

Steepleviews

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

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

December 2019 Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 02 Tom Hafer
Kendra Lewis
- 03 Jim Buzzell
Kathy Crosby
Daniel Jewell
- 05 Denis Crosby
- 09 Maddie Charbonneau
Becky Hubbard
- 10 Peggy Jackson
Marv Prepejchal
- 13 Grace Henry
- 15 Stuart Scripps
- 16 Missi & Randy Gilbert
- 18 David & Melissa Koenig
Clark & Sarah Robinson
- 19 Joanne Brown
Max Buzzell
Judson Rath
- 20 Rosemary Abbett
Genevieve Pomerleau
- 23 Joel Buzzell
- 25 Joe Hubbard
- 26 Barb Ikens
- 29 Ryan Ruddy
John Walthorn
- 30 Nathan MacKenzie
- 31 Michael Webb
Billee & Ron Wardwell

Catch These Coming Events

- Merry Christmas
- Dec 3 Dine Out for BACN
 - Dec 5 Dinner and
Cookie Decorating
 - Dec 7 Annual Silver Tea
 - Dec 9 Poinsettia Orders Due
 - Dec 18 Christmas Caroling
 - Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

will be December 24th
at 7:00 p.m.

Join friends, family and
neighbors for a traditional
time of worship to reflect
the greatest of all Christmas
gifts. Open Communion
begins at 6:45 p.m.



Pastor's Page

So often, especially when thinking about holidays, we long for the “way it was” when we were kids, or what we’ve become used to. In other words, tradition.

Tradition is good because it gives us a sense of security and prediction, along with doses of pleasant remembrances and even a sort of purity. Tradition can be less good when it becomes too familiar, when we don’t see the pieces that make up the whole. The carols of the season can be comforting, but when we merely sing them, worrying or thinking of other things while we sing, we lose all their richness and fullness.

That was part of the evolution of the decorations at the church this year. So many of those who have played the big parts in previous years—in terms of decorating and planning and all that this season requires in terms of toting and hauling and being inspired—if they haven’t had a hard year, it’s been an exhausting one.

So this year the décor is purposefully less, less able to distract our eyes from the Amazing Gift, Blessed Savior, First Born of Creation that seeks to be reborn in our hearts this season. To that end, allow the words and the music and the fellowship of being with our “family” bring comfort and peace to your hearts and minds in ways that are a blessing you’ve not had in a while. Have a blessed holiday season!

Pastor Dinah



1st Corinthians 13 (A Christmas Version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another decorator. If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I’m just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir’s cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the whole point.

...In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is king, though harried and tired.

Love doesn’t envy another’s home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn’t yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn’t give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can’t.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.



The All-Church Christmas Caroling & Party

Will be Wednesday, December 18th!
We'll meet at the Paul Oliver Hospital
lobby for Christmas caroling at the Living
& Rehab Center at 6:00 p.m.

After serenading the residents of The
Maples and The Pines, we will head over
to the parsonage at Pastor Dinah's around
7:30 p.m. for some food & togetherness.
Beverages for all ages will be provided,
but a dish to share would be appreciated.
Feel free to invite friends
and bring the family.

The Benzie County
Community Chorus Presents Our

2019
Christmas Concerts

Carols and Lullabys

Friday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd, Beulah

Saturday, December 14, 3:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd, Beulah

Sunday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.
Frankfort United Methodist Church
537 Crystal Ave, Frankfort

All are welcome.
A freewill offering will be taken
to help defray concert costs.



First Congregational Church of Frankfort

invites you to the annual festive start of the holiday season known as

The Silver Tea

Saturday, December 7, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

A Christmas Cookie and Bake Sale will be featured.



December is First Congregational Church's Choir Appreciation Month



We want to take this
month to be mindful of
our Choir and let them
know how very
much they are
appreciated,
enjoyed and loved.

Carolyn and Jim Lalas' new address is
5776 Apple Valley Road
Williamsburg MI 49690



**Dine Out For
BACN**
at Dinghy's
in Frankfort &
Geno's in Thompsonville on Tuesday,
December 3rd
and 10% of your dinner bill
will be donated to BACN.

Council Meeting Minutes



FCCF Council Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2019

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

Treasurer's Report: Andy Mollema

1. Offerings for October totaled: \$7,770.66
2. Budgeted expenses for October: \$8,740.59
3. Carryover YTD: \$4,150.93

Committee Reports

Finance: Judy Welch - See Treasurer's Report

Investment: Andrea Frost - As of November 12th, the Baird Fund totals are: \$417,278.36 in Stocks; \$259,206.92 in Bonds with the total in our Baird Fund Account: \$676,485.27.

Missions: Paul Osborn - This account remains fully funded.

Nominating: Myra Elias - Two 3-year terms and one 2-year term (to replace Rob Burch who will become Treasurer) need to be filled.

Outreach: Myra Elias - 1) Upcoming events include the Silver Tea on December 7th and the church's Christmas season celebrations; and 2) 1,030 people came through our church during our Halloween Open House.

Property: Dinah Haag for Andrea Frost: Jim MacKenzie installed the church's new water sensor sent to us by Church Mutual; this sensor alerts us to any frozen pipe or flooding issues.

Religious Education: Bill Hirschfeld - A reminder that Bill's Bible Study and dinner preceding is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20th at 5:30.

Women's Fellowship: Kim Scripps - 1) A reminder that the Silver Tea and Bake Sale is December 7th; and 2) Family Fare has generously donated a \$50.00 gift certificate to our Silver Tea.

Worship: Ann Osborn - 1) Upcoming events include: Sanctuary decorating for Advent on November 26th, Communion Sunday on December 1, Christmas Eve Service on December 24th, and Carols and their History to be continued for the Sunday after Christmas service; 2) Advent devotionals, Christmas Eve bulletin covers, and a new Advent banner were chosen; and 3) The Christmas Eve candles have been cleaned.

Pastor's Report: Dinah Haag - report submitted

No Report: Memorials, Constitution & By-Laws, Personnel

New Business: 1) The proposed 2020 Budget is still a work in progress, waiting for a new format from our bookkeeper, Chris Anthony. It will be ready for Council's review at the December meeting. 2) Bill Hirschfeld reported that Dr. Stefanski, his dentist in Frankfort, was collecting any leftover Halloween candy to send to our military. A thank you to Bill who took all the extra candy from the church's Halloween Open House and donated it to this cause.

Myra Elias, Council Chair, called for the meeting's adjournment at 4:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Osborn, Church Council Clerk



- Will Church for toting some straw bales over to the church after the Fall Festival. Even though they didn't get sat upon because the night was so horrible - weather-wise - it was still mighty nice of you to haul them over.
- Jim MacKenzie for installing the new water sensors in the church basement.
- Bill Frostic for installing the new poster posts outside the front door of the church. It looks so finished now!



- Jimmy & Blake Buzzell on the birth of their son, Ford earlier this fall. All are doing well.
- Frankfort High School senior, Janey Turner, (Dori's granddaughter and Jennie Schmitt's niece) placed 36th out of 238 ladies that ran the 5,000-meter race at the MHSAA Cross Country State Finals. Good for her!
- Madyson Charbonneau, Addison Chownyk, and Grace Henry on making the Honor Roll at your schools. Way to go!
- Jason Johnson, son of Randy & Katherine, for placing 29th in the 2019 Iceman Cometh Challenge Pro Division race from Kalkaska to Timber Ridge Resort in Traverse City.

Poinsettia Order Form

6.5" Red _____ or White Plant _____ @ \$8.50

In loving memory of _____

Or

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Please enter how many poinsettias you would like of each size and return order form to the Church Office by Monday, December 9, 2019. Thank you.



Myra's Carmel Corn Recipe

Cook 2 cups brown sugar with 1 cup real butter and 1/2 cup light Karo syrup, bring to a boil for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add 1 teaspoon baking soda stirring carefully.

Tends to boil up.

Pour over 3 gallons of popcorn mixing carefully and place into preheated oven @ 200 degrees for 1 hour. Stirring mixture after the first 1/2 hour.

Enjoy!

Let cool and place into air tight container.

Please Remember in Prayer

Prayer Concerns:

Morgan Acklin
 Abby Baker
 Ed Baldwin
 Sandy Campbell
 John Chiotti
 Crosbys
 Anna Fabach
 Sharon Grajcar
 Ann Grant
 Pat Hessler
 Mariah Hull
 Scott Johnson
 Brian Kimble
 Carolyn Lalas
 Charlotte Lalas
 Gavin MacKenzie
 Megan Martinka
 Sophi McClaren-Cobb
 George McHugh
 Victoria Mekas
 Ruth Nugent
 Tom Osborn
 Kelly Ottinger
 Chris & John Patterson
 Ron Phillips
 Wendy Pratley
 Adrienne Quintal
 Elizabeth Harness-
 Richardson
 Julie & Paul Robinson
 Serenity Schulz

Michelle Stanley
 Donna Stevens
 Jane Tarnecki
 Eric Van Dusen
 Brian Welch

The Families of:

Ronnie Fiel
 Graceland employees
 Jerry Rank

Military:

Dawn Bonderenko
 Joe Cartwright
 Matthew Conrad
 Mike Kinney
 Tyler Kinney
 Clark Robinson
 Ryan Ruddy

Senior Living:

Orchard House

Pat Hessler
 Susie Vigland

POLAR

Betty Croft

The Homesteader

Moore Peregrine
 Bea Stone

The Maples

Al Bryant, Karen Collins
 Jan Condon



Christmas Tree Blessing

Lord Jesus, Encircle this tree with your Blessing. May its' twinkling lights remind us of the hope and promise of your coming. May we find joy in the memories we share in its' tinsel and trimmings. May the presents we place beneath it give rise to an appreciation for the gift of your presence among us. We ask this in your holy name. Amen



Want to gift our church while shopping at Amazon?

Instead of typing Amazon.com, type smile.amazon.com.

You can register First Congregational Church of Frankfort as the recipient of their 0.5% charitable giving. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Between July 1 U September 30, we received \$19.96, which is \$19.96 we didn't have before.

So thank you!



so much for giving me the opportunity of that awesome and so rewarding trip to Mackinac Island. I cannot tell you what it means to me. The ladies are so special and fun to spend quality time with!!! Ginger Reed

*First Congregational
Church of Frankfort
December 2019*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School Advent 1</p> <p>Communion Sunday</p>	<p>2 9:30 a.m. Yoga Class 5:00 & 6:00 p.m. MOBBI Class</p> <p>Tom Hafer Kendra Lewis</p>	<p>3 9:30 & 2:30 p.m. MOBBI Classes</p> <p>Dine Out for BACN</p> <p>Jim Buzzell Kathy Crosby Daniel Jewell</p>	<p>4 9:45 a.m. MOBBI Classes 4:00 p.m. Worship Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. MOBBI Classes 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m. Cookie Decorating</p> <p>Denis Crosby</p>	<p>6 8:30 a.m. MOBBI Class</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Annual Silver Tea 1:00-3:00 p.m.</p>
<p>8 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School Advent 2</p> <p>Nursing Facility Worship 2:00 p.m. POLAR 2:45 p.m. The Maples</p>	<p>9 9:30 a.m. Yoga Class 5:00 & 6:00 p.m. MOBBI Class</p> <p>Maddie Charbonneau Becky Hubbard</p>	<p>10 9:30 & 2:30 p.m. MOBBI Classes 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg</p> <p>Peggy Jackson Marv Prepejchal</p>	<p>11 9:45 a.m. MOBBI Classes 11:30 a.m. Ministerial Assoc. 4:00 p.m. Council Mtg 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. MOBBI Classes</p>	<p>13 8:30 a.m. MOBBI Class 11:00-1:00 p.m. Periwinkle Garden Club</p> <p>Grace Henry</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School Advent 3</p> <p>Stuart Scripps</p>	<p>16 9:30 a.m. Yoga Class 5:00 & 6:00 p.m. MOBBI Class</p> <p>Missi & Randy Gilbert</p>	<p>17 9:30, 2:30 p.m. MOBBI Classes</p>	<p>18 9:45 a.m. MOBBI Classes 5:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling & Party</p> <p>David & Melissa Koenig Clark & Sara Robinson</p>	<p>19 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. MOBBI Classes</p> <p>Joanne Brown Max Buzzell Judson Rath</p>	<p>20 8:30 a.m. MOBBI Class</p> <p>Rosemary Abbett Genevieve Pomerleau</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School Advent 4</p>	<p>23 9:30 a.m. Yoga Class</p> <p>Joel Buzzell</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:45 p.m. Open Communion 7:00-8:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>Joe Hubbard</p>	<p>26 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group</p> <p>Barb Ikens</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School Christmas 1</p> <p>Ryan Ruddy John Walthorn</p>	<p>30 9:30 a.m. Yoga Class</p> <p>Nathan MacKenzie</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p> <p>Michael Webb Billie Beyette & Ron Wardwell</p>	<p>7</p>			

Steepleviews

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



<i>Table of Contents</i>		<i>Date</i>	Greeters/Ushers <i>Head Usher:</i> <i>Mary Reed</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers</i>
Anniversaries	1, 7			
Announcements	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	1	Kathy Walthorn, Leslie McElduff Alma House, Ann Osborn	Julie Hirschfeld
Birthdays	1, 7			
Calendar	7	8	Jim & Robin MacKenzie Luanne Elwell, Tom Hafer	Naomi Kolehmainen
Council Minutes	4			
Greeters	8	15	Michael & Sharon Grajcar Cheryl Acklin, Bill Hirschfeld	Becky Addis
Prayer List	6			
Congratulations & Thank You's	5	22	Dawn & Serenity Schulz Larry Neuhardt, Ann Osborn	Jim MacKenzie
Ushers	8	29	Mary Reed, Lori Dougherty Sarah Dougherty, Mary Ann Harness	Robin MacKenzie