

Steepleviews



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 01 Jocelyn Lepke
- 02 Sam Buzzell
Dan Nostrandt
Jake Reed
- 03 Chuck Henry
- 04 Rob Burch
- 05 Carmyn Brodbent
Dennis & Kris Richards
- 06 Jimmy Kolehmainen
- 07 Julie Grant
- 09 Katherine Johnson
Amy Schindler
- 12 Gavin MacKenzie
Kris Richards
- 13 Scott Harrison
David Schweyer
- 14 Alicia Welch
- 16 Amelia Holmgren-Rath
Mary Reed
- 18 Susie Hughes
- 19 Sandy Campbell
- 21 Cheryl Acklin &
James Daniel
- 23 Dale Herscher
- 24 Reagan Clevenger
- 25 Peyton Koenig
Jane & Roger Schultz
- 28 Helen Lautenbach
Linda Schweyer
- 31 Billee Beyette

Coming Events

All Sundays in Lent: Free Lunch!

**Mar. 12 Daylight Saving
Time Begins & AED
Defibrillator Training**

**Mar. 16 Al's Academy & Dinner
Sasquatch, Big Foot &
Bible Giants**

Mar. 20 First Day of Spring!

Pastor's Page

Several years ago, when returning from a fishing trip and it was time to get gas, there was a gas station in the middle of nowhere. There was nothing unusual about the place except that there seemed to be just one employee and a note on the gas pump. It said, "If pump runs very slow, release nozzle trigger, count to 20 and try again."

I thought it was classic. Clear. Common sense. To the point,. And practical advice for so many other realms. The season of Lent is an opportunity for us to count to 20.

Wikipedia says, "Lent is the solemn Christian religious observance in the liturgical year commemorating the 40 days Jesus Christ spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, before beginning his public ministry."

It's good to take a certain time for intentional focus. Just this morning there was a program on the radio about how we, as a culture, are losing our ability to focus. Sure, it has a lot to do with electronics, but also with media and even food.

So we have some of those forty days left, (Ash Wednesday was February 22) to focus a bit on Christ's forty desert days, his ministry, and all that lead up to his final week and glorious resurrection. It's a lot to take in, and each year, we come to this time a little older, a little wiser, and a little more understanding of the magnitude of life.

It may be that we have forgotten that "lent" also means springtime. As much as this season can seem heavy and dark, it affords us the chance to breathe and reflect on the new life that comes out of Christ's time so long ago. May God bless your Lenten journey. Pastor Dinah

Lenten Lunch

All are welcome to join together for a simple lunch following Worship each week through the middle of April. Instead of any monetary exchange, get to know some of the folks with whom you worship. (If anyone would like to help prepare one of these lunches, please let Pastor Dinah know.)

Snippets of Our Stories

Featuring
Mary Reed

Mary loves to travel, which is convenient as she has kids all over the states. Dolphins swam with her off the Intercoastal waters of North Carolina and she rode on a boat close to Niagra Falls. She has also visited zoos in Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina, and San Diego. Oh, and she supported the economy of the Mall in Buffalo, just a little. And she also makes amazing potato salad!



Shoe Mission

Save Your Shoes! The Mission Committee will sponsor a new and gently used shoe collection in May, June and July so hold on to your old footwear just a little longer. The filled bags will need a dry storage space until they will be picked up at the end of July. If you have such a space, let one of the following people know: Myra Elias, Robin MacKenzie, Beth McNamara, Dawn Schulz, Betty Webb. Everything from work boots, snow boots to flip flops, as long as they have usable life left in them will work. More on this super interesting mission fundraiser will be found in upcoming newsletters.



Al's Academy

Sasquatch, Big Foot and Bible Giants

Join us on Thursday, March 16



Al Bryant will bring the dark world of Big Foot, Sasquatch and Bible Giants to light after dinner. Bring a friend or neighbor for a free dinner at 5:30 p.m. and program at 6:00 p.m.

Coffee's (Still) on Dinah

Still at 1:15 p.m.
for those
on-line,
Still at 2:00 p.m.
for those
in person and
she's still picking
up your tab so
we can chat and
keep up. Friends and
family welcome!

\$4 Lunch?

Psst! Want to know where you can get lunch for \$4.00 if you're over 60? It's Monday - Friday at The Gathering Place in the Honor strip mall. The cost covers the soup, salad bar, main course, beverages, and desserts. Caregivers are also \$4 and if you are under 60, it's \$7.50. You can find the menus at Benzie Senior Resources.

You will meet some great folks, too!



Church Council Highlights

FCCF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 8, 2023

Present: Rosemary Abbett, Sonia Duffy, Myra Elias, Jeanne Hafer, Scott Harrison, Bill Hirschfeld, Beth McNamara, Ann Osborn, Kelly Ottinger, Mary Reed, Kris Richards Linda Schweyer, Betty Webb, and Pastor Dinah Haag

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Linda Schweyer, at 5:00 p.m. followed by the opening prayer.

The minutes from the January 11, 2023 meeting were reviewed. With no corrections noted, the minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Harrison

1. Offerings for the month of January totaled:
\$7,952.00
2. Budgeted expenses for January totaled:
\$10,618.26

Committee Reports

Outreach: Kelly Ottinger – 2/11 Ukraine Relocation meeting (outside group), 2/16 Al's Academy, The Real Story of MacBeth preceded with a free dinner, 2/18 Scrabble Saturday. Kelly mentioned that they also discussed new ways to reach out to people to come to church.

Property: Myra Elias – The boiler (furnace) in the parsonage needs to be replaced. Tom Whiting has turned in a bid of \$7900.00. They are asking for approval of \$10,000.00 in case of any hidden costs that may arise. Kelly Ottinger made a motion to accept the request of \$10,000.00 being asked for by the Property Committee. Myra Elias seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was mentioned that we have \$4,000.00 left from the parsonage remodel. We will be able to use those funds first. All in favor. Motion carried. This will be brought before the congregation for approval before moving forward. Dennis met with Ken Knapp. Ken installed two new deadbolts. One of the 5th Street doors and one on the Forest Street door. Dinah will hand out keys to the appropriate

people. Ken did this at no cost to the church. Kris will send him a thank you note on behalf of FCCF. Purchasing an AED (automated external defibrillator) was discussed. When Myra talked with Rob Jones about it he very kindly offered to purchase it for the church. We gratefully accept his gift. Kelly mentioned that if Rob contacts Benzie EMS they will help get the best cost for the machine and they will also come and provide free training to anyone in the congregation that is interested.

Worship Committee: Ann Osborn – 2/22 Ash Wednesday Service, taped and airing at 11:00 with drive-by-ashes at noon.

No Reports: Memorials, Finance, Investment, By-Laws, Missions, Nominating, Personnel, Religious Ed., Women's Fellowship

Pastor's Report: Dinah Haag – Report submitted

Unfinished Business: The money given in memory of Ralph Jackson is to be used at the discretion of the Church Council per the family.

New Business: An updated list of signatures and accounts for banking purposes was presented. Bill Hirschfeld made a motion to approve. Kelly Ottinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Linda Schweyer, Council Chair, called for the meeting to be adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Richards, Church Council Clerk

A Congregational Meeting was called for Sunday, February 19 to vote on the purchase of a new boiler for the parsonage. With notes in the bulletin regarding history, cost, and present situation, the vote to replace it up to \$10,000 passed unanimously in three minutes. That is probably a record! Tom Whiting will do the job.

FAMILY FARE

News Update

Receipts

Family Fare is ending their program of giving back to communities and will replace it with a different program. (Not sure what that will be just yet.) We can get credit for any Family Fare receipts if they are turned in to the church by Sunday, February 26. It has been a great program that has enabled us to help countless kids and adults in our little county. Thank you for those who have made the efforts to help in this way.

UPC Labels

Family Fare has another program that we will start to participate in. For every 500 Family Fare UPC code labels, we will receive \$25. It may not seem like much, but with many people taking the 30 seconds it takes to clip a label, we can continue making a difference right where we live. Labels can be deposited in the Mason jar on the church dining room counter. Thank you.



Thank you to

- Rob Jones and Tom Hafer for installing the new AED Defibrillator, graciously donated to us by Dr. Rob Jones, former cardiothoracic surgeon, formerly of Midland, currently a Benzie County resident.
- Rob Burch, Hugh Hessler, Bob King, and Jim MacKenzie for your years of service on the church council. Your efforts on behalf of the church family are truly appreciated.
- Especially to Ann Osborn, who has served as our Church Clerk since 2011. She wrote a lot of minutes contributing to the legacy of our family history.
- Also especially to Judy Welch for serving as our Financial Secretary since 2002. That's a lot of bank deposits made on our behalf!
- Mary Reed for making our first Lenten Lunch. It was really good chili!
- Al Bryant for both the January and February Academies. Who knew comedic side-kicks and the story of MacBeth would be so interesting?

An advertisement for a lecture. At the top, it says "BENZONIA ACADEMY LECTURE" in white on a black background. To the right, it says "FEATURING SMELT!" in large white letters with a picture of a smelt. Below that, it says "THURSDAY MAR. 9 | 4 P.M." and "AT THE MILLS COMMUNITY HOUSE 891 Michigan Ave. | Benzonia, MI 49616". It also says "Or watch virtually via Zoom!". On the right, it says "PRESENTED BY LOCAL HISTORIAN JERRY HEIMAN" with a photo of Jerry Heiman. At the bottom, it says "BENZIE AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM 6941 TRAVERSE AVE. | BENZONIA, MICHIGAN" and "OPEN Wednesday & Friday | 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M." with the website "www.benziemuseum.org".

Congratulations

- Alex McNamara ran his first marathon in Mesa, AZ on February 4th. Being it was in Arizona makes sense that they begin at 6:30 a.m. - in the dark!
- Ryan Ruddy, Signe's son, Dick and Joanne Brown's grandson, has begun swimming competitively in the senior swim meets. He took first place in his event, the 100 breaststroke.
- Carson MacKenzie, the grandson of Jim and Robin, is now the new record holder for the most career (high school hockey) shutouts, wins, and saves. We may need to keep our eyes on this young man as he skates into the future.
- Jim Buzzell for his recognition of Otsego High School Athletic Hall of Fame anniversary in February. He was inducted in 2003, but they celebrated again with all those still among us.

Prayer Concerns

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| George Burk Jeannine Chapman Steve Chapman Pat Delonnay Sonia Duffy Julie Dulkee W Gigous Sandy Gill Melissa Grant Arlene Green Lori Lalas Bonnie Reed Heaney Marshel Holmgren Amanda & Phil Johnson & Baby Theresa Kelley Becky Reed Kelly Michaela McGirr Lake MacKenzie Robin MacKenzie Barb Olson Ron Phillips Abe Robinson Beverly Schmitt Charlie Seipelt Jerry Smith Sandy Symington | <p><u>Senior Living:</u> <u>Cadillac</u> Don Bonderenko</p> <p><u>Maple Valley</u> Steve Elrick</p> <p><u>Orchard House</u> Joanne Brown</p> <p><u>The Homesteader</u> Mary & Roy Pearce Bea Stone John Young</p> <p><u>The Maples</u> Wayne Knight Barb Olson Dave Siuda Dori Turner</p> <p><u>The Pines</u> Nora Bungard</p> | <p><u>Senior Living:</u> <u>At Home</u> Russ Brandt Diane Brutzer Norma Elias Sandy Gill Marilyn Reed</p> <p><u>Military</u> Jacob Bingham Tyler Kinney Ryan Ruddy</p> <p><u>Hospice</u> John Chiotti Pat McNamara</p> <p><u>The Families of</u> Betty Cramer Francis DeGuia Alice Farr Jerry Gosdey Pat McNamara Pete Reed</p> |
|---|--|---|

March is First Congregational Church's Committee Appreciation Month!

Committees play a huge role in being able to accomplish the many tasks that allow our church family to do big and small work for God's Kingdom. For each one that serves on a committee, we extend our deepest gratitude.

The "Above and Beyond Award" goes to Nancy Reed and her 7th-grade students for making Valentine's Day cards for the Benzie Senior Resources home-bound folks. Mighty classy - teaching students more than math.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| | | | 1 9:00 a.m. MOBBI 10:30 a.m. Worship Mtg. Jocelyn Lepke | 2 8:00 p.m. MOBBI 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:40 a.m. MOBBI 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg. Sam Buzzell Dan Nostrandt Jake Reed | 3 Chuck Henry | 4 Rob Burch |
| 5 9:15 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Lenten Lunch Carmyn Brodbent Dennis & Kris Richards | 6 12:30 p.m. MOBBI 1:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MOBBI Jimmy Kolehmaninen | 7 8:30 a.m. MOBBI 1:15 p.m. Coffee's on Dinah online 2:00 p.m. CoD In-Person, Perks 4:00 p.m. Outreach Mtg. | 8 9:00 a.m. MOBBI 5:00 p.m. Council Mtg. | 9 8:00 p.m. MOBBI 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:40 a.m. MOBBI Katherine Johnson Amy Schindler | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Daylight Saving Time 9:15 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Lenten Lunch 12:00 p.m. Free AED Defibrillator Training Gavin MacKenzie Kris Richards | 13 12:30 p.m. MOBBI 1:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MOBBI Scott Harrison David Schweyer | 14 8:30 a.m. MOBBI 1:15 p.m. Coffee's on Dinah online 2:00 p.m. CoD In-Person, Perks Alicia Welch | 15 9:00 a.m. MOBBI | 16 8:00 p.m. MOBBI 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:40 a.m. MOBBI 5:30 p.m. Dinner (Free) 6:00 p.m. Al's Academy Amelia Holmgren-Rath Mary Reed | 17 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! | 18 Susie Hughes |
| 19 9:15 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Lenten Lunch Sandy Campbell | 20 12:30 p.m. MOBBI 1:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MOBBI Happy First Day of Spring! | 21 8:30 a.m. MOBBI 1:15 p.m. Coffee's on Dinah online 2:00 p.m. CoD In-Person, Perks | 22 9:00 a.m. MOBBI Cheryl Acklin & James Daniel | 23 8:00 p.m. MOBBI 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:40 a.m. MOBBI Dale Herscher | 24 Peyton Clevenger | 25 Peyton Koenig Jane & Roger Schultz |
| 26 9:15 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Lenten Lunch | 27 12:30 p.m. MOBBI 1:30 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. MOBBI | 28 8:30 a.m. MOBBI 1:15 p.m. Coffee's on Dinah online 2:00 p.m. CoD In-Person, Perks | 29 9:00 a.m. MOBBI Helen Lautenbach Linda Schweyer | 30 8:00 p.m. MOBBI 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:40 a.m. MOBBI | 31 Billee Beyette | |

MARCH

2023

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First Congregational Church of Frankfort
 431 Forest Avenue
 Frankfort, MI 49635

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| Date | Greeters & Ushers Head Usher: David Schweyer | Sunday School Teachers |
|------|--|------------------------------|
| 5 | Molly & Scott Harrison Donna Phillips, Kathy Sheridan | Naomi Kolehmainen |
| 12 | Michael & Sharon Grajcar, Katherine & Randy Johnson | Serenity Schulz |
| 19 | Jim Buzzell, Judy Grant Chris Porter | Julie Hirschfeld |
| 26 | Christy Driggett, Jim & Robin MacKenzie, Sandy Ptochterman | Becky Addis |