

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

January 2014 Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 01 Jessie Grant
Pat Hessler
Amy & Mark Steigerwald
- 02 Dick & Joanne Brown
- 09 Murphy Yang
- 10 Naomi Kolehmainen
Kayla Nye
- 11 Dan & Sandy Gill
- 14 Jared Cummings
Melissa Koenig
- 15 Carsen Nostrandt
- 16 Amy Steigerwald
- 18 Brian Nostrandt
- 19 Chris Porter
- 21 Levi Hubbard
John King
- 22 Bill Bruinsma
Jan Condon
Betty Milliron
- 24 Ron Phillips
Suzanne Reising
Kay VanOrder
- 25 Kimberly Gilbert
- 26 Andrea Frost
Pat Katz
Julie Robinson
Our Church Family
- 28 Hugh Hessler
- 31 Cory & Jessica Baklarz

Catch These Coming Events!

- Jan. 01 Happy New Year!
- Jan. 15 Spicy Farkel Night!
- Jan. 17 Ladies' Lunch
- Jan. 23 Dinner & Al's Academy
- Jan. 26 Annual Meeting & Potluck

Feb 3 – March 3

Pastor Dinah on Sabbatical



Our Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch will be held on Sunday, January 26



following the Worship Service. Copies of the Annual Report will be available January 19 at the sanctuary doors, and proxy ballots are available at the end of the Report.

Pastor's Page

I openly admit I stole the following from Anne Lamott's Facebook page. (She's a writer from San Francisco.) But when you find something so good, you've got share it!

"This Sunday I was such a mess that I felt I couldn't even go to church. What a buzz kill I would be. Physically and emotionally, after 14 days on the road, and a wrenching disagreement with a friend, I was crying a little, self-righteous, victimized, and isolated. You know the drill.

I thought I should get it together. I'm an elder, and teacher. But with what? My screwy mind and duct tape?

Then, in my car, I remembered something that my pastor Veronica said, that you think you need to get it together before you come to God and community, but actually, you may not be ABLE to get it together until you come to God and community.

So I showed up. Like Woody Allen said before I turned on him, 80% of life is just showing up. I was enveloped by the love energy of the 30 or so people who are at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. I sang, danced, listened, and could breathe again. I got my sense of humor back. I got my 'joice back, as Veronica put it once. I rejoiced.

The sermon was about how some denominations are waiting for the Apocalypse, while plenty of people in our church, our families and our lives are experiencing one, financially, or medically, in their kids' lives, and their

friends. She turned the great Leonard Cohen words--that cracks are how the light gets in--upside down, and said that cracks are how the light that's inside us gets out, so people who are suffering can see it, and know that the light is real."

A lot of times it is easy to talk ourselves out of the very thing we need. May your New Year be full of 'joicing! Pastor Dinah

Our Deepest Sympathies

go out to the family of
Jim Marshall,
son of Nancy and Tom Marshall,
who died unexpectedly October 19

And to

the family of Raye Rosen, who
passed on to eternal life Dec. 31.

A memorial service has already
been held for Jim, and a service for
Raye will be held in late summer or
early fall.

Bringing back the Ladies' Lunch!!

On January 17, at noon, let us meet up
at the Mayfair in Elberta for a Ladies'
Lunch.



Dutch-treat, and
bring someone
to share with us!!

Sign up sheet
will be in the
dining room.

Congratulations!

- Welcome Owen Scott Kneisel born to Scott and Sara Kneisel. Scott is the son of Laura & Tom, and Tom is the son of Lee and Marvelee. This is great-grandchild number thirteen!
- 661 shoeboxes from those in Benzie County dropped off at FCCF joined the 10,362 collected in Northwest Michigan. Those boxes joined the expected 9.8 million boxes that will go to children all over the world.
- Congratulations to the Benzie Central 8th grade girls volleyball team, Northwest Michigan Conference champs. One of the star players is Maile Church!
- to Kris Dykstra, The Maples Employee of the Year for 2013! Way to go lady!



Game Night Returns

Ya'll are invited on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:00 p.m. for Appetizers and Spicy Farkel in the Church Dining Room.



It's a dice game for the whole family, and if Pastor Dinah can play it, so can you! Bring a little something to share, your own beverage, and get ready for some red hot fun!

Al's Academy: Take 2



Our own Al Bryant will present a series of programs again this winter, beginning Thursday, January 23. All are welcome to join us at 5:30 for some dinner and then Al will enlighten us with his program of "The Symbolism of Tombstones," all free of charge. "taphophile" (cemetery fanatic), will explain some of the "hidden language" found on 19th century markers, and talk about how they have changed over the years. He will share his 20 years of taphophiliac research and experiences.

Council Notes

There were 11 Council members at the December 11, 2013 Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Income for November: **\$9,756.25**
Expenses for November: **\$7,189.57**

YTD Expenses: \$87,678.56
YTD Income: \$81,180.44
YTD Budget: \$80,150.00

Memorials:

Judy Welch – During the month of December there were no donations to Memorials or CIF account.

Missions:

Income was \$309.00 from the congregational offerings and \$400.00 from the Investment Fund. Checks were written to all our designated mission supports and to NACCC. In addition, \$100.00 disbursements were made to Benzie Home Health Care, Community Spirit Meals and the Pastors Discretionary Fund. The Missions account retained \$100.00 from the \$400.00 investment monies to cover any current or future shortfalls. Please note a total of \$1586.00 has been received as of November 30 for Operation Christmas Child.

By-Laws, Finance & Stewardship, Historian, Investments, Outreach and Religious Education: no reports

Personnel:

Jim Buzzell - Still working on Pastor Dinah's job description; and discussion on Christmas bonuses/ gifts for our employees.

Property:

Mary Reed – 1)The secretary's shelves will be started in January by Bill Frostic and Ron Phillips; 2) the committee will start pricing new snow blowers for Pastor Dinah soon; 3) the sound system needs updating; and 4) Andrea Frost has a bid for siding repair on the

east entrance as well as the west and north sides of the church with decisions coming after the first of the year.

Nominating:

Myra Elias – vacant slots will be filled for the 2014 Council by Mary Ann Harness and Larry Neuhardt. Judy Welch will be Financial Secretary and John McElduff will be Assistant Treasurer.

Women's Fellowship:

Mary Reed – 1) \$50.00 was sent to three of our college students as a Christmas gift; 2)The Silver Tea was a huge success and thanks and appreciation go to all who made this happen. The proceeds from this event totaled **\$1,199.55**.

Worship:

Ann Osborn – 1) The children from our church will be lighting candles for the four Sunday worship services during Advent; 2) on December 22, the worship service will be a special one with volunteers from the Benzie Chorus joining our church choir and the sermon taking on a different format; 3) still in need of more ushers for the Christmas Eve service; 4) we have decided not to do a New Years' Eve service but will consider it for the future; and 5) de-decorating the Sanctuary and short meeting will be held on January 7 at 11 a.m.

Pastor's Report:

Report was submitted to those present.

Unfinished Business:

Motion from the Worship Committee to change time of service to 10:30 is still ongoing and will be pursued during the month of January.

New Business: none

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Osborn, Church Council Clerk



We Got Mail!

Dear Friends,
I am Pastor Philip Kimani, on behalf of the little children of our church and the little orphans from joy home, we appreciate the Christmas gifts that you sent us. Thank you. We love you and May God bless you all –
Pastor Philip, Kenya



Over (+)/Under (-) Budget: The Bottom Line

	Received	Over/Under
January	\$4,771.00	- \$3,913.49
February	\$10,757.25	+ \$1,793.77
March	\$9,768.67	+ \$1,251.54
April	\$5,557.75	- \$2,376.15
May	\$5,318.50	- \$2,873.23
June	\$7,955.25	+ \$788.87
July	\$6,601.61	- \$646.10
August	\$6,614.50	- \$1,592.92
September	\$8,384.01	+ \$1,101.34
October	\$5,695.65	- \$2,598.26
November	\$5,695.65	- \$2,598.26
December	\$9,756.25	+ \$2566.68

Please Remember in Prayer

Maureen Belden
Don Bonderenko
Nena Bonderendo
Shane Bonderenko
Linda Cox
Marjorie Crandall
Suzanne Gilbert
Bonnie Kincher
Gavin MacKenzie
Khoua & Yia Lor
Jim Mollema
Sally Nelson
Moore Peregrine
Bev Schmitt
Dori Turner
Suzie Vigland

Paul Oliver Long
Term Care
Suzanne Gum

Our Prayers are extended to the families of:

Art Aartila
Renee Rodziwon
Chapman
Jeannette Curtis
Jacob Allen Garber
McGee Grant
Nelson Mandela
Jim Marshall
Raye Rosen
Jerry Rice

Those serving in the Military:

Cory Barklarz
Cody Bates
Matt Conrad
Devin Gokey
Steve Jackson
Mike Porter
Clark Robinson
Sara Robinson
Ryan Ruddy
Tim Welch
Brittney Wood



Look what
showed up in
the church

nursery! It's awesome and a sure thing this beauty will get a lot of use. Thank you so much for this treasure
Jim & Robin MacKenzie!

A Multitude of Gratitude to

- Jim Buzzell and Andrea Frost for some greatly appreciated light bulb changes.
- To all the wonderful family members of our church who gave of their time and decorated for the Silver Tea and Christmas Season, thank you the Church looks so beautiful and cozy.
- Those who stay after to help clean up after Coffee Fellowship – even when you haven’t signed up for it. It really feels like a family when those kinds of things happen.
- Thank you Myra Elias for making soup for the Cookie Decorating evening.
- Thank you Mary Reed for baking all the wonderful cookies to be decorated and sold for the Silver Tea.
- To all who participated in turning out yet another successful and beautifully carried out Silver Tea Event. Congratulations, well done.
- Thank you to all who came out and help decorate cookies, what a fun night of fellowship!!
- Plow-guy, John McElduff and his side-kick, Doug Rath. Doug steps up when John can’t do the deeply appreciated job. Thanks, guys!
- Rob Burch, Bob Conrad, Candace Nostrandt and Nancy & Tom (Conrad) Swenson for doing some big time shoveling this year so far. And not a complainer in the pack!



This church family for your great generosity in all the Christmas and birthday cards and gifts. You all help add to the joy of being your pastor, in one way or a dozen.

Goodbye...

It is with great appreciation to

Ann Stubbs for the past years of devoted nursery care for our little ones. But the time has come for her to move on, and so we bid her a fond bon voyage to the exciting things that she will be doing. But just as God closes a door, so is a window opened. **Sarah Chownyk** is going to take up the nursery responsibilities. Sarah grew up in our church, and is our current “duster” person.

So welcome Sarah to your new position!

...Hello






January is our Financial Worker’s Appreciation Month.

From the Financial Secretaries to the Investment people, to the Treasurers, these are the people who work behind the scenes to keep our finances and accounts in order. Not everyone has the ability to serve us in such ways, so thank you – all of you – for your gift(s).

First Congregational Church of Frankfort

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 4:00 p.m. Worship Jessie Grant Pat Hessler Amy & Mark Steigerwald	2 9:00 a.m. Yoga 5:15 p.m. Outreach 7:30 p.m. Choir Dick & Joanne Brown	3	4
5 11:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School <i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	6	7 9:00 a.m. Foot Care Clinic 11:00 a.m. De-Decorate	8 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	9 9:00 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir Murphy Yang	10 Naomi Kolehmainen Kayla Nye	11 Dan & Sandy Gill
12 11:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School	13	14 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg. Jared Cummings Melissa Koenig	15 6:00 p.m. Appetizer and Game Night: Spicy Farkel Carsen Nostrandt	16 9:00 a.m. Yoga 11:30 a.m. Ministerial Assoc. 7:30 p.m. Choir Amy Steigerwald	17	18 Brian Nostrandt Christy Zylstra
19 11:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School Chris Porter	20	21 Levi Hubbard John King	22 Bill Bruinsma Jan Condon Betty Milliron	23 9:00 a.m. Yoga 5:30 p.m. Supper and Al's Academy 7:30 p.m. Choir Ron Phillips Suzanne Reising Kay VanOrder	24 Ron Phillips Suzanne Reising Kay VanOrder	25 Kimberly Gilbert
26 11:00 a.m. Worship Andrea Frost Pat Katz Julie Robinson Our Church Family	27 Annual Meeting & Potluck Following Worship Service	28 Hugh Hessler	29 7	30 9:00 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir	31 Cory & Jessica Barklarz	

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A Very Happy
& Joyous New Year!!



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Date	Greeters/Ushers <i>Head Usher: Chris Porter</i>	
5	Connie Bennehoff, Myra Elias, Judy Grant, Sue King	Greeter and Ushers: Please arrive at church by <u>10:30 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!)
12	Dick & Joanne Brown, Donna & Ron Phillips	
19	John & Leslie McElduff, Candace & Dan Nostrandt	
26	Fred & Betty Milliron, Michael & Sharon Grajcar	