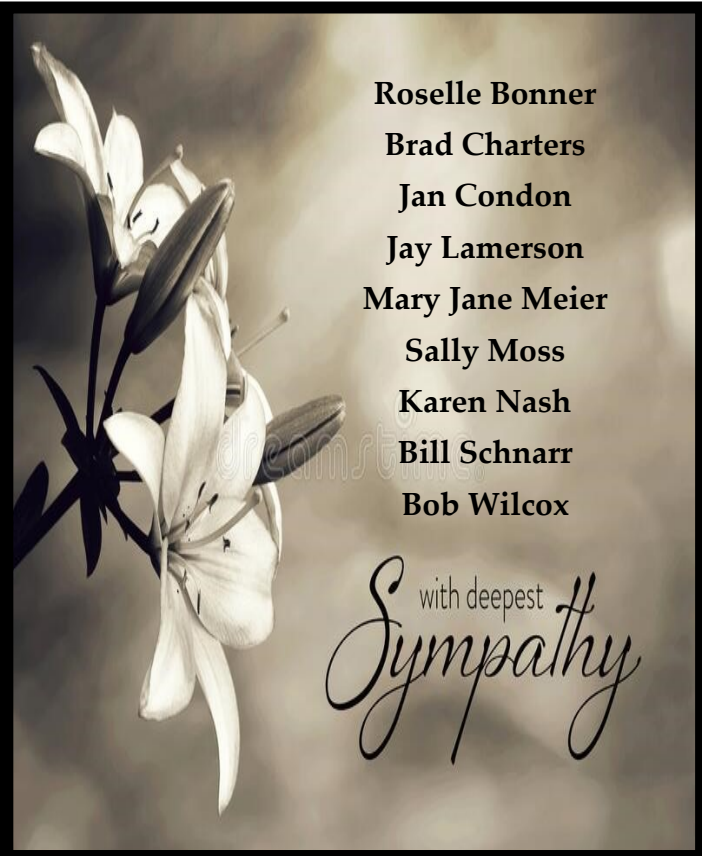

WE HAVE THIS HOPE AS
AN ANCHOR FOR THE
SOUL, FIRM AND SECURE.


HEBREWS 6:19

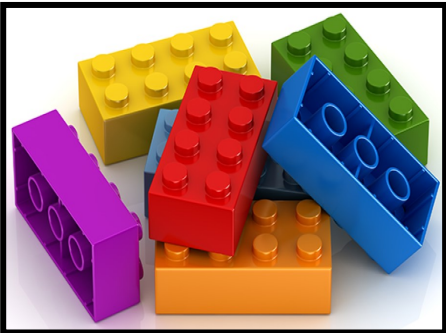


Coffee's On Dinah - At Your House

- Tuesdays in January at 2:00
- write pastor431@gmail.com for Zoom link
- find something to sip on beforehand
- tell others about it



Did you know that last year, 50,000 lb of LEGO® bricks were donated as part of the **LEGO Replay**



program? What a phenomenal idea! If interested in it, check out

<https://givebackbox.com/lego/>



Please Remember in Prayer

Prayer Concerns
 Florence Bixby
 Alex Bonderenko
 Portia Butler
 Blake Buzzell
 Joel Buzzell
 Melissa Grant
 Sandra Grant
 Pat Hessler
 Gabe Kindl
 Gillian Kindl
 Isabelle Knapp
 Nicole Nostrandt
 Lisa Parriott
 Ron Phillips
 Pete & Vivian Reed
 Signe Ruddy
 Dawn Schulz
 Josh Schulz
 Scott Tuller
 Scott Welling
 Jen Wilcox
 Jeremiah Young
 John Young

The Military
 Mike Kinney
 Tyler Kinney
 Clark Robinson
 Ryan Ruddy

Senior Living

The Homesteader
 Bea Stone

The Maples
 Karen Collins
 Gladys Wilson

Orchard House
 Pat Hessler
 Susie Vigland

The service after the service—neighbors spontaneously gathered to sing “Silent Night” outside the church after the Christmas Eve service. Passers-by and even a dog joined us and our candles and voices. Go God!



First Congregational Church of Frankfort

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR Jessie Grant Pat Hessler Amy & Mark Steigerwald	2 Dick & Joanne Brown
3 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Mason Gokey	4	5 1:00 p.m. Sanctuary De-Decorating 2:00 p.m. Coffee's on Dinah at Your House 4:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting	6 4:00 p.m. Worship Meeting <div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Epiphany </div>	7 4:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting	8 Christy Driggett Sherry Gigous	9 Abrianna Nostrandt
10 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Naomi Kolehmainen	11	12 2:00 p.m. Coffee's on Dinah at Your House	13 4:00 p.m. Council Meeting	14 National Dress Up Your Pet Day Melissa Koenig	15 Carsen Nostrandt	16 Amy Steigerwald Charlie Ottinger
17 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Cheryl Acklin	18 Martin Luther King Day Brian Nostrandt Evelyn Osborn	19 2:00 p.m. Coffee's on Dinah at Your House Chris Porter	20	21 <div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 3:00 p.m. AI's Academy </div> Levi Hubbard John King Jacob MacKenzie Joshua MacKenzie Sterling Porter	22 Bill Bruinsma Betty Milliron	23
24 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship <div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> FCCF Annual Meeting </div> Ron Phillips	25 Opposite Day	26 2:00 p.m. Coffee's on Dinah at Your House Andrea Frost Pat Katz Julie Robinson Our Church Family	27	28 Hugh Hessler	29 National Puzzle Day 	30
31 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Cory & Jessica Baklarz	Kimberly Gilbert					

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