

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 Oliver Simmons
- 3 David Koenig
- 4 Ryan Strom
- 6 Evin Elias
Peggy & Ralph Jackson
- 7 Norma Bruinsma
Marty Davis
- 8 Asher Locicero
- 9 Jeff Frostic
Kelly Ottinger
- 10 Lori Dougherty
Leslie McElduff
- 12 Owen Chownyk
- 13 Colton Prance-Jewell
Paul A Robinson
- 14 Molly Frostic
- 15 Amy King
- 16 Lacey Deloria
- 17 Cheryl Acklin
Sharon Grajcar
- 18 Judy Grant
- 20 Molly Harrison
Isabelle Osborn
Kati Prance
- 25 Grayson Kearns
Freddie Kolehmainen
Cooper Rath
- 27 Phil Deloria
Kris Dykstra
Charlene Lang
Bill & Molly Frostic
Michael & Sharon Grajcar
- 29 Marilee Strom

February 2021

Coming Events

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Tuesdays | Coffee's on Dinah at Your House |
| February 7 | Communion Sunday |
| February 14 | Valentine's Day |
| February 17 | Ash Wednesday |
| February 18 | Bible Study on Jonah |
| February 25 | Al's Academy |

Here's Your Reminder
To Tape on the Fridge for

Ashes to Go

Wednesday, February 17
12:00-1:00 p.m.

See you on Forest Ave!
(Go ahead and tell your friends!)



Pastor's Page

Don't you think it would be one of the most amazing things to have been able to talk to Jesus—in all his divinity and humanity? I mean, was there a sort of electrical energy that emitted from him? Was there something in his eyes or something in the way he held his mouth or body language that the Bible just can't capture?

Perhaps one day we will know what Jesus was thinking and feeling as he called his followers, walked on water, rode into Jerusalem or when he was waiting after he was arrested. Did he have any inkling of what his life after bodily death would be like? Was there a little fear? Was there greater anticipation for when it was "all done"?

I've been thinking about when this pandemic is "all done". Maybe it will never be all done as long as it resides in our memories. But at some point, many who have worked to stay safe will have to take steps back into what they once did, whether it be that first airline flight, the first time the family comes to stay, the first time back at church.

Human nature is so good at finding excuses for things we don't want to do. We can plan to do "whatever" - later. I can do this one more thing online or call so-and-so to get an update.

Don't get me wrong. Everyone gets to make their own decisions as to what is the best for their situation, and I think the folks around here have been quite respectful of others' decisions. That being said, there might be some situations that might be more difficult to reenter—situations of which we may have no current clue.

There was an article that came my way, from something called theconversation.com. The title of the article was "Six Ways to Reboot Your Brain after Covid." To save everyone the trouble of having to look it up, here are the six points.

1. Be kind and helpful
2. Exercise
3. Eat well
4. Keep socially connected
5. Learn something new
6. Sleep properly

2

They all make sense, but the first one caught my attention. About "Be kind and helpful, it said, "Kindness, altruism and empathy can affect the brain. One study showed that making a charitable donation activated the brain's reward system in a similar way to actually receiving money. This also applies to helping others who have been wronged....Older adults who volunteer regularly also exhibit greater life satisfaction and reduced depression and anxiety. In short, making others happy is a great way to make yourself happy."

I'm not suggesting that we all go out and become sugar sweet volunteers, giving away all our money. But I am suggesting that we start to think beyond getting the vaccine, beyond our pods of "safe" friends, beyond our immediate next week. Because that time is coming, and we have an opportunity to think about the time ahead—not so unlike the time of Wednesday, February 17, which is not only Ash Wednesday, but the beginning of Lent.

Last year we were able to have a regular Ash Wednesday worship service, but this year, well, let's just say that it doesn't seem that holding a Service of Ashes in church just doesn't feel like the right thing to do, for a few different reasons.

So just like so many other things this past year, we will do "Ashes to Go" from noon until 1:00 p.m. Yes, you can drive by, receive the ashes, a copy of Psalm 51 and a prayer card and be on your way—perhaps to the turnaround at the beach for a moment or two of contemplation, meditation and prayer.

"Ashes to Go" may not become an ongoing part of this family's ministry, but when situations arise, families can also rise. We rise because Christ has shown that it is possible. May you become aware of all those moments when God raises you, in preparation of the next portion of your journey as a follower of Christ.

Pastor Dinah

<https://theconversation.com/six-ways-to-reboot-your-brain-after-a-hard-year-of-covid-19-according-to-science-151332?ref=thefuturist>

Al's Academy "Wanted:
The Curious about Cowgirls
Reward" In Person or Zoom
Information you surely didn't
know before.



Thursday
February 25
3:00 p.m.
Ask Dinah to
send you an
email with the
link

Bill's Bible Study: Jonah
In Person or Zoom

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 18

It'll be a whale of a
study!



A Note From

The Water For Good Team



Dear FCCF,
We hope you
enjoy this beautiful ornament handcrafted
by women living in the Central Africa
Republic. COVID delayed its' arrival but
we wanted to say thank you for your
continued support! You are giving the gift
of clean water to so many and for that we
couldn't be more thankful. We pray 2021
blesses your family.

Ash Wednesday

February 17th, 12:00—1:00 p.m.

431 Forest Ave.

"Ashes to Go"

All are welcome!



FCCF COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m..

The Minutes from the December 9, 2020 meeting were reviewed. With no corrections noted, the Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Rob Burch

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Offerings for December: | \$13,082.93 |
| Budgeted expenses for December: | 10,505.91 |
| YTD Carryover: | -7,806.64 |

Other items of note: 1) Offerings/Giving were strong in December; 2) The CD that was coming due was converted to cash. 3) The meeting with Amy Plumstead regarding the GAAP compliance went well without changing our bookkeeping system. A "corporate" church Profit and Loss statement will be created at the end of each year; and 4) Discussion and explanation of the 2021 Budget; as offerings are an unknown, the Council will monitor expenses and make decisions as needed throughout the year (see New Business for Council approval). The Baird Account summary is under the Investment Report.

Committee Reports

Investment: Rob Burch/Chris Porter – a summary was given within the Treasurer's Report; the ending 2020 balance in the Baird Funds is \$725,396.00. The Investment Committee made motions for Council consideration/approval (see New Business).

Missions: Paul Osborn – this account remains fully funded.

Outreach: Myra Elias for Kelly Ottinger – 1) Pastor Dinah reported that there were 431 viewers at our Virtual Christmas Eve Service; 2) The proceeds from the Silver Tea Cookie Sale totaled \$1,943.00 (246 dozen sold), which exceeded previous years. A thank you to all who baked, packed, and delivered; 3) Coffee's On Dinah At Your House via Zoom continues during January on Tuesdays at 2 pm; 4) Al's Academy is

scheduled for Thursday, January 21, at 3 pm via Zoom; and 5) The July 4th Hot Dog Sale, while a few months away, will be monitored following the lead of the City of Frankfort.

Personnel: Myra Elias – The Nursery Attendant's job description is temporarily changing (until July 1).

Property: Myra Elias – 1) Projects for the spring include: painting the lower bricks on the Church and power washing the church; 2) 3) There were beginning discussions on updating the church's dining room.

Religious Education: Bill Hirschfeld – Sunday School is on hold for now.

Women's Fellowship: Mary Reed – 1) \$1,000.00 was transferred from the CD to the checking account; 2) A \$50.00 Christmas gift was given to each of our eight college students; and 3) A thank you for the donation of boxes and to all who baked, packaged, and sold the cookies for our Silver Tea Cookie Sale.

Worship: Ann Osborn – 1) There were many grateful comments for the Advent Devotional Booklets sent out this year; 2) The Christmas Eve Service was virtual on Facebook this year, with thanks to Serenity Schulz, Chris Knapp and Rosemary Abbett for sharing their gifts as part of the service; 3) Ash Wednesday is February 17, so thoughts on what we do to acknowledge this day were discussed.

No Report: Memorials, By-Laws, Nominating

Pastor's Report: Dinah Haag – Report submitted

Unfinished Business In-person worship services resumed on January 10, as determined by the Re-opening/Ad Hoc Committee.

New Business – Two Investment Committee motions and the 2021 Operating Budget were all approved.

Myra Elias, Council Chair, called for the meeting's adjournment at 5:15 pm.

2021 Council Members of First Congregational Church

Treasurer

Rob Burch 2/18-present
PO Box 1777
422 Michigan Ave.
Frankfort, MI 49635
616 550-4213
rburch57@gmail.com

Clerk

Ann Osborn 2/11-present

1070 Lipp Farm Rd.
Benzonia, MI 49616
248-561-1015
osborn42@charter.net

Finance Secretary

Judy Welch 2/14-present
PO Box 132
324 Forest Ave.
Frankfort, MI 49635
231-352-4758/231-651-0893
wlchjdy@gmail.com

Asst. Treasurer

Kelly Ottinger 2/17-present
PO Box 1104
Frankfort, MI 49635
574-849-3791
kottinger@benziebacn.org

Investment Rep.

Chris Porter 2/21--present
PO Box 308, 302 Leelanau Ave.
Frankfort, MI 49635
248-478-6757
chporter@aol.com

Asst. Fin. Secretary

Jeanne Hafer 2/21 - present
6777 Walker
Benzonia, MI 49616
231-651-0546
haferjeanne@gmail.com

Feb. 1, 2019-Jan. 31, 2022

Myra Elias 2/16, 2/19
110 George Street
Frankfort, MI 49635
231 590-0373
myrajelias@gmail.com

Paul Osborn 2/19
1070 Lipp Farm Rd.
Benzonia, MI 49616
248 561-1016
osborn43@charter.net

Mary Reed *2 yr. for K Scripps 2020*
556 Bellows
Frankfort, MI 49635
231 352-9726
rmary8283@gmail.com

Feb. 1, 2020-Jan. 31, 2023

Hugh Hessler 2/20
1349 Michigan Ave
Frankfort, MI 49635
231-920-9233
hphessler@gmail.com

Jim MacKenzie 2/20
1515 Bellows Ave.
Frankfort, MI 49635
231-352-9855 / 616-805-0553
jmackenz@calvin.edu

Larry Neuhardt 2/17, 2/20
1373 Martin Dr.
Frankfort, MI 49635
231 399-0382/231-383-1359
ljneuhardt@yahoo.com

Feb. 1, 2021-Jan. 31, 2024

Bill Hirschfeld 2/17, 2/18
1006 Hall St
Frankfort, MI 49635
231 920-1888
williamhirschfeld5@gmail.com


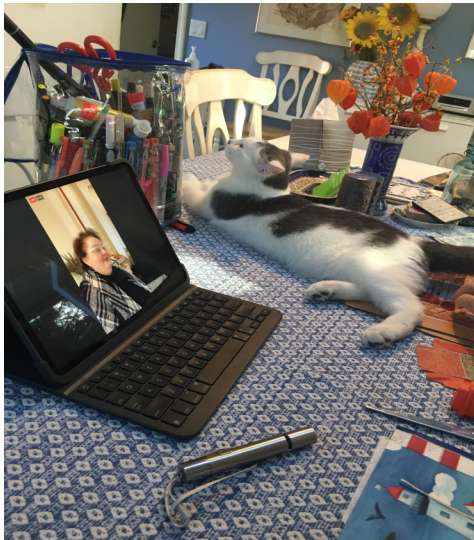
Kris Richards 2/21-present
8594 Demerly Rd
Benzonia, MI 49616
231-871-0787
dkrichards94@gmail.com

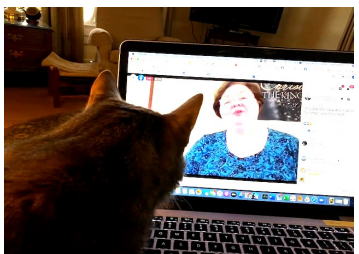
Linda Schweyer 2/21
13773 Lakeside Ave.
Bear Lake MI 49614
231 970-1900
lwschweyer@charter.net

2021 Committees and Members

* Council Representative

Committee Chair

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Council Reporters Constitution & By-Laws: Jim MacKenzie Finance & Stewardship: Judy Welch Investment: Chris Porter, Chair Memorials: Judy Welch Missions: Paul Osborn Nominating: Myra Elias, Council Chair Outreach: Kelly Ottinger, Chair Personnel: Myra Elias, Council Chair Property: Myra Elias Religious Education: Bill Hirschfeld Women's Fellowship: Mary Reed Worship: Ann Osborn, co-Chair</p> | <p>Investment Committee Treasurer: Rob Burch Chris Porter *# Bill Frostic Sharon Grajcar</p> | <p>Personnel Committee Council Chair: Myra Elias Member at Large: Larry Neuhardt Member at Large: Mary Ann Harness</p> |
| <p>Constitution & By-Laws Committee Jim MacKenzie*</p> | <p>Memorial Committee Bill Frostic # Molly Frostic Judy Welch *</p> | <p>Property Committee Jim Buzzell Myra Elias Bill Frostic # Jim MacKenzie Mary Reed * Glen Tracy</p> |
| | <p>Missions Committee Myra Elias Hugh Hessler Robin MacKenzie Paul Osborn *</p> | <p>Religious Education Committee Becky Addis # Sunday School Teachers Bill Hirschfeld *</p> |
| <p>Finance Committee Fin. Sec.: Judy Welch *# Asst. Fin. Sec.: Jeanne Hafer Investment: Chris Porter Member at Large: ____ Memorials: Bill Frostic Treasurer: Rob Burch Asst. Treas.: Kelly Ottinger Women's Fellowship: Mary Reed</p> | <p>Nominating Committee Council Chair: Myra Elias Pastor: Dinah Haag Member at Large: ____</p> | <p>Worship Committee Rosemary Abbett Al Bryant Mary Ann Harness # Ann Osborn #* Mary Osborn Julie Robinson Catherine St. Onge</p> |
|  | <p>Outreach Committee Mary Bateman Al Bryant Myra Elias Judy Grant Molly Harrison Julie Hirschfeld Kelly Ottinger # Donna Phillips</p> |  |



Some of our furry friends

50 THINGS TO THROW AWAY

for instant decluttering

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Old magazines | Old hats and gloves |
| Old couch pillows | Worn out shoes |
| Movies you don't watch | Worn out blankets |
| Movies that are scratched | Old pillows |
| Burnt out candles | Expired food |
| Extra cords | Take out menus |
| Games with missing pieces | Restaurant sauce packets |
| Old books | Old coupons |
| Broken makeup | Old cleaning supplies |
| Old makeup | Cups with missing pieces |
| Old nail polish | Anything you have too much of |
| Old perfume | Excess tupperware |
| Old toothbrushes | Rags with holes |
| Half empty bottles | Expired medication |
| Towels with holes | Old mail |
| Anything you haven't used in the last 3 months | Old manuals |
| Socks without a match | Old receipts |
| Socks with holes | Old paperwork |
| Underwear with holes | Birthday cards |
| Clothes you haven't worn in at least 6 months | Broken toys |
| Clothes that don't fit | Happy meal toys |
| Earrings without a match | Anything with missing pieces |
| Old ties | Things they never play with |
| Old belts | Duplicates |
| Old purses | Puzzles with missing pieces |



IN CASE YOU THINK YOU'RE OLD...

Jeanne Louise Calment had the longest confirmed human lifespan on record: 122 years and 164 days. Jeanne was born in Arles, France, in 1875. When the Eiffel Tower was built, she was 14 year old. It was at this time that she met Vincent van Gogh. "He was dirty, badly dressed and disagreeable," she recalled in an interview given in 1988.

When she was 85, she took up fencing, and she was still riding on her bike when she reached 100. When Jeanne was 114, she starred in a film about her life; at 115 she had an operation on her hip. At 117 she gave up smoking (having started at the age of 21 in 1896). Apparently, she didn't give it up for health reasons, but because she didn't like having to ask someone to help her light a cigarette once she was becoming almost blind.

In 1965, Jeanne was 90 years old and had no heirs. She signed a deal to sell her apartment to a 47-year-old lawyer called André-François Raffray. He agreed to pay her a monthly sum of 2,500 francs on the condition that he would inherit her apartment after she died. However, Raffray not only ended up paying Jeanne for 30 years, but died before she did at the age of 77.

His widow was legally obliged to continue paying Madam Calment until the end of her days.

Jeanne retained sharp mental faculties. When she was asked on her 120th birthday what kind of future she expected to have, she replied: "A very short one."

Quotes and rules of life from Jeanne Calment:

- "Being young is a state of mind, it doesn't depend on one's body, I'm actually still a young girl; it's just that I haven't looked so good for the past 70 years."
- "I've only got one wrinkle, and I'm sitting on it."
- "Always keep your smile. That's how I explain my long life."
- "If you can't change something, don't worry about it."
- "I have a huge desire to live and a big appetite, especially for sweets."
- "I never wear mascara; I laugh until I cry too often."

- "I see badly, I hear badly, and I feel bad, but everything's fine."

- "I have legs of iron, but to tell you the truth, they're starting to rust and buckle a bit."

- "I took pleasure when I could. I acted clearly and morally and without regret."

At the end of one interview, in response to a journalist who said he hoped they would meet again the following year, she replied "Why not? You're not that old; you'll still be here."

Benzie Habitat builds ramp for spouse of WWII veteran

COMPILED BY COLIN MERRY
cmerry@pioneergroup.com

BENZIE COUNTY — Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County Site Selection and Construction Committee recently constructed a wheelchair ramp for the 89-year-old surviving spouse of a U.S. Army veteran who served during WWII.

The recipient was finding it increasingly difficult to get in and out of her home using the existing stairs and needed a ramp to continue living in her home. The Benzie County Department of Veterans Affairs was instrumental in initiating and supporting the project.



Habitat for Humanity Benzie Site Selection and Construction Committee members (from left to right) Don Bridges, Steve VanDePere, Bill Frostic and Glen Tracy, recently constructed a ramp for the widow of a WWII veteran. (Courtesy photo)



Congratulations

- To Dori and Bella Gigous, both of whom made the President's list at their schools. And there was much rejoicing!!!
- Karen Williams, Ethan, Abby and Sasha, who was born 1/21/21!
- Eva Strom on becoming a National Park Junior Ranger, receiving your Yosemite badge. How cool is that? (Who knew this was a thing?)



Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

- Randy Johnson for fixing a pew envelope holder (putting it back on) and creating a new computer stand for the Administrative Assistant's office. Maybe we can find him a hat with "Handyman Boss" on it!
- Jim Buzzell and Cooper Rath for cleaning the sanctuary air conditioning unit screens, changing a lightbulb and cleaning out the parsonage dryer vent. Lots of little stuff done well and with love for this church family!
- All who helped to put the Christmas décor away. It was sad to see it go, but it was nice to have for those of us who got to enjoy it.

Please Remember in Prayer

Prayer Concerns

Judy Benniger
 Alex Bonderenko
 Diane Brutzer
 David Burns
 Portia Butler
 Blake Buzzell
 Joel Buzzell
 Will Colby
 Dick Godsey
 Molly Harrison
 Pat Hessler
 Gabe Kindl
 Gillian Kindl
 Mia Lamerson
 Ann Loveless
 Tate MacKenzie
 Nicole Nostrandt
 Kelly Olson
 Cindy Osborn
 Jon Ottinger
 Ron Phillips
 Mary Reed

Signe Ruddy
 Dawn Schulz
 Kathie Snedeker
 Scott Tuller
 John Young

The Military

Mike Kinney
 Tyler Kinney
 Ryan Ruddy

Senior Living

The Homesteader

Bea Stone

The Maples

Karen Collins
 Gladys Wilson

Orchard House

Pat Hessler
 Susie Vigland

The Osborn Family Zoom

Our family, including brothers, brothers-in-law, sisters, sisters-in-law, daughter, son, nephew, and grandkids all join in by Zoom every other Saturday for a Covid Family Zoom Trivia game. We have different categories/themes, but most of all we just do a lot of laughing at ourselves and what we don't know. The ages go from 7 up to 78 which is what makes it so rewarding. We especially love our 8 year-old granddaughter's questions! And the riddles we now give to her actually are enjoyed more by the grownups. It's been wonderful to be able to keep in contact this way during Covid, and, we would never keep up this kind of contact normally so it has been a blessing!!!

Ann & Paul Osborn



First Congregational Church of Frankfort
February 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|--------|---|---------------------|---|---|---|--|----|--|---|---|---|--|--|----|---------------------------------------|----|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  1 Oliver Simmons | 2 2:00 p.m. Coffee's On Dinah At Your House (Zoom) 4:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting Groundhog Day | 3 4:00 p.m. Worship Meeting David Koenig | 4 4:00 p.m. Property Meeting Ryan Strom | 5 Evin Elias Peggy & Ralph Jackson | 6 | 7 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship & Communion Super Bowl Sunday Norma Bruinsma Marty Davis | 8 Asher Locicero | 9 2:00 p.m. Coffee's On Dinah At Your House (Zoom) Jeff Frostic Kelly Ottinger | 10 4:00 p.m. Council Meeting Lori Dougherty Leslie McElduff | 11 4:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting Owen Chownyk | 12 Lunar New Year Colton Jewell Paul A. Robinson | 13 | 14 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Happy Valentines Day Molly Frostic | 15 President's Day Amy King | 16 2:00 p.m. Coffee's On Dinah At Your House (Zoom) Mardi Gras | 17 Ash Wednesday Cheryl Acklin Sharon Grajcar | 18 7:00 p.m. Jonah Bible Study (In Person & Zoom) Judy Grant | 19 Molly Harrison Isabelle Osborn Kati Prance | 20 | 21 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship | 22 | 23 2:00 p.m. Coffee's On Dinah At Your House (Zoom) | 24 4:00 p.m. Missions Meeting | 25 3:00 p.m. Al's Academy: Cowgirls Grayson Kearns Freddie Kolehmainen Cooper Rath | 26 Phil Deloria Kris Dykstra Charlene Lang Bill & Molly Frostic Michael & Sharon Grajcar | 27 | 28 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Marilee Strom |  American Heart Month | | | | | |

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Frankfort, MI 49635



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