

April 2023

First Congregational Church of Frankfort, MI

Steepleviews

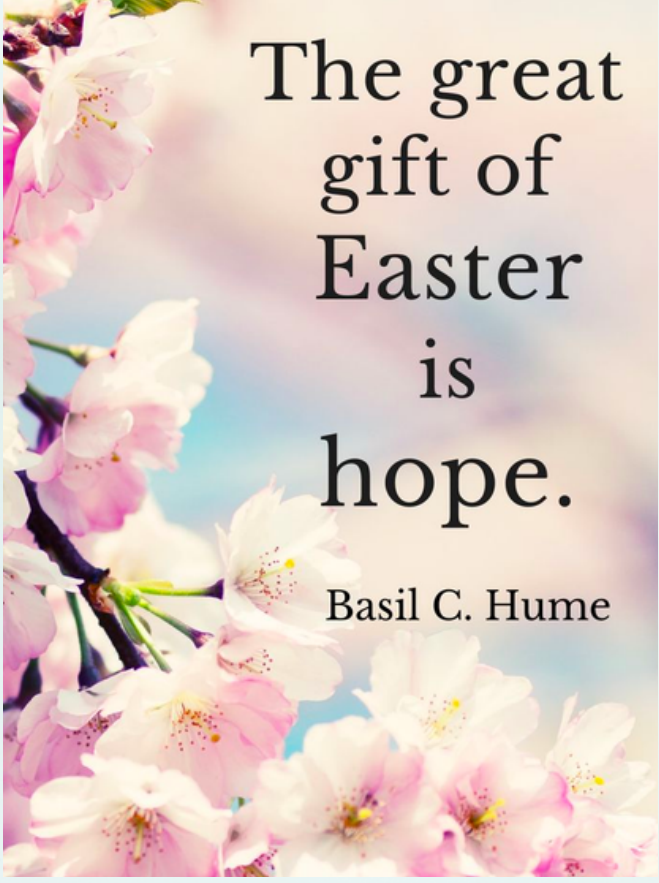


Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Haru Addis
Jim MacKenzie
Molly Morris Nguyen
Crystal Rath
- 3 Trevor Chick
Steve Elrick
Bill & Norma Bruinsma
- 6 Bill Hirschfeld
Candace & Dan Nostrandt
- 8 Margaret Bilsky
Catherine St. Onge
- 9 Maile Church
- 10 Logan Judson
- 13 Betsy Goodman
Phillip McKinnon
Paul Osborn
- 15 Addison Chownyk
- 19 Shelby Anderson
Tegan Chicky
- 21 Jill Smeltzer
Peggy Burns
- 22 Wesley Henry
- 23 Robbie Kolehmainen
Oliva (Addis) & Nick Lubinski
- 24 Olivia Addis Lubinski
- 26 Nancy Reed
- 27 Jean Ann Wolfe
- 28 Sally Lavender
Susan Lavender
Pat Luedders
Steve Rath
Kim Scripps
- 29 Bill Frostic
- 30 Myra Elias
Doug Somero

Coming Events

Apr 2	Palm Sunday & Communion
Apr 6	Meal to Share Bill's Bible Study
Apr 7	Good Friday Online Service
Apr 9	Easter Sunday
Apr 11	National Pet Day
Apr 16	Benzie Faith in Action Lunch & Gathering
Apr 18	Dine Out for BACN
Apr 22	Earth Day
Apr 30	Bring a Friend to Church Sunday & Potluck



The great
gift of
Easter
is
hope.

Basil C. Hume



BACN

BENZIE AREA CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS
A CARING COMMUNITY OF NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Dine Out for BACN Tues., April 18!

St. Ambrose Cellars will donate 10% of the day's profits
from 3 p.m. till 10 p.m.
in support of BACN's programs & services.

Watch for updates as we are still learning the story. In preparing her garden this spring, Marti Mollema's spade hit an object in her daffodil bed that turned out to be a small box full of what looks to be old, gold coins. They been turned into the Historical Society for research. They think it could actually be part of a great lakes pirate bounty! (See page 6 for updated info).

1.) The young American woman sneaked away from the group to explore Moscow's culture, away from the watchful eyes of the programmed group guide. As she slipped in and out of various retail shops, she began to notice that a man seemed to be following her. He blended in with the native Russians: big, natural fur hat, full-length, natural fur coat. He came close, indicating that he wanted to give something to her. The woman shook her head "No" and ducked into a store. Thinking she'd lost him, she went back to the street, and guess who showed up again? This time, the man pulled a box from his pocket containing a ring and tried to put the ring on the woman's hand. Knowing enough Russian to give several firm "NYET"s, the woman once again ducked into a store. Apparently he gave up because she didn't see him again. The "near miss" (Mrs.?) star of this story: Our very own Dinah Haag!

2.) After winning two tickets to see the Grateful Dead in concert, he was enthralled with the music despite the fact he did not attend in tie-dye clothing. He has also danced in person to the harmonies of The Beach Boys. But maybe the most unique activity of this mystery man was in his role of a priest when he baptized not just one, but six Cabbage Patch dolls. Who is this sacrament rebel? Al Bryant! (but you knew, that, right?)



**Snippets
of Our
Stories**

**Guess
Who?**

Participation Opportunities!

Bill's Bible Study

Abraham, Isaac, and the Lamb of God
Tracing the Idea of a Sacrificial Lamb

Thursday, April 6
5:30 p.m. Free Dinner
6:00 p.m. Study



Rev. Dr. Bill Hirschfeld wants to celebrate his 85th spin around the sun sharing his knowledge and understanding.

If it's been a while - or never -
Easter is a great time
to connect or reconnect to
God and the greater life.
Please join us this

Palm Sunday: April 2

Good Friday Services will be live-streamed on
Facebook at Noon
First Congregational Church of Frankfort, MI

Easter Sunday: April 9



431 Forest Ave. 231-352-7909
10:30 a.m. www.fccfrankfort.org
First Congregational Church of Frankfort, MI

Shoe Mission

The Missions Committee has taken on a new opportunity. Cash for Shoes (nocaloriefundraiser.com), is a go!

- We'll be paid 40 cents per pound.
- All types of shoes in good condition, from flip flops to winter boots, dress shoes and athletic shoes (with or without cleats).
- Keeping rubber soles out of landfills longer - that take 50-80 years to break down.
- Shoes will go to microbusiness people to sell.
- All while raising some funds for Missions!
- Tell everyone!

THE CHURCH IN THE ARENA:

GOD'S CALL TO CLAIM OUR
POWER THROUGH UNITY



Join churches and pastors from across our region as well as guest speakers and trainers as we demonstrate our POWER and UNITY in this event aimed to equip and inspire people of faith to transform their own communities in accordance with God's will.

When: Sunday, April 16th 1 PM

Where: Fresh Wind Christian Community

Who: People of FAITH from across Benzie County and Rural Northwest Michigan

Participating Churches

- Fresh Wind Christian Community, Interlochen
- St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Beulah
- Beulah Advent Lutheran Church, Lake Anne
- First Congregational Church of Frankfort
- St. Phillips Episcopal Church, Beulah
- First Congregational Church, Benzonia
- UCC Trinity Lutheran Church, Frankfort

As well as guest delegations from churches in neighboring counties.
Lunch will be provided and there will be time for fellowship.

For information contact Luke Allen, Lead Organizer, 313-870-7654 lukeemichfa.org



Church Council Highlights

The March 8 meeting of the FCCF Council was called to order at 4:57 p.m. followed by the opening prayer.

- Ed Schindler from R.W. Baird made a Zoom report on the Baird Account balances, stating that, "The bottom line is that we are doing fine", regarding this investment account.
- Treasurer Scott Harrison reported February offerings to be \$3,419, while budgeted expenses for the month were \$9,537. \$8,000 was moved from cash reserve checking to general checking, to pay bills if needed. Although we are on target at 16% of budget spending for the year, our income is not keeping pace. Scott made three suggestions for the time this situation continues to be monitored: 1. Keep the congregation notified, and 2. Move a \$10,000 memorial gift to general checking. Motions for these two suggestions were passed. The third suggestion is to evaluate in May whether funds need to be moved from the unrestricted Baird account over to general checking.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Memorials - Jeanne Hafer reported a \$1,500 gift from Vivian Reed in honor of her husband Pete.
- Missions - Betty Webb reported that Dawn Schultz is the new committee chair. She also reported that funds from the hot dog sale will be given to Operation Christmas Child, and \$500 to Benzie Faith in Action, both to happen in September.

- Outreach - Kelly Ottinger reported that posters will be put up around town inviting people to our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services. Still under discussion are the 5th Sunday potlucks, gatherings, and the creation of a new pictorial church directory.
- Property - Dinah reported the parsonage boiler has arrived and will be installed soon. Tom Hafer helped install the AED and Dennis Richards took care of a few repairs around the offices.
- Religious Education - Bill Hirschfeld is planning a Bible Study, "Abraham, Issac and the Lamb of God" on April 6. Free meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by the study at 6:00 p.m.
- Women's Fellowship - Mary Reed reported that \$100 will be donated to Frankfort High School for the graduating class party.
- Worship - Ann Osborn shared that the Easter banner that will be on display in the sanctuary this year was donated by Nancy Reed, made by her mother for their former church. The Palm Sunday service will include communion. The Palm Sunday and Easter services will be both online and in-person, while the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be online only.

With no new or unfinished business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Richards, Church Council Clerk.

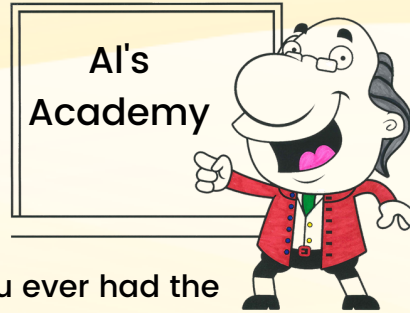
Notices, Thanks and Thoughts

**Thank
YOU!**

Rob Jones for the purchase of an AED machine and for setting up a training with the EMS crew. It was super informative

and hopefully, we will never need to use any of it.

- Dinah, Judy & Julie Grant, Katherine & Randy Johnson, Sally Lavender, Jim & Robin MacKenzie, Mary Reed, Dawn & Serenity Schulz, Kelly Ottinger, and Judy Welch for helping with and providing the Lenten Lunches and supper for Al's Academy. It was all good for the tum and high on the yum!
- Bill Frostic for fixing a sink stopper at the church. It's always so good when things can be repaired.
- To all who serve as our Church's Financial Workers. April is Church Financial Worker Appreciation Month, and we appreciate you!

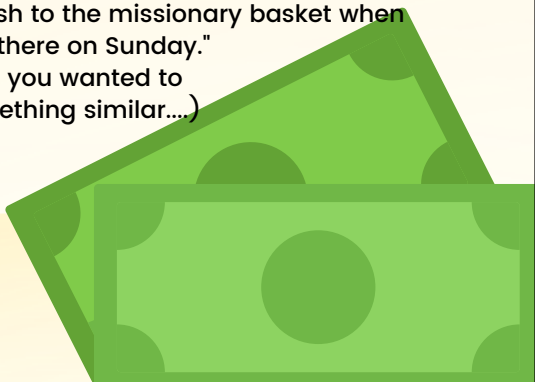


Have you ever had the occasion to attend one of Al Bryant's Al's Academies? For years, Al, our church Historian, and librarian by profession, has blessed us with evenings of interesting facts, lore, and legend of various topics he has pursued through the years. Al is officially retiring as the ongoing Academy presenter, but it may continue into the future. We thank him for these years of learning and entertainment!

Regarding Giving:

A Note from Linda Schweyer:

"During the Covid mess, one of the ways that David and I uncomplicated our life was to automate our church giving. As we sat in our pj's with the dog watching the service, we realized that our church was still serving the congregation. I went online to my bank, (but you could also go into the bank), picked the amount you wanted to give and selected the frequency, and clicked on the button to keep it ongoing. Now our money is automatically sent monthly to the church and we don't have to write a check, supply an envelope or a stamp. After Covid, we decided to continue this procedure and we add cash to the missionary basket when we are there on Sunday."
(In case you wanted to do something similar....)



Dental Health Help

Northwest Michigan Health Services Dental Clinic is accepting new clients and uses a sliding scale for fees. Both Benzie Senior Resources (BSR) and Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) may be able to partner with them for direct financial assistance for dental work. Income guidelines apply.



For more information, call BSR at 231-525-0600, or BACN at 231-882-9544.

Join in the Frankfort/Elberta Chamber's Easter Egg Hunt
April 8, 10 a.m. at Frankfort's Mineral Springs Park!



Congratulations

- To Addison Chownyk, Owen Chownyk, & Serenity Schulz for making the Honor Roll!
- To Cecelia for passing her Registered Dietician Exam! She is spending some time as a traveling dietician, beginning in North Carolina. After a couple of months she will move on to a new and exciting situation. Congratulations, Ms. Schmitt. Well done!



To the Henry family, as they welcome Miss Charlotte Jane. Big brothers Johnny and Wesley are smitten, and angel Sadie gave Charlotte a kiss on the back of her neck that matches her brothers ("stork bite" birthmarks). Everyone is happy that Charlotte is home!

Prayer Concerns

- (+Denotes hospice)
- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jeff & Kathy Bell | Beverly Schmitt | <u>Cadillac</u> |
| George Burk | Charlie Seipelt | Don Bonderenko |
| Jeannine Chapman | Lee Seipelt | |
| Steve Chapman | Jerry Smith+ | <u>Frankfort Sr. Care</u> |
| Will Colby | Sandy Symington | Sandy Gill |
| Julie Dalke | Julie VanAntwerp | |
| James Daniel | Carol Webb | <u>Maple Valley</u> |
| Pat Delonnay+ | John Young | Steve Erick+ |
| Sonia Duffy | | |
| W Gigous | <u>Families of</u> | |
| Melissa Grant | Russ Brandt | <u>Orchard House</u> |
| Arlene Green | Barb Olson | Joanne Brown+ |
| Bonnie Reed Heaney | Kelly Hayes | |
| Marshal Holmgren | Polly Herscher | <u>The Homesteader</u> |
| Amanda & Phil Johnson & Baby | Renee Llewelyn | Mary & Roy Pearce |
| Becky Reed Kelly | Duane Nugent | Bea Stone |
| Bob King | Bette Slowinski | |
| Don Limer+ | | <u>The Maples</u> |
| Ann Loveless | | Wayne Knight |
| Steve Loveless | <u>Military</u> | Dave Siuda |
| Madeline MacKenzie | Jacob Bingham | Dori Turner |
| Robin MacKenzie | Tyler Kinney | |
| Kelly Ottinger | Ryan Ruddy | <u>The Pines</u> |
| Laurie Perior | | Nora Bungard |
| Ron Phillips | <u>Seniors Living at Home</u> | |
| Eric Porter | Diane Brutzer | |
| Becky Reed | John Chiotti+ | |
| Nancy Reed | Norma Elias+ | |
| Abe Robinson | Marilyn Reed+ | |



Bring a Friend to Church & Potluck

There are a lot of people who have moved into the area, and now that we're learning how to live with the viruses, people are eager to get to know the area they now call home. It's a great opportunity for us to reach out to some of those who are looking for their Benzie County family. And what better way to do that than asking them to come to church and break bread with us?

Since April has five Sundays, we will welcome all to a potluck on the 30th, following worship. Bring a dish to pass, or just show up...there is always plenty of food!





Camp season is almost here, and with that, we'd like to remind the church family that scholarships are available for our young people, elementary through high school, to attend camp. Call the office for more information.



Marti Mollema's Garden story, continued from page 2:
April Fools!

April

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:15 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Palm & Passion Worship & Communion  Haru Addis Jim Mackenzie Molly Morris Nguyen Crystal Rath	3 12:30 p.m. MOBBI Trevor Chicky Steve Elrick Bill & Norma Bruinsma	4 8:30 a.m. MOBBI 4:00 p.m. Outreach Mtg.	5 10:15 a.m. MOBBI 10:30 a.m. Worship Committee Mtg 5:30 p.m. MOBBI	6 8:00 p.m. MOBBI 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:10 a.m. MOBBI 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg. <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Bill's Bible Study </div> Maundy Thursday	7 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Bill Hirschfeld Candace & Dan Nostrandt </div> Good Friday	8 Margaret Bilsky Catherine St. Onge Black Saturday
9 9:15 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Easter Resurrection Worship  Maile Church	10 12:30 p.m. MOBBI Logan Judson	11 8:30 a.m. MOBBI	12 10:15 a.m. MOBBI 5:00 p.m. Council Mtg. 5:30 p.m. MOBBI	13 8:00 p.m. MOBBI 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:10 a.m. MOBBI Betsy Goodman Phillip McKinnon Paul Osborn	14	15 Addison Chownyk
16 9:15 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> 1:00 p.m. Benzie Faith In Action Lunch & Gathering </div> Holy Joy Sunday	17 12:30 p.m. MOBBI	18 8:30 a.m. MOBBI	19 10:15 a.m. MOBBI 5:30 p.m. MOBBI Shelby Anderson Tegan Chicky	20 8:00 p.m. MOBBI 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:10 a.m. MOBBI	21 Jill Smeltzer Peggy Burns	22 Wesley Henry
23 9:15 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship & Maverick Weaver Baptism Robbie Kolehmainen Olivia (Addis) & Nick Lubinski	24 12:30 p.m. MOBBI Olivia Addis Lubinski	25 8:30 a.m. MOBBI	26 10:15 a.m. MOBBI 4:00 p.m. Missions Meeting 5:30 p.m. MOBBI Nancy Reed	27 8:00 p.m. MOBBI 9:30 a.m. Yoga 11:10 a.m. MOBBI Jean Ann Wolfe	28 Sally Lavender Susan Lavender Pat Luedders Steve Rath Kim Scripps	29 Bill Frostic
30 9:15 a.m. Choir 10:30 a.m. Worship <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Bring a Friend to Church & Potluck </div> Myra Elias Doug Somero						

Steepleviews

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



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Date	Greeters & Ushers Head Usher: Julie Morris	Sunday School Teachers
2	Tom Hafer, Kelly Ottinger, Mary Reed	Robin MacKenzie
9	Alma House, Dennis Kris Richards Betty Webb	Jim MacKenzie
16	Molly & Scott Harrison Julie & Mike Morris	Linda Schweyer
23	Leslie McElduff, Jennifer Osborn Marti Mollema & Reg Smith	Naomi Kolehmainen
30	Sue King, Ann Osborn, David & Linda Schweyer	Serenity Schulz