

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 2017 Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 01 John McElduff
- 02 Kendra Lewis
- 03 Jim Buzzell
Kathy Crosby
Daniel Jewell
- 05 Denis Crosby
- 09 Becky Hubbard
- 10 Peggy Jackson
Marv Prepejchal
- 11 Dan & Sandy Gill
- 15 Stuart Scripps
- 16 Missi & Randy Gilbert
- 18 David & Melissa Koenig
Clark & Sarah Robinson
- 19 Joanne Brown
Liv 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!

- Dec. 02 Silver Tea
- Dec. 03 Advent Begins
- Dec. 05 Dine out for BACN
- Dec. 15 Poinsettia Orders Due
- Dec. 17 Nursing Care Worship Services
- Dec. 20 Caroling Party
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service

Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be

**Sunday, 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
with open communion 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 o 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."



Want to gift FCCF if you're shopping at Amazon? Instead of typing Amazon.com, type smile.amazon.com.

You can register FCCF as the recipient of their 0.5% price of eligible purchases. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Thank you!

From the Rev. Dr. W. Michael Chittum, Executive Director NACCC & Congregational Foundation (who was the guest speaker at our Sesquicentennial Celebration service)

As you consider how you and your church respond to these tragic events, may I encourage you to follow the admonition in Psalm 37:27 - Depart from evil, and do good; so you shall abide forever. Reach out to your community to build relationships and alliances with other communities of faith, with schools, and with community groups. Pray for your neighbors and your neighborhoods and proclaim the love of God in Jesus the Christ. Work to do good so that God's love can be manifest. Be a force for change in our world.

So many of you have been able to help us in meeting our budgetary needs for 2017. We are still not perfectly balanced, yet, but your gifts have been extremely helpful. But we realize that some of you may still wish to make a year end gift to the church. That would be wonderful and it would be helpful if it were postmarked by Dec. 26 so our financial folks have time to do what they need to do. All gifts are truly appreciated and treated with the respect with which they are given. Thank you.



Poinsettia Order Form

_____ @ \$13.50 / 6" plant = _____

In loving memory of _____



Or

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Please return to the Church Office by **Monday, December 15th**. Thank you for your gift..

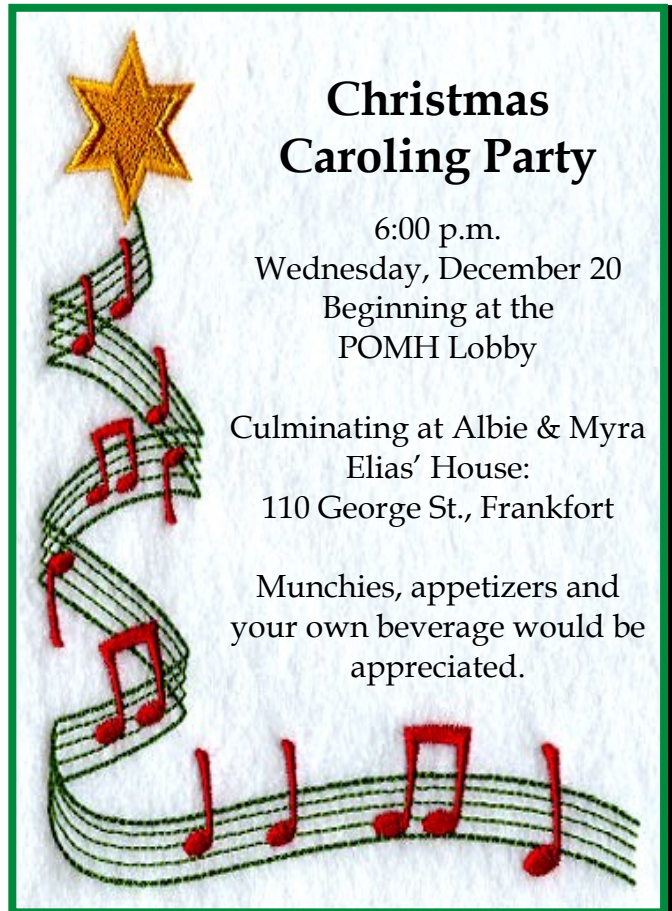


**Holiday
Christmas
Bags for
Homebound
Seniors**

Benzie Senior Resources has asked area churches to help with Christmas gifts for homebound seniors. They have asked if our church can focus on

- lip balm/chap stick,**
- large print crossword puzzles**
- and large print word search books.**

These gifts will be picked up on Monday, December 11th so we will gather them in the church dining room. As always, thank you for your donations to help those in need.



Christmas Caroling Party

6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 20
Beginning at the
POMH Lobby

Culminating at Albie & Myra
Elias' House:
110 George St., Frankfort

Munchies, appetizers and
your own beverage would be
appreciated.

Council Notes

There were 9 Council Members at the November 8, 2017 Council Members.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Mollema
Offerings for October: \$11,043.87
Expenses for October: \$11,503.48
Total deficit, YTD: - \$9,532.58

Committee Reports

Memorials:

The balance in this account is \$5,419.43.

Finance: Another meeting to prepare the proposed budget for 2018 is scheduled for December 5 at 1 pm.

Investment: The Baird Fund is doing well.

Missions:

The balance in this account is \$1,473.21.

Outreach: 1) The Community Thanksgiving Service will be Sunday, November 19, 3:00 p.m., Benzonia Congregational Church; 2) FCCF is sponsoring a movie, "Cars 3", Saturday, November 25, at the Garden Theater; 3) The Historical Plaque/Marker is on its way and should arrive in the next day or two; volunteers will be called upon to help unload and store in the Parsonage garage until installation; and 4) The Caroling Party is scheduled for December 20 at the Parsonage.

Property: A meeting is scheduled for November 14.

Religious Education: 1) A thank you to Pastor Dinah for the excellent Music and Worship presentations during October; and 2) Mary Reed volunteered to make weekly reminder calls to our Sunday School teachers.

Pastor's Report: 1) The Silver Tea will be held on December 2 with the Cookie Decorating on November 29; 2) A reminder

that there will be a regular morning Worship on December 24 as well as the Christmas Eve Service in the evening.

No Reports: By-Laws, Nominating, Personnel, Women's Fellowship, Worship

Unfinished Business: "Congregation Care", which Kelly Ottinger presented at October's Council meeting, will proceed. Kelly will draw up a projected list of ways in which the Congregation can help with those members/ attendees who cannot always be with us for various reasons with the hope that it be implemented soon.

New Business: None

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Osborn, Church Clerk

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRANKFORT
PRESENTS

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017
10:30 A.M.

(THE REHEARSAL WILL BE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 10:00 A.M.)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US IN THIS TIMELESS TRADITION.



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<h1>Kindness Advent Calendar 2017</h1>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Give new socks to the homeless on 'National Sock Day'	Start a conversation with someone new	Practice compassion when in a slow-moving queue	Give someone a hug for a little bit longer and a little bit tighter	Take yummy treats into work or to your local emergency services on 'National Brownie Day'	Make up a food donation box and deliver it to those in need	Create a happy playlist full of songs that make you smile
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Tell others what a great job they're doing	Say YES to EVERYTHING!! (within reason, of course 😊)	Be loud, be proud, it's wear your 'Christmas Jumper Day'	Tell someone all the reasons why you love them	Let someone go ahead of you in traffic	Put your loose change into a charity donation box	Do something that makes you belly laugh
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Forgive someone who's hurt you in the past	Give out genuine compliments	Take 10 minutes just for yourself	Radiate positivity, it's 'Look on the Bright-side Day'	Pay for a stranger's coffee, lunch or shopping	Spend time with someone who may be lonely over the festive season	Go for a soothing soul stroll in nature
25	<p>Thank you for your kindness ☆☆☆</p> <p>"Every ripple of kindness we release into the world has the potential to touch a life in a profound and lasting way." - author unknown</p> <p>#KindnessCalendar Download your free Kindness Calendar at maketodayhappy.co.uk ♥ Share your kindness experiences on facebook.com/spreadingalittlekindness ♥</p>					



The 1887 FCCF Sunday School Quilt

Few, if any of us living today would remember a quilt created in 1887, but one day last month, it walked into the Pastor's Office. Actually, it came into verbal being through the owner, Ruth Sasaki. Ruth and her husband, Dennis, were on a cross-country trip back to their home in California and wanted to stop in Frankfort, the home of a great-grandmother. Seeing our church, they stopped in to tell some of their story, including that of the quilt.

Ruth sent the quilt to the Benzie Museum, where they can better care for it, after she took some photos and deciphered the names as best as she could. It's very fragile, with some damage from mice around the edges, but it's amazing that it's lasted 130 years; the last several years in a plastic bag in a shed.

Ruth so very graciously sent the 70 pages of notes to FCCF when she shipped the quilt to Benzonia. To give everyone the best shot at viewing the quilt, the information and pictures have been posted on our website, www.fccfrankfort.org. Click on the far right tab, Our History and Other Things and scroll down to Historic This and That, and you will find the story and names.

But to get you started, Ruth Merchant Sasaki is the great-granddaughter of Aggie (Agnes) Shine and J.H. (John Henry) Durkee. They had two daughters, Leola and Irma. Aggie and her sister, Maggie (Margaret) taught Sunday School here at the church.

The quilt then traveled with the family from Frankfort to Kalkaska to Tacoma, WA, Kellogg, MN, Pleasant Hill, CA before it was sent to Benzonia.

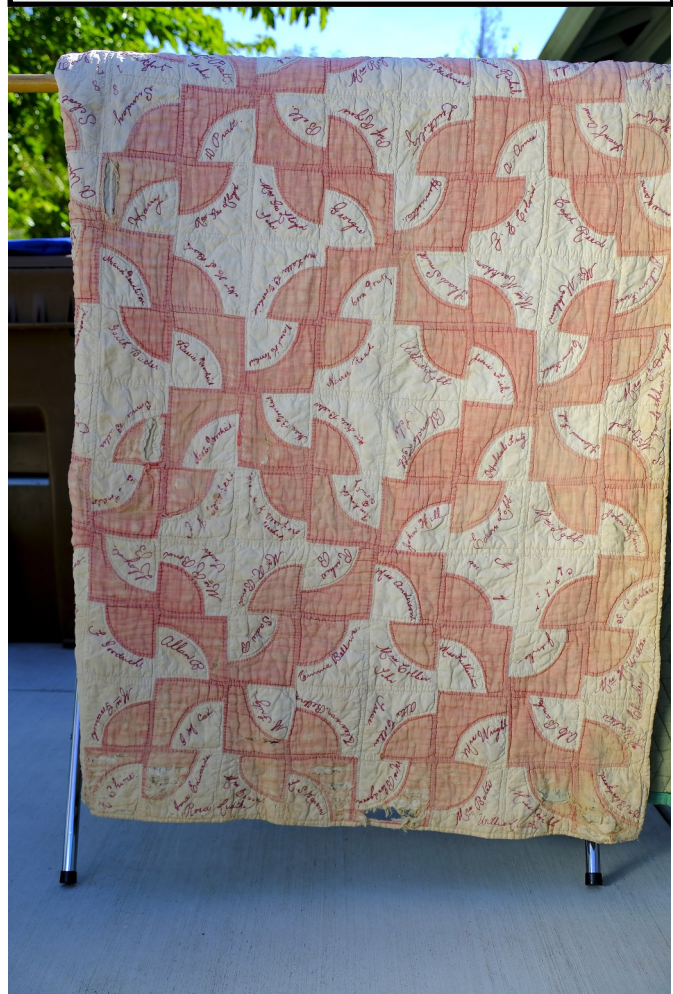
Both of Ruth's great-grandparents were born in Ontario, Canada. J.H. was a baker and was thought to have a confectionary in Frankfort.

Through the generosity of a lady I never knew existed, some of our forefathers and mothers have come to life in a way that may have been lost along the way. But just as God allowed this quilt to be a glimpse into our history, so may we continue to endeavor to stitch ourselves into the square of this

church's part in the greater quilt of life.



Pastor Dinah





- Thank you All those who helped with the Halloween Open House. We had 1,377 folks visit us, and it couldn't have happened without all the helpers!
- Jimmy, Freddie and Robbie Kolehmainen for donating their pumpkins for the Open House. It was very kind of you to share with so many other people!
- Randy Johnson for staining some closet hardware for our developing banner rack. They look great!
- Dawn Schulz, Ann Osborn and Marti Mollema for redecorating for fall around here. It looks lovely.
- Rob Burch, Luann Elwell and Cooper Rath for ringing the bell for All Saints Sunday. It's a lot harder than regular Sundays, and you all made it a special day for so many folks.
- Rob Burch and Chuck Henry for relocating an old refrigerator for recycling. And thank you to Keith Harness for arranging for the dolly that helped with that project.
- Marti Mollema for the lovely fall altar arrangements.
- Pat Kinske for helping with some choir folders. Even counting music can be of great assistance around here!

Congratulations

- Jason Johnson, son of Randy & Katherine Johnson, who placed an amazing 4th place in his age group (approx. 5,000 entrants) in the 2017 Iceman Cometh Challenge – a 30 mile point-to-point mountain bike race from Kalkaska to Traverse City.
- Addison Chownyk on being a Role Model in her class! Way to go, Addie!
- Maile Church on receiving the Volleyball All-conference First Team award. Great job!
- Jake Reed on being selected as a Northern Michigan Football League all-league player Honorable Mention. That's cool.



**December is First
Congregational
Church's Choir
Appreciation
Month**

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

The Benzie County
Community Chorus
Presents Our
Christmas Concerts

Friday, December 8
7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd., Beulah

Saturday, December 9
3:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's
Presbyterian Church
8190 Lincoln Rd., Beulah

Sunday, December 10
7:30 p.m.
Frankfort United
Methodist Church
537 Crystal Avenue

A freewill offering
will be taken to assist
with Chorus expenses.



Grief Happens

Merry Christmas?? Happy New Year?? For people struggling with "loss" issues, the holiday season can trigger many difficult emotions. Please join us in the church library at Trinity Lutheran Church, 955 James ST, Frankfort, on Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 PM. We can talk about "Dealing With the Holiday Blues". 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 us at 399-0141. Please join us for coffee, cookies, comfort and conversation about the holiday season. It just might help. Carol and Doug Luther, Group Leaders

Box Tops for Education

Has proven to be a big fundraiser for the Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools to raise money for various school programs. A box top collection can is on the counter near the kitchen and a posting of acceptable box tops is located on the pegboard.



Please Remember in Prayer

Liz Acklin
Roy Acklin
Ed Baldwin
Sallie Berlin
Tina Bonderenko
Portia Young Butler
Ed Carter
Catherine Cline
Rachel Colby
William Colby
Carol Crock
Karen Grant
Karen Hagan
Pat Hessler
Cindy Holmstead
Ralph Jackson
Sue King
Daniel Kinney
David Kinney
Jeannette Kinney
Julie & Peter McKnight
Joseph Mendoza
Bob Newberry
Gary Noffsinger
Julie Ottinger
Jason Schulz
Josh Schulz
Phil Shepherd
John Seymour
Lily VanEvery

The Families of:

Bob Bigelow
Larry Clark
Bill Milliron
Sally Miner

Military:

Matthew Conrad
Cheyenne Dubois
Mike Kinney
Mike Porter
Clark Robinson
Ryan Ruddy

Senior Living:

POLAR

John Abbett
Brenda Case
Charlie Holtrey

The Maples

Jan Condon
Bea Gray
June Roen

Orchard House

Gordon Banks
Pat Hessler
Susie Vigland

The Homesteader

Moore Peregrine



Dine Out For Benzie Area Christian Neighbors

At Dinghy's Restaurant & Bar,
Frankfort and Platte River Inn in
Honor on Tuesday,
December 5th and 10% of
your dinner bill will be
donated to BACN.



First Congregational Church of Frankfort

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:30 a.m. M.O.B.B.I. Class John McElduff	2  Silver Tea 1:00-3:00 p.m.
3 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School Jim Buzzell Kathy Crosby	4 9:30 a.m. Yoga Class	5 4:00 p.m. Finance Mtg. Denis Crosby <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> Dine Out for BACN: Dinghy's & Platte River Inn </div>	6 10:00 a.m. M.O.B.B.I Class 4:00 p.m. Worship Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	7 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group 4:00 p.m. Outreach Mtg	8 9:30 a.m. M.O.B.B.I. Class 11:30 a.m. Periwinkle Garden Club	9 Becky Hubbard
10 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School Peggy Jackson Marv Prepejchal	11 9:30 am. Yoga Class Dan & Sandy Gill	12 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg.	13 10:00 a.m. M.O.B.B.I Class 11:30 a.m. Ministerial Assoc. Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	14 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> 4:00 p.m. Council Mtg. </div>	15 9:30 a.m. M.O.B.B.I. Class	16 Missi & Randy Gilbert
17 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School 2:00 & 2:45 p.m. Nursing Care Worship Services	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> A Christmas Pageant 10:30 am </div> David & Melissa Koenig Clark & Sara Robinson	19 Joanne Brown Liv Buzzell Judson Rath Carol & Doug Ehle	20 10:00 a.m. M.O.B.B.I Class <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> 5:30 p.m. Caroling Party </div> Rosemary Abbett Evie Pomerleau	21 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group	22 9:30 a.m. M.O.B.B.I. Class	23  Joel Buzzell
24 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service </div>	25 Church Offices Closed Joe Hubbard	26 Barb Ikens	27 10:00 a.m. M.O.B.B.I Class 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	28 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group	29 9:30 a.m. M.O.B.B.I. Class	30 Nathan MacKenzie
9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px;"> Billee & Ron Beyette </div>		9			

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 431 Forest Avenue
 Frankfort, MI 49635



<i>Table of Contents</i>		Date	Sunday School Teachers	Greeters/Ushers <i>Head Usher:</i> <i>Mary Reed</i>	
Anniversaries	1, 7				Greeters and Ushers: Please arrive at church by <u>10 a.m.</u> to greet and welcome all who come to worship. Thank you for your extra efforts in greeting our folks and guests.
Announcements	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9	3	Will Church	Lori Dougherty, Ann Osborn Mary Ann Harness, Myra Elias	
Birthdays	1, 7				
Calendar	9	10	Jim MacKenzie	Denis Crosby, Andrea Frost Larry Neuhardt, Mary Reed	
Greeters	10				
Prayer List	6	17	Robin MacKenzie	Betty & Fred Milliron Cooper Rath & Serenity Schulz	
Congrats & Thank You's	7				
Ushers	10	24	Linda Schweyer	Jill Smeltzer, Bill Hirschfeld Jim & Robin MacKenzie	
		31	Rob Burch	Cheryl Acklin, Luann Elwell, Molly & Scott Harrison	