

Steepleviews

First Congregational Church of Frankfort
431 Forest Ave
Frankfort MI 49635

Website: www.fccfrankfort.org
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December **2020**
Birthdays &
Anniversaries



Coming Events

- 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
Peyton Schindler
- 15 Stuart Scripps
- 16 Missi & Randy Gilbert
- 18 David & Melissa Koenig
- 19 Joanne Brown
Max Buzzell
Judson Rath
- 20 Rosemary Abbett
Genevieve Pomerleau
- 23 Joel Buzzell
- 25 Joe Hubbard
Branden Valentine
- 29 Ryan Ruddy
John Walthorn
- 30 Chris Anthony
Nathan MacKenzie
- 31 Gretchen Classens
Michael Webb
Billee Beyette & Ron Wardwell

- Dec 5 Cookie Order Deadline
- Dec 9 Poinsettia Orders Due
- Dec 12 Bringing the Silver Tea to You
- Dec 24 Virtual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

It sounds like we're doing virtual service for awhile.
Stay tuned!

[Facebook Live](#) or fccfrankfort.org.



The First Congregational Church of Frankfort
has an answer to the 2020 Covid!

We can't give you the ambiance!
We can't give you the fellowship!
BUT We can Bring the



ANNUAL SILVER TEA To YOU!



Order your Silver Tea Cookies and enjoy the
ambiance of your own home & enjoy the fellowship of family and friends!

A variety of 2 dozen homemade cookies for a
freewill donation, ready to be gifted or enjoyed!

Dec. 5: order deadline Call 231-352-7909

Pick Up Date: Dec. 12, 11:00-1:00 orders

1st Congregational Church at 431 Forest Ave Frankfort



Pastor's Page

By a simple roll of the dice, or a draw of name, ol' Zechariah was high priest of the day, and all the other priests were outside of the temple, praying. He was doing his thing, making offerings to God, burning incense, praying, and all the other stuff that high priests do when it's "their day."

And then, out of the blue, an angel shows up, "appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard." (Lk 1:11-13a)

I can't think that anyone isn't "all over" with the virus stuff. We've all probably had all the time we've needed to reflect, renew, review, and return to the simple life. Yet the calendar keeps flipping, the moon keeps waxing and waning and most all the leaves are off the trees in readiness for winter. Even so, here we are in Advent, a new (church) year, with Christmas just weeks away. Despite all the previous "opportunities," we have more coming our way, to be present, to become a gift to others, to observe and wait for the miracle that comes to God's people each year around this time.

So don't give up, people. Keep your nose from dragging in the dirt. Lift up your head and be aware that angels are apt to appear when we least expect it, encouraging us to "not be afraid," because our prayers have been heard.

Emmanuel—God with us—right here, right now, and in each moment after the next. Do not be afraid. Your prayers have been heard. Maybe not the way you envisioned. Mary probably didn't envision being the mother of THE Christ when she heard she was pregnant. But she probably wouldn't have changed a thing in the end.

God with us—a baby—long, long ago—coming to us—in a few short weeks. Keep on hoping, people. Christmas is coming.

Pastor Dinah

If You Are In Need...(or know someone)

Michigan Stay Well Counseling via the COVID-19 Hotline Call 1-888-535-6136. Press 8 to talk to a Michigan Stay Well Counselor. Counselors available 24/7. Confidential and free.

If you are living with serious mental illness or substance use challenges and feel it will help lower your stress if you talk with someone who understands these issues, get help from **Michigan PEER Warmline at 1-888-PEER-753 (888-733-7753)** available every day from 10 a.m.2:00 a.m.

If you are experiencing emotional stress and anxiety but are more comfortable texting than talking, get help from **Michigan Crisis Text Line**—text the keyword RESTORE to 741741. Open 24/7.

If you are thinking of taking your life, get help from **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**. Call 1-800-273-8255. Available 24/7 or visit suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

National Suicide Prevention Deaf and Hard of Hearing Hotline. Access 24/7 video relay service. Call 1-800-273-8255 (TTY 1-800-799-4889) or visit suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help-yourself/for-deaf-hard-of-hearing

National Disaster Distress Helpline. Call 1-800-985-5950 or text the keyword TALKWITHUS to 66746. Available 24/7

If you would like to manage feelings of COVID-19 stress and anxiety through meditation, sleep, and movement exercises, get help from **Headspace Web Service**—free to all Michiganders (normally a paid service) and visit headspace.com/mi.



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 and what color you would like and return order form to the Church Office by Monday, December 7, 2020. Thank you.

A Michigan Christmas
 A Partridge in a White Pine Tree
 Two Bowls of Kellogg's
 Three Feet of Snow
 Four Great Lakes
 Five Gold Motown Records
 Six Cars a-Building
 Seven Vernor's Ginger Ales a-Fizzing
 Eight Yoopers Dancing
 Ten Cold Days in Hell
 Eleven Spartans and Wolverines Blocking
 Twelve Hockey Sticks a-Slapping

Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Will Be a Little Different
 We will have our service on
 December 24th
 At 7:00 p.m.
 And will be available on Facebook Live.
 We'll let you know if anything changes.



FCCF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair, Myra Elias, at 4:02 pm, followed by the Opening Prayer.

The Minutes from the October 14 meeting were reviewed. With no corrections noted, the Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Rob Burch

Offerings for October:	\$6,277.00
Budgeted expenses October:	\$9,930.13
YTD Carryover:	\$ -10,754.57

Rob reported that our 2020 Budget is in good shape and he will be working with Chris Anthony, our bookkeeper, to make sure the Pohlman Funds are shown in the Profit and Loss Statement. In addition, Rob asked the Council if he could contact Accountant Amy Plumstead to ensure that the Pohlman Funds are in compliance with the General Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP). A motion was unanimously approved.

There will be discussions for the 2021 Budget, with many unknowns to be considered because of the pandemic. Following questions and explanations, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Memorials: Judy Welch – No report.

Finance: Judy Welch – See Treasurer's Report.

Investment: Ann Osborn – A of November 11, Stocks: \$420,497.63; Bonds: \$273,850.70; Pohlman Fund: \$127,100.11; the total in the Baird Investment Fund: \$821,448.43.

Constitution & By-Laws: Jim MacKenzie – The Committee has settled on the adjustments to be made and will bring them to the Council at December's meeting.

Missions: Paul Osborn – account remains fully funded.

Nominating: Myra Elias – The Committee is in the process of nominating people to fill positions for next year's Council.

Outreach: Kelly Ottinger – 1) The Halloween candy dispensing went well, and the kids seemed to have fun. Leftover candy will go to BACN. 2) Advent devotionals will be sent out this year. 3) Discussion continues on an alternative to the annual Silver Tea. 4) Benzie Senior Resources donations are still being taken until December 7th. 5) The Outreach Committee is changing their meeting dates to the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

Personnel: Myra Elias – No report.

Property: Myra Elias - 1) Waiting on progress from Mihm Enterprises on the sanctuary storm windows. 2) There is a leak in the Parsonage chimney and repair is pending. 3) Receiving bids for snow removal. 4) A portable basketball hoop has been ordered to be installed on the side of the Parsonage driveway.

Religious Education: Bill Hirschfeld – No report.

Women's Fellowship: Mary Reed – No report.

Worship: Ann Osborn – 1) The Ministerial Association is holding a virtual Community Thanksgiving Service at 3:00 p.m. on November 22nd, which will be available on YouTube and/or the Church's website. 2) There was discussion and planning for decorating the Sanctuary on November 24th. 3) There will be a Hanging of the Greens Service on the first Sunday in Advent. 4) The next Communion Sunday is December 6th. 5) There will be two Christmas Eve Services on December 24th at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. 6) Poinsettia orders will be taken the same as in past years.

Pastor's Report: Dinah Haag – Report submitted.

Unfinished Business: 1) The Pohlman Bequest Ad Hoc Committee will soon be winding up its mission. 2) The Reopening Ad Hoc Committee continues to meet.

New Business: Working on one more person for the Investment Committee.

Myra Elias, Council Chair, called for the meeting's adjournment at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Osborn, Council Clerk



Congratulations!

- Linda Schweyer, Pleasanton Township’s newly elected Trustee! They are blessed to have such a great person helping to lead them!
- Congratulations to Rick Schmitt and his crew on winning a second medal at the Great American Beer Festival. The previous medal was a bronze and the new one is a silver.
- A Tip'o the Hat to Bob and Sue King and helpers for fundraising with flower sales. With the proceeds, a fund has been established for Kelli Stapleton in anticipation of her release from prison in the future. This summer was a great success and they are looking forward to restart the fundraising next spring.
- It was nice to see a picture of Ward Van Houten in the Record Patriot for planting a tree in memory of his wife, Pauline. Memorial trees are available through City Hall.
- Lauren Church was designated as a recipient of the John Harvard Scholarship for a 4.0 GPA her junior year at Harvard. What a great achievement! Go Lauren!!
- Owen Chownyk for making the 5th Grade Honor Roll! You go, guy!
- Catherine St. Onge becoming a great-aunt to Marcus Van Gheluwe. He was a fair bit early, but he seems to be doing well and his family is over the moon at his entrance into this world.
- Cool note: Fifth and sixth graders made cards for Ward VanHouten, a Navy veteran who lives across the street from the elementary school. The students also made yard signs to show their appreciation for his service.



Please Remember in Prayer

Prayer Concerns

- Norma Bruinsma
- Portia Butler
- Joel Buzzell
- John Colby
- Jimmy Davis
- Mrs. Gaylord
- Melissa Gilbert
- Sharon Griner
- Michelle Healy
- Pat Hessler
- Gabe Kindl
- Jillian Kindl
- Karen Nash
- Mr. Nerlich
- Larry Neuhardt
- Nicole Nostrandt
- Ron Phillips
- Pete & Vivian Reed
- Cheryl Reichel
- Julie & Paul Robinson
- Signe Ruddy
- Dawn Schulz
- Bob Smale
- Mark Stoltz
- Scott Tuller
- Marcus Van Gheluwe
- Scott Welling
- John Young

The Families of:

- Brethren student
- Marilyn Freebold
- Bobby Freebold
- Jerry Hamblin
- Colton Jewell
- Jay Lamerson
- Malachi Maloney
- Lee Shelton III

The Military

- Mike Kinney
- Tyler Kinney
- Clark Robinson
- Ryan Ruddy

Senior Living The Homesteader

- Bea Stone
- The Maples
- Karen Collins
- Jan Condon
- Gladys Wilson
- Orchard House
- Pat Hessler
- Shirley Kerr
- Susie Vigland



Benzie Senior Resources pick up of cheese cracker snacks, sugar-free cough drops and sanitizing supplies will take place on Monday, December 7 in the morning. Just so you know....



- Rosemary Abbett, Marti Mollema, Ann Osborn, Mary Osborn and Judy Welch for decorating the church sanctuary back in November. It's beginning to look a lot like....
- Marti Mollema for the wonderful altar arrangement for the fall season. It certainly helped our hearts and minds to come into worship with gratitude.
- Rosemary Abbett for all her special music this year. It's been extra special, like a special sundae, topped with special sauce, topped with whipped special and a special cherry.
- Jim MacKenzie for doing a deep dig into our church By-Laws and giving us an updated version that will be voted on in January. It's not the most glamorous job, but a needful one and well appreciated.
- Bill Frostic for arranging for plexiglass window covers for the sanctuary. They will keep greens on the ledge and Pastor Dinah won't worry as much about coats or purses or whatever brushing a lamp or candle off the window sills—regardless of what year they make their entrance into the décor.
- Jim Buzzell and Myra Elias for buttoning up the windows in the church and checking on the shovel/snow melt situations. Bring on the weather!
- Katherine Johnson for two years of tallying Family Fare receipts. Everyone who has faithfully contributed to the pile helped us to earn \$1,000! Katherine is going to determine how the funds will be distributed in a mission-like fashion, close to home.

Printables 4 Less Printables 4 Less Printables 4 Less

Christmas Word Search



S	E	V	L	E	D	N	A	L	R	A	G	A	E	E	O	S	Z
E	A	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R	K	I	J	N	J	T	L	Y
C	O	Z	E	X	A	F	F	P	Y	P	F	O	A	O	W	L	L
Y	B	T	G	P	C	Y	E	K	R	U	T	J	C	L	E	E	L
E	U	L	E	Q	A	K	C	D	T	Z	G	K	Y	L	L	B	O
E	G	L	E	L	D	P	I	S	W	N	I	C	D	Y	G	E	H
R	S	C	E	S	T	Q	G	U	L	N	V	T	N	M	U	L	A
T	E	Q	Y	T	N	S	N	N	G	J	I	D	A	L	I	G	I
S	K	M	G	C	I	I	I	S	I	B	N	C	C	I	H	N	T
A	A	D	O	W	M	D	T	M	D	P	G	E	L	A	S	I	T
M	L	D	N	R	L	U	E	R	H	Y	P	W	T	S	R	J	E
T	F	Z	G	H	F	R	S	L	B	M	B	A	V	S	E	F	S
S	W	N	G	F	P	E	G	O	O	R	C	S	R	A	L	I	N
I	O	B	E	H	L	H	A	S	H	T	A	E	R	W	O	U	I
R	N	R	V	E	K	M	X	O	W	Y	W	N	S	B	R	A	O
H	S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S	R	J	K	T	A	Y	P
C	D	V	F	S	T	B	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D

candy cane	holly	snowflakes
carolers	jingle bells	stocking stuffers
christmas tree	jolly	tinsel
decorations	mistletoe	turkey
eggnog	poinsettia	wassail
elves	reindeer	wrapping paper
garland	santa claus	wreath
gift giving	scrooge	yuletide

Printables 4 Less Printables 4 Less Printables 4 Less

Don't Forget!

Just because we are being encouraged to be distanced from one another doesn't mean we need to be distanced from church. The building is nearly empty most days, so if you'd like **to stop in and just sit in the sanctuary**, please feel free to do so. If someone would already be there, well, you can come back. Or you can sit on opposite sides of the sanctuary in friendly silence. But do know that your church home is still here for you—just really scaled down.



hello DECEMBER

First Congregational Church of Frankfort 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 4:00 p.m. Outreach Meeting World Aids Awareness Day	2 4:00 p.m. Worship Meeting Tom Hafer Kendra Lewis	3 4:00 p.m. Property Meeting Jim Buzzell Kathy Crosby Daniel Jewell	4	5 International Volunteer Day Denis Crosby
6 10:30 a.m. Virtual Worship Communion Sunday 	7 Pearl Harbor Day 	8	9 4:00 p.m. Council Meeting Maddie Charbonneau Becky Hubbard	10 <i>Homemade Cookies to Church</i> Peggy Jackson Marv Prepejchal	11 <i>Cookie Box Assembly</i>	12 11:00–1:00 p.m. Bringing the Silver Tea to You Cookie Orders Pick Up
13 10:30 a.m. In-Person? Worship Grace Henry Peyton Schindler	14 3:30 p.m. MOBBI	15 11:00 a.m. MOBBI International Tea Day  Stuart Scripps	16 10:00 a.m. MOBBI Missi & Randy Gilbert	17 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group	18 David & Melissa Koenig	19 Joanne Brown Max Buzzell Judson Rath
20 10:30 a.m. In-Person? Worship Rosemary Abbett Genevieve Pomerleau	21 3:30 p.m. MOBBI Winter Solstice 	22 11:00 a.m. MOBBI	23 10:00 a.m. MOBBI Joel Buzzell	24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship	Christmas Day Joe Hubbard Branden Valentine	
27 10:30 a.m. In-Person? Worship	28 3:30 p.m. MOBBI	29 Ryan Ruddy John Walthorn	30 10:00 a.m. MOBBI Chris Anthony Nathan MacKenzie	31 9:30 a.m. Yoga Group Gretchen Classens Michael Webb Billee Beyette & Ron Wardwell		

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 Frankfort, MI 49635



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