

Steepleviews

First Congregational Church of Frankfort
431 Forest Ave.
Frankfort, MI 49635 (231) 352-7909

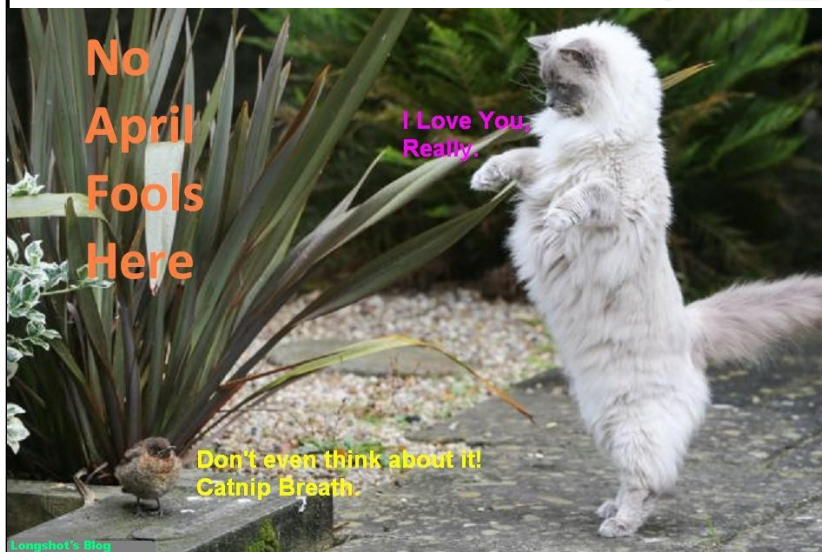
Website: www.fcfrankfort.org
Rev. Dinah Haag: haagdinah@gmail.com
Church office: secretary431@gmail.com

April 2016 Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 02 Jim MacKenzie
Molly Morris
Crystal Rath
- 03 Trevor Chicky
Steve Elrick
Don Nugent
Bill & Norma Bruinsma
- 05 Sua Yang
- 06 Bill Hirschfeld
Candace & Dan Nostrandt
- 08 Margaret Bilsky
Mary Jane Franklin
- 09 Maile Church
Bev Kidder
- 13 Phillip McKinnon
Paul Osborn
- 14 Daymian Tabbert
- 15 Addison Chownyk
- 18 Kylee Manning
- 19 Shelby Anderson
Tegan Chicky
Rob Conrad
- 21 Peggy Burns
Jill Smeltzer
- 24 Olivia Addis
- 26 Nancy Reed
- 28 Susan Lavender
Sally Lavender-Hasseldahl
Pat Luedders
Steve Rath
Kim Scripps
- 29 Bill Frostic
- 30 Myra Elias
Doug Somero

Catch These Coming Events!

- April 01 April Fool's Day
- April 03 Holy Humor Sunday
- April 07 World Health Day
- April 18 Tax Day
- April 20 Al's Academy 2.0
- April 22 Earth Day



Pastor's Page



Lauren Church's Mission Trip

From Camp Crystal as a kid, to the teen retreat at Camp

Arcadia, this church and congregation have consistently supported me and the other kids of the church. From week to week, being surrounded by this congregation has taught me what it means to be a Christian through the grace, joy and compassion that everyone offers every Sunday. It has taught me what a Christian strives to be on all the other days of the week, too. And above all, this church has taught me that at all times, whether you're acting very Christian or not, God loves you unconditionally.

It's this sentiment of security that I want to go and share this summer. My destination: Guatemala. More specifically, 2 weeks in Antigua and Guatemala City.

First thing on the agenda is a day getting to know my group. This trip is designated for 14-18 year olds from all over the U.S. Through FaceBook I've been getting to know some of the people I'll be going to Guatemala, and from those brief conversations I already know I'm going to be surrounded by a very motivated group. I'm excited to see how God will use the bonds we will make to influence us individually.

Once we get to Guatemala, our days will be spent teaching at a Vacation Bible school, spending time with the children of the local orphanage, and ministering to those taking refuge in the dump. I

have no doubt that this trip will be both heart wrenching and fulfilling. I pray that God will be able to use me to share His love with those in dire need of it. (Continued on page 5)



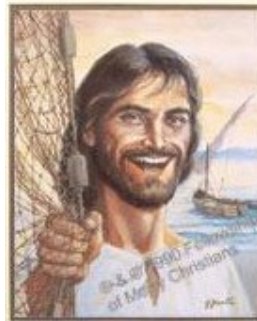
Holy Humor Sunday: April 3!

Join us in celebrating the tradition begun in earlier centuries of Christianity.

"Holy Humor Sunday"

Celebrates God's ultimate joke on Satan – raising Christ from the dead. This Eastern Orthodox tradition holds that God played

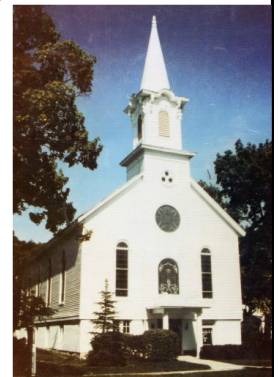
the ultimate practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it. Bring your family and friends for some serious fun and some meaningful joy. And wear something joyful!



First Congregational Church's Sesquicentennial Report

Welcome

to our first publication regarding the celebration of our church's 150th Anniversary. We are currently gathering ideas for the Anniversary T-Shirt. We've had some great ideas turned in on the sample T-Shirt print outs and encourage anyone else to try their hand at a unique design. You never know – your design might be the winner!





Al's Academy Part 2.0 of "The Comedians Talk"

April 20



Because the social calendar is really light this April, and because it was so good a laugh last month, Al Bryant has agreed to do one more



Academy this year on comedians. Come on over for a (free) dinner at 5:30 and for the program at 6:00. Bring a friend, bring your funny bone, and enjoy some good, clean humor.

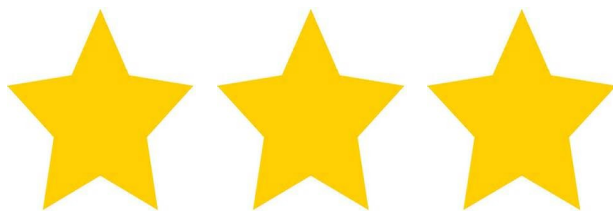


Congratulations to 11 year-old Ella Whiting completing her first 5k run! Tricia Strom joined Ella in the Shiver By the River event. (Jen Whiting is Ella's mom.)

Judy Grant's grandson, Jacob, earned NAIA All-American honors by finishing seventh in the finals of the men's 1000 meter run at the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championships last month. Jacob is a sophomore from Santa Ana, CA, attending Westmore college.

Paul A. Robinson took first in the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Division at a science fair near his home in St. Louis and is in the running for best in show!! His mom was really proud of him (he is home-schooled) as is the rest of his family – and his church family up north.

Maile Church made the 2nd Team All District for her basketball season! Way to go, young lady!



Michael Riegler, a 1972 graduate of Benzie Central High School, will be hosting a book-signing event at Shop-N-Save Food Center on Saturday, April 2, 2016. "A Dragon in the Church" is the name of his

book. Pastor Riegler was once the manager of Shop-N-Save when his family owned it as Farmer John's. He is now a United Methodist Pastor, as is his wife, Pastor Anne. His book can be purchased online at lulu.com or a signed copy can also be purchased at the event.

Council Notes

FCCF Council Meeting Minutes There were 9 members present at the March 9, 2016 Council Meeting

Treasurer's Report: John McElduff

1. Offerings for the month of February totaled \$12,874.20.
2. Expenses for the month of February totaled \$11,274.04.
3. Carry Over: \$1,600.16
4. Total current balance of Church funds is: \$71,874.69.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Constitution and By-Laws, Finance and Stewardship, Nominating, Outreach, Personnel, Women's Fellowship, Historian: no reports

Investment: Denis Crosby - our Investment Fund is showing positive signs, with our balance being \$618,000.00 as of March 9. This total is up from the recent low of \$595,000.00.

Memorials: John McElduff - \$125.00 was given in February; \$67.00 was withdrawn for the purchase of memorial plaques.

Missions: Dinah Haag for Myra Elias: 1) Lauren Church and her family are hosting the Coffee Hour following services on March 16 to help raise funds for her mission trip to Guatemala this summer; 2) \$500.00 has been given to Lauren Church from the Religious Education fund for her mission trip to Guatemala.

Property: Andrea Frost - 1) The front porch of the Parsonage is proceeding forward; 2) The walls are primed and painting has started in the Red Room as well as oak closet doors hung. The trim needs to be made and hopefully the floor will be sanded and ready to walk on by Easter Sunday; 3) Taking a spring/ Easter break beginning March 22 and then it will be back to work on the bathrooms; 4) Will Church will be building the railing for the altar steps.

Religious Education: Dinah Haag for Candace Nostrandt: new posters have been ordered for the Sunday School/Religious Ed area.

Worship: Ann Osborn - 1) The Lenten sermon messages of Amazing Grace will continue through Easter Sunday; 2) Upcoming events include: the last of Bill Hirschfeld's Lenten Bible Study and dinner on March 16, Palm Sunday service on March 20, Maundy Thursday Service and Communion on March 24 at 7pm, Good Friday Service on March 25 at 7pm, Easter Sunday service on March 27, and Holy Humor Sunday to be observed on April 3; 3) The Committee will be putting up the Easter banner and flowers plus whatever cleanup is needed on March 26; and 4) a new mic has been purchased for Pastor Dinah. (The former lavelier mic just can't cut it any more.)

Pastor's Report: Dinah Haag - report submitted. There was discussion on Hometowngiving.com and whether the Church wants to participate. The Council is to think about it and perhaps invite Cameron Clark to speak to the Council and/or Congregation about online giving. Also, Pastor Dinah has been asked to serve on a committee for the Frankfort/Elberta Schools on reproductive health.

Unfinished Business: None

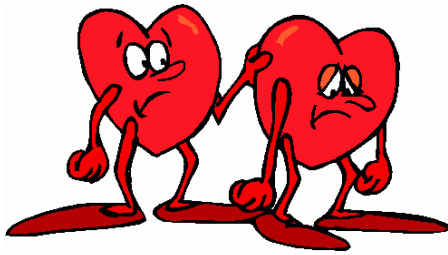
New Business: None

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Osborn, Church Council Clerk

Over (+)/Under (-): The Bottom Line

	Received	Over/Under
January	\$11,422.16	+\$1,554.12
February	\$12,874.20	+\$1,600.16





Springtime is associated with renewal and new beginnings. Spring

brings relief after a long winter. For grieving people, however, the promise of Spring may seem empty and lonely. Let's talk about,

"Spring and Growth Through Loss."

This month we are meeting on April 3, 3:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church (955 James Street) in the library. If you know someone grieving a loss, we would be happy to contact them and invite them to the meeting. If you would like more information about the group, have questions, or need directions, call Carol or Doug Luther (Group Leaders) at 399-0141. Please join us for conversation, coffee, cookies, and comfort. It just might help....



Jeff Haas and his quintet will be presenting a concert at St. Andrews on Wednesday, April 6, at

7:30. They will be doing workshops at Platte River School and Frankfort schools, with their "Building Bridges through Music.", during the day. Jeff Haas is a jazz pianist, committed to communicating a message of respect for each other and a welcome and inclusion of people who are "different". **Their mission is simply this: "By using amazing live music to open hearts and minds to the message, our program is designed to provide a foundation for peaceful living, aimed at curbing negative behaviors like bullying, prejudice, hatred and violence."** There will be a free will offering taken, the majority of which will go to support anti-bullying programs in the Benzie Central and the Frankfort schools.



There have been so many people to thank over the last weeks: from those who prepared meals for Bible Study nights and Al's Academies, to snow shovelers and plowing, to dusters after remodeling, and the list goes on. We could try to list everyone, but then we'd need an insert to this newsletter and then we'd still miss some names, and well, a whole lot of folks just like doing stuff around here for the sake of doing good. So thank you all!
You all make this place work!

(Continuing from page 2)

Lauren Church's Mission Trip –

The church has already been so supportive in helping me fund this trip. The cost is \$2295, covering housing, food and a plane ticket from Georgia to Guatemala City. The meal that my family hosted at the church made a big dent in this cost; everyone was very generous. My thanks to the church, as well. Their support was much appreciated. I'm planning on selling t-shirts as well, so let me know if you're interested! Please keep me in your prayers as I, as well as the rest of my team, continue to fundraise and prepare for this trip. Thanks for reading! God Bless!

Lauren Church



Dine Out For Benzie Area Christian Neighbors
At Dinghy's Restaurant

in Frankfort and The Fusion in Frankfort on Tuesday, April 5th and 10% of your dinner bill will be donated to BACN.





Dear First Congregation Church Members,
 Thank you so much for your help with our Chase the Chill Food Drive! Without volunteers like you, this event would not have been possible. Volunteers from your church included: Andy Mollema, John Ruckrich, Al Bryant, Steve Elrick, Bill Frostic, Judy Welch and Bill & Julie Hirschfeld. Your dedication and devotion to the food pantry here at BACN is admirable, and we consider ourselves lucky to have you!

Once again, thank you so very much! Watch our website and Facebook page for the final results of the drive! Sincerely,

Carissa Smith, Volunteer Coordinator



Cooper's Cans

My name is Cooper Rath. I go to Buckley Community Schools and I'm currently raising money for my soccer team to

have team jackets, team shirts and other needed soccer equipment. To help us buy our equipment, please donate your pop cans downstairs at the church in the trash can in the dining room. It will say, "Cooper's Cans". Thank you.

Please Remember in Prayer

Young People

Jocelyn Lepke
 Celia Murray
 Kaelyn Murray
 Morgan Papineau
 Cameron Penfold-McCool
 Grace Penfold-McCool
 Penelope Penfold-Patterson
 Samson Porter
 Sterling Porter
 Cooper Rath
 Judson Rath
 Laurel Rath
 Mason Rath
 Maddy Jo Ruddy
 Cecelia Schmitt
 Oliver Simmons
 Serenity Schulz

Young People

Jetta Kelly
 Gabriel Kindl
 Gillian Kindl
 Andrew Manning
 Kylee Manning
 Mariah Manning
 Brandon Nostrandt
 Carsen Nostrandt
 Hannah Nostrandt
 Isabel Nostrandt
 Maisie Nugent
 Brandon Osborn
 Isabelle Osborn
 Evelyn Osborn
 Zachary Osborn
 Daymian Tabbert
 Amelia Whisner
 Ella Whiting
 Brent Bonderencko
 Shane Bonderencko



April is First Congregational Church's Women's Fellowship Appreciation Month

The history of the work of women in the church is long, and the ladies of our Church family here at First Congregational are a great part of that heritage. Without our ladies, this place would not feel so much like a church home. So we thank you, one and all, from the bottom of our hearts!

First Congregational Church of Frankfort

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				 		01 02 Jim MacKenzie Molly Morris Crystal Rath
03 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion & Sunday School Holy Humor Sunday! Steve Elrick Trevor Chicky Don Nugent Bill & Norma Bruinsma	04 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class	05 Sue Yang	06 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 4:00 pm Worship Mtg. 7:30 p.m. NO Choir Bill Hirschfeld Candace & Dan Nostrandt	07 4:30 p.m. Sesquicentennial Mtg. 5:15 p.m. Outreach Mtg.	08 Margaret Bilsky Mary Jane Franklin	09 Bev Kidder Maile Church
10 10:30 a.m. Hymn Sing, Worship, Leo Smith Baptism & Sunday School	11 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class	12 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg.	13 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 4:00 p.m. Council Mtg 7:30 p.m. Choir Paul Osborn Phillip McKinnon	14 9:30 a.m. Yoga Daymian Tabbert	15 Addison Chownyk	16
17 9:30 Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School 2:00 p.m. Nursing Care	18 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class Kylee Manning	19 Rob Conrad Shelby Anderson Tegan Chicky	20 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m. Al's Academy 2.0 7:30 p.m. Choir	21 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:30 a.m. Ministerial Association Jill Smeltzer Peggy Burns		
24 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship & Sunday School Olivia Addis	25 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class	26 Nancy Reed	27 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 7	28 9:30 a.m. Yoga Kim Scripps Pat Luedders Sally Lavender- Hasseldahl Susan Lavender Steve Rath		
					29 Bill Frostic	30 Doug Somero Myra Elias

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First Congregational Church
 431 Forest Avenue
 Frankfort, MI 49635



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Anniversaries	1,7	3		Greeter and Ushers: Please arrive at church by <u>10:00 a.m.</u> ready to greet and welcome all who come to worship. (Greeters and Ushers are the front line people in welcoming visitors and new church family members!)
Announcements	2, 3, 5, 6	10	Betty & Fred Milliron, Billie & Ron Beyette	
Birthdays	1, 7			
Calendar	9			
Greeters	10	17	Michael & Sharon Grajcar Kathy & John Walthorn	
Prayer List	6			
Thank You's	2, 5, 6	24	Alma House & Signe Ruddy Sue King & Lori Dougherty	
Ushers	10			
Council Minutes	4			