

Steepleviews

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

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



December 2015

Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 01 John McElduff
- 02 Jeff Frostic
Diane Macy
- 03 Jim Buzzell
Kathy Crosby
Daniel Jewell
- 05 Denis Crosby
- 08 Samantha Haigh
- 09 Becky Hubbard
- 10 Peggy Jackson
Marv Prepejchal
- 11 Dan & Sandy Gill
- 16 Missi & Randy Gilbert
- 18 David & Melissa Koenig
Clark & Sarah Robinson
- 19 Joanne Brown
Olivia Buzzell
Judson Rath
Carol & Doug Ehle
- 20 Rosemary Abbett
Genevieve Pomerleau
- 22 Doug Ehle
- 23 Joel Buzzell
- 25 Joe Hubbard
- 26 Barb Ikens
- 29 John Walthorn
- 30 Nathan MacKenzie
- 31 Billee & Ron Wardwell

Catch These Coming Events!

- December 01 Dine Out for BACN
- December 03 Cookie Decorating
- December 04 Poinsettia Orders Due
- December 05 Annual Silver Tea
- December 08 Holiday Candlelight
Remembrance Service
- December 11 BCC Christmas Concert
- December 12 BCC Christmas Concert
- December 13 BCC Christmas Concert
- December 17 Christmas Caroling & Party
- December 24 Christmas Eve Worship

You are cordially invited to our

Annual Silver Tea

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Join your friends and neighbors at this festive start to the holiday season. There will be tea, coffee and many delectables that will be served along with a Christmas Cookie and Bake Sale.

Bring your family & friends.

431 Forest Ave., Frankfort, MI 49635



Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

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

Pastor's Page

A Christmas Prayer

The following Christmas prayer was delivered by U.S. Senate Chaplain Peter Marshall on Dec. 19, 1947, in the U.S. Senate, addressed to a victorious nation recovering from World War II.

We thank Thee, O God, for the return of the wondrous spell of this Christmas season that brings its own sweet joy into our jaded and troubled hearts. "Forbid it, Lord, that we should celebrate without understanding what we celebrate, or, like our counterparts so long ago, fail to see the star or to hear the song of glorious promise.

"As our hearts yield to the spirit of Christmas, may we discover that it is Thy Holy Spirit who comes – not a sentiment, but a power – to remind us of the only way by which there may be peace on earth and good will among men. "May we not spend Christmas, but keep it, that we may be kept in its hope, through Him who emptied Himself in coming to us that we might be filled with peace and joy in returning to God. Amen."

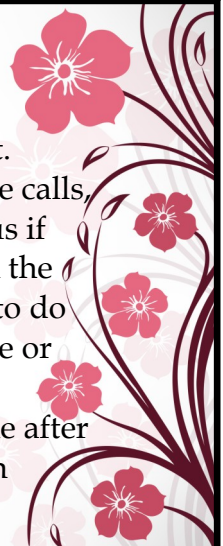
Eight Christmas gifts that don't cost a cent:

- The gift of listening.
- The gift of affection.
- The gift of laughter.
- The gift of a written note.
- The gift of a compliment.
- The gift of a favor.
- The gift of solitude.
- The gift of a cheerful disposition.

– via Apple Seeds

For those wanting to sponsor altar flowers, you will notice a new format to the sign-up list.

To help reduce the phone calls, we would love you tell us if you would like to obtain the flowers, if you'd like us to do that (either as we are able or from a florist) and if you intend to take them home after Sunday. Thanks so much for the help!



Welcome to the world, Malcolm Porter Whisner!

He is brother to Amelia, son to Ryan and Abbie, and grandson to Mac and Marilyn Whisner. Porter, as he will be called, was born on October 19 in Peru.



Leo Sinclair Smith was born Nov. 17 at 10:42 pm. He weighed 5 lbs., 6 oz. and is 19.25 in. long. All are well!



Spreading the Cheer

Join us for Christmas Caroling at local nursing care facilities and then a bit of food and fun at the church parsonage. We'll gather at the **Paul Oliver Hospital lobby at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, December 17, 2015.**

After serenading the Long Term Care residents, we'll head over to The Maples, the Pines, various homes and then go to Pastor Dinah's. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors; bundle up and join us! Come for the whole evening or whatever part fits in your schedule! The more – the merrier! This is a fun night, and it spreads such good cheer. If you would like to bring a little something to nibble on, that would be great.

Beverages for all ages will be provided.

Holidays can be hard for many different reasons. Sometimes it's good to be able to let down your guard and acknowledge "the hard parts."

So feel free to join others at a

Holiday Candlelight Remembrance Service

at Bennett Barz Funeral Home
Tuesday, December 8th, 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Dinah will join Rev. Barbara Fay of Frankfort United Methodist Church in a time of worship and remembrance. There is no charge for this event, and all are welcome to attend.

By popular demand

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!

Poinsettia Order Form

_____ @ \$6.50 / 6" plant = _____

_____ @ \$8.50 / 6.5" plant = _____

Available in **Red and White**
(Circle color choice)



In loving memory of
(Orders due by December 4, 2015.)

_____ Or

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Please return to the Church Office by Friday, December 4th.
Thank you for your gift.

Council Notes

There were 14 Council members at the November 11, 2015 Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report: John McElduff

Income for October:	\$7,298.06
Expenses for October:	\$ 10,467.01
Total Current Balance of Church funds, as of October 31.	\$71, 470.08

Missions: Bob King

All of our Mission commitments continue to be funded 100%.

Nominating: Larry Neuhardt

All but one Council member will return to serve a second term; 2) The Treasurer's and Assistant Treasurer's positions for 2016 will need to be filled. There are no candidates for Treasurer at this time and one possible candidate for Assistant Treasurer. The Nominating Committee explored the idea of outsourcing part of the Treasurer position and brought this idea to the Council. An initial motion was made by B. King that the Committee look into this. A. Frost seconded the motion. Before the vote, however, there was further discussion. It was noted that a bookkeeper could do the more difficult aspects of the job while the payroll and bill paying could be done by our Treasurer. The amended motion was made by B. King that L. Neuhardt proceed with contacting potential prospects for the job and get back to the Council with the results; A. Frost seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Outreach: Judy Grant

1) The Halloween Open House was a success with 1,225 persons coming through our Church; 2) There were many visitors at our All Saints Service on November 1st due to the letters sent out to those who have lost family members in the past year; 3) The Committee is working on updating our Pictorial Directory; 4) Meals on Wheels is asking for donations of lap throws, lotions, calendars, etc. to give to those seniors in need; 5) A reminder of the Thanksgiving Council Community Service on November 22nd 3 p.m. at Benzonia Congregational

4

Church; and 6) The movie "Paddington" is being shown free of charge thanks to our Church, at the Garden Theater on November 28th at 2 p.m.

Personnel: Andy Mollema

A job review for our secretary is on the calendar.

Property: Andrea Frost

Bids have been submitted for redoing the Red Room, bathrooms and balcony work with one more bid still to come; two bids have been submitted for the electrical work in the Red Room. Decisions to be made at the December meeting. 2) W. Church will begin construction on the front entrance of the Church and the Parsonage porch reconstruction to follow.

Worship: Ann Osborn 1) Upcoming events include: the Community Thanksgiving Service at 3 p.m. on November 22nd, the Sanctuary decorating November 24th at 1 p.m., next Communion on December 6th, Christmas Program Sunday and Nursing Care Worship Services on December 20th, Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship/Communion on December 24th; and Caroling Worship Service to be held on December 27th; 2) The railing for the Sanctuary front steps is still in process; 3) The Committee is thinking of creating bookmarks with scripture verses to take the place of Advent devotional booklets.

Historian: Al Bryant

Need to create a Budget before December's Council Meeting.

By-Laws, Finance & Stewardship, Investment, Memorials, Religious Education, Women's Fellowship, and New Business. No reports

Pastor's Report: Report was submitted to all present.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Osborn, Church Council Clerk

Bear Lake's "Sparkle in the Park"

11th Annual Sparkle in the Park
Saturday, November 28, 2015

Opening Night Festivities

At Hopkins Park Campground in the Village

5 p.m. **Opening Night**, Sat. ,Nov 28th,
World Famous Tailgate Chili,
Coffee, Hot Chocolate & Cookies
will be served FREE to all visitors
compliments of the Bear Lake
Community.

6:30 - Santa & Mrs. Claus will visit
8 p.m. with boys & girls at Toyland Bear
Lake with treats for the kids.

Sparkle in the Park will be open from
Nov 28th thru Dec 31st, 5p.m. to 10 p.m.
nightly. Admission is free. A donation box
is available near Toyland Bear Lake.

Carolers are welcome to join in every
Sunday night in December at Toyland Bear
Lake.

We have mail:

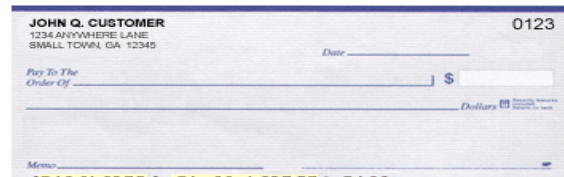
Many thanks to the church
from Candace, Liz, Mary,
Robin, Danielle &
Katherine who were
fortunate enough to attend
Win-Some Women's
Retreat on Mackinac
Island. It was such a
blessing to be chosen for
such an uplifting experience.

Ella Rae Whiting also sends thanks for
money given to her for attending camp this
year. She said she went for 12 days & had
lots of fun.



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.



If you wish to make a year end gift to the
church, it would be helpful if it were
postmarked by Dec. 26. All gifts are truly
appreciated and treated with the respect
with which they are given. Thank you.

ATTENTION!

Our By-Laws indicate that all
year-end reports are due December
26th. Because that is such a busy time
to ask for those reports, we are asking
that they be in the church office as
soon as possible. Thank you so very
much for all your hard work!

"There is such richness and goodness
in the Nativity that if we should see
and deeply understand, we should be
dissolved in perpetual joy."
— Martin Luther

The Benzie Community Chorus

will present their
2015 Christmas Concerts
Fri. Dec 11 7p.m. at
Frankfort United
Methodist Church
Sat. Dec. 12 7p.m. at
Frankfort United
Methodist Church
Sun. Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. at
St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church

A freewill offering taken.

Update to Our Online Church Family Directory

We will be emailing a copy of our church directory to everyone in the congregation in the near future. If there are any corrections that need to be made to your personal information we ask that you send those corrections to secretary431@gmail.com. Doing so will help us to update the directory to current status. When changes have been made we can then send a copy of the corrected directory to everyone via email, or for those who prefer, we can print out a copy. We appreciate your input and thank you for your assistance.



Holiday Art & Craft Fair

Saturday, December 5th, 2015
10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Mills Community House
891 Michigan Ave, Benzonia, MI
231-882-0591

Please Remember in Prayer

Bud Carpenter
Doris Clark
*Peyton Clevenger
*Reagan Clevenger
Bob Conrad
June Coolman
Kate Garza
Dorothy Hardy
Nancy Knopf
Caleb MacKenzie
Dale McLaughlin
Linda Neiderhoffer
*Donna Phillips
*Alicia Reman
*Kyah Robinson
Jewel Symington
*Amy Walker
Leona Walthorn

Those serving in the Military:

Matt Conrad
Mike Kinney
Clark Robinson
Ryan Ruddy

The Families of:

Ada Brown
Miles Gerberding
Jim Miller
Bob Mundt
Roy Nerg
Robin Tyler-Miller

Young Adults:

Olivia Buzzell
Lacey Deloria
Nathan MacKenzie
Bennett Schmitt






Dine Out For Benzie Area Christian Neighbors
at **Dinghy's** in Frankfort
or **The Thistle Pub** in Thompsonville

on Tuesday,
December 1st,
and 10% of
your dinner bill
will be donated
to
Benzie Area
Christian
Neighbors.



First Congregational Church of Frankfort

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 10:00 a.m. Silver Tea Decorating John McElduff Alan Vigland <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Jeff Frostic Diane Macy</div>	02 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 10:00 a.m. Silver Tea Decorating 4:00 p.m. Worship Comm. 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	03 9:30 a.m. Yoga 5:15 p.m. Outreach Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Light supper 6:30 p.m. Cookie Decorating Jim Buzzell Kathy Crosby Daniel Jewell	04 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Poinsettia Orders Due</div>	05 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Annual Silver Tea 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  Denis Crosby </div>
06 10:30 a.m. Hymn Sing & Sunday School & Communion	07 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class	08 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">7:00 p.m. Holiday Candlelight Remembrance</div> Samantha Haigh	09 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 9:30 a.m. Human Services Collaborative 4:00 p.m. Council Meeting 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	10 9:30 a.m. Yoga Peggy Jackson Marv Prepejchal <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Becky Hubbard</div>	11 12:00 p.m. Periwinkle Garden Club Mtg. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">7:00 p.m. Benzie Community Chorus Christmas</div> Dan & Sandy Gill	12 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">7:00 p.m. Benzie Community Chorus Christmas</div>
13 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">3:00 p.m. Benzie Community Chorus Christmas</div>	14 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class	15	16 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Missi & Randy Gilbert	17 9:30 a.m. Yoga <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling & Party</div>	18 5:30 p.m. Ministerial Assoc. Mtg. David & Melissa Koenig Clark & Sarah Robinson	19 Joanne Brown Olivia Buzzell Judson Rath Carol & Doug Ehle
20 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School & Program 2:00 & 2:45 p.m. Nursing Care Worship	21 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Rosemary Abbett Genevieve Pomerleau</div>	22 Doug Ehle	23 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Joel Buzzell	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">6:45 p.m. Open Communion</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</div>	25 Church Offices Closed  Joe Hubbard	26 Barb Ikens
27 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School	28 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class	29 John Walthorn <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Nathan MacKenzie</div>	30 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	31 9:30 a.m. Yoga Billee & Ron Wardwell	Church Offices Closed 	

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 Frankfort, MI 49635



**Merry Christmas and
 a Happy New Year!**

<i>Table of Contents</i>	
Anniversaries	1, 7
Announcements	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7
Birthdays	1, 7
Calendar	7
Greeters	8
Prayer List	6
Thank You's	5
Ushers	8
Council Minutes	4

Date	Greeters/Ushers <i>Head Usher:</i> Mary Reed	
6	Bill Hirschfeld, John McElduff, Jim Buzzell & Jim MacKenzie	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!)
13	Judy Grant, Leslie McElduff, Robin MacKenzie & Jill Smeltzer	
20	Michael & Sharon Grajcar John & Kathy Walthorn	
27	Marti Mollema, Connie Binnehoff Lori Dougherty & Mary Reed	