

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

February 2013 Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 1 Oliver Simmons
- 3 David Koenig
- 4 Ryan Strom
- 6 Evin Elias
Peggy & Ralph Jackson
- 7 Norma Bruinsma
Marty Davis
- 8 Jack Frost
- 10 Lori Dougherty
Leslie McElduff
- 11 Steve Jackson
- 12 Owen Chownyk
- 13 Colton Prance-Jewell
Paul A. Robinson
Bob & Jan Condon
- 14 Molly Frostic
- 15 Amy King
- 16 Lacey Deloria
- 17 Sharon Grajcar
- 18 Judy Grant
Suzy Middleton
- 20 Kati Prance
Hannah Nostrandt
Mary Yang
- 23 Mark Haigh
- 25 Linda Davis
Cooper Rath
- 27 Phil Deloria
Kris Dykstra
Josie Mendoza
Bill & Molly Frostic
Michael & Sharon Grajcar

Catch These Coming Events!

- Feb. 2 Council Commissioning,
Communion &
Souper Bowl Sunday**
- Feb. 14 Happy Valentine's Day**
- Feb. 15 Shiver by The River**
- Feb. 17 President's Day**



Join us in joining with other
churches around the country in
donating a dollar to local food

pantries on Sunday,
February 2 during
this years' **Souper
Bowl of Caring.**



Pastor's Page

Where's Pastor Dinah?



To combine a couple different definitions, **a sabbatical is a period of paid leave during which someone does not work at his or her job and is able to rest, travel, do research, etc.,** traditionally every seventh year. A couple years ago, this church family adopted a sabbatical policy, and Pastor Dinah is planning to take some of that time during the month of February. **Actually, she will leave after church February 2 and be back in the office on Tuesday, March 4.**

Bill Hirschfeld (231-378-2199 or 231-920-1888) will be filling the pulpit and seeing to any pastoral care duties that arise. If there are any other questions, you can call the church office or contact Council chair, Myra Elias (231-590-0373). While there will be time for reconnecting with her family in Minnesota, work will commence on a history of our church family.

From the illustration vault:

When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage, and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school.

I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to tell Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your momma put in a long hard day today and she's real tired. And besides... a burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know, life is full of imperfect things... and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each others differences, is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing and lasting relationship. So...please pass me a biscuit. And yes, the burned one will do just fine!

Congratulations



- To Devin & Morgan Gokey on the birth of their son Mason, born on January 3, 2014 and weighing in at 7 lbs. 6oz. Mason's grandma Robin Somero, great grandma Sandy Gill and great, great grandma Virginia Young are busting their buttons with joy!!
- Olivia Buzzell, Pearce Pomerleau and Bennett Schmitt for the great production of "FHS NEWS: December in Review." You are all amazing, and your church family is proud of you! People can see it by going to <http://frankforthsnews.org/> and scrolling down to the video portion. Nice job.

(Continued from page 2: the vault)

Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

He didn't say we had to do it perfectly; just that we had to give this love thing our "all." So love and forgive and celebrate and mourn and live fully.

It's soon time for the annual

SHIVER BY THE RIVER



and it looks like we'll have plenty of snow this year!

Kathy and John Walthorn are providing a truck for the Sat. Feb. 15 parade at 11:00 a.m. The plan is for some hardy walkers and riders to accompany the truck, that will sport a top secret decoration idea. It is hoped that you all can wear earmuffs, because it goes with the top secret idea. And the little ditty? It's pretty good!

HE is my sunshine, my only sunshine.
HE makes me happy when skies are gray.
You only know dear, how much HE loves you.
So please don't let my sunshine go away."

There is a sign-up sheet in the church Dining Room for walkers or riders.
(The route is just six blocks.)

Gathering time is 10:30 at Canon Park.

If you have any questions, give Donna Phillips a call at 734-417-1251.



Council Notes

There were 11 Council members at the January 08, 2014 Council Meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Income for December: **\$16,892.07**

Expenses for December: **\$8,737.01**

YTD Expenses: \$96,415.57

YTD Income: \$98,072.51

YTD Budget: \$96,370.63

Investments:

Denis Crosby: In November, the Investment Committee approved and recommended to the Council a 5% withdrawal from the Investment Funds for 2014. Denis Crosby made the motion that the Council recommend this withdrawal to the congregation at the annual meeting; Judy Welch seconded. The Fund balances at 12/31/2013 were \$628,854.00 and the withdrawal amount will be \$31,400.00. Denis reported that it has been an excellent 2 1/2 years for the Church's investments and the investment strategy will remain the same for 2014.

Memorials:

Judy Welch: During the month of December, \$500.00 was given to the Memorial Fund in memory of Luanne Buzzell and Mary Helen Growt.

Missions:

Income was \$446.23 from the congregational offerings and \$400.00 from the Investment Fund. Checks were written to all our designated mission supports. In addition, \$100.00 disbursements were made to Benzie Home Health Care, Community Spirit Meals and the Pastors Discretionary Fund.

By-Laws, Finance & Stewardship, Historian, Nominating, Outreach, Personnel, Property, Religious Education and Worship:
no reports

Women's Fellowship:

Mary Reed: The checking account balance as of December 31, 2013 is \$850.34 and that the CD balance is \$6,079.84.

Pastor's Report:

Report was submitted to those present.

Unfinished Business:

Proposed 2014 Budget of \$100,541.00 was passed and will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting. Motion from the Worship Committee to change the time of worship to 10:30 a.m. all year will be presented to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting on January 26.

New Business:

1) Discussion was held regarding how much we pay the person who will be snow blowing and shoveling the parsonage and church during Pastor Dinah's Sabbatical. It was decided that she will be paid \$15.00 an hour for this work; 2) It was also decided that the Council will not hold a meeting in the month of February.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Osborn, Church Council Clerk

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Thank You

- Judy Welch and Jean (and Larry) Neuhardt for de-decorating the sanctuary. Efficiency and expertise all wrapped up in delightful packages.
- Maggie Baker, Andrea Frost, Mary Ann Harness, Marti Mollema, Ann Osborn and Mary Osborn for de-decorating the dining room. Much appreciated!
- John McElduff for the repetitive snow plowing.

Thank You

**February is
First Congregational Church's
Council Appreciation Month!**

Thank you Al Bryant, (Nora Bungard),
Jim Buzzell, (Marilyn Conrad),
Denis Crosby, Myra Elias, Judy Grant,
Susan Lavender,
Jim MacKenzie, Leslie McElduff,
Larry Neuhardt, Ann Osborn,
Mary Reed, Signe Ruddy,
John Walthorn and Judy Welch
for your willingness to serve this
church family on the Council last year.

May God bless each of you with a
sense of a job well-done.

**Please Remember
in Prayer**

Roy Acklin
Maureen Belden
Nena Bonderendo
Jamie Yarwood
Bordello
Jean Bryant
Linda Cox
Tyler Grant
Chris Porter
Mary Reed
Bev Schmitt
Ward VanHouten
Kay VanOrder

Paul Oliver Long
Term Care
Suzanne Gum

The Pines
Suzanne Oleszczuk

**Our Prayers are
extended to the
families of:**

Walt Brutzer
Keith Clark
Marjorie Crandall
Bonnie Kincher
Connie Porter
Raye Rosen
Ted Smeltzer
Noah Summers

**Those serving in
the Military:**

Cody Bates
Matt Conrad
Devin Gokey
Ryan Kingsinger
Mike Porter
Ryan Ruddy
Tim Welch
Brittney Wood

Ever wondered what the

“Foot Care Clinic”

on the calendar is about? Wanda Shafer, LPN, will care for your feet on the first Tuesday of odd months: January, March, May, July, September, November. You get a good foot soak, nail clipping, lotion, massage and anything else she can do to give your feet a lift. To make an appointment, call Wanda at 231-864-2034



More Thanks!

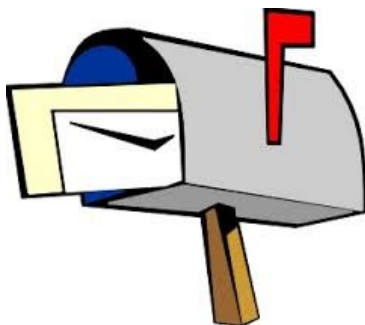
- To Andrea Frost for vacuuming up the water that found its way into the church via the alley garbage area.
- And to Larry Kittleson for letting us know about the mini-flood.
- To Judy Welch for letting us use her snowblower for a few days. (We now own a new MTD snowblower, named Festus.)
- Jim Buzzell, Sarah Chownyk, Candace Nostrandt and all the others who pitched in with the endless shoveling.
- To God for a real winter. (Candace refused to type this!)

Mail would be appreciated!

Nathan MacKenzie, grandson of Jim and Robin, has enlisted in the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy. MYCA a no-cost, voluntary residential program where 16-18 year old high school drop-outs come to improve their lives. If you would be willing to drop him a line, his address is:

Candidate MacKenzie, Nathan
Plt. #2MYCA Bld. 13
5500 Armstrong rd
Battle Creek, MI
49037

Thank you for
helping one
person at a time!



To the family
and friends of
Raye Rosen,
who passed on
to eternal life
December 31st.

There will be a celebration of her life
on Sunday, June 15, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.
at Jowett Funeral Home in Benzonia.

To Lary & Pam Sommers on the
passing of their grandson
Noah Sommers on December 16th.

To Chris & Marjorie Porter and their
family on the passing of
his mother, **Connie Porter**, who left
this world on January 9, 2014.

The family and friends of
Ted Smeltzer who passed on to
eternal glory on January 14, 2014. A
celebration of Ted's life will be held
this summer.

**Dine Out For
Benzie Area
Christian Neighbors**
at **Dinghy's** in Frankfort or
The Thistle Pub at Crystal Mountain
in Thompsonville, on Tuesday,
February 4th and
10% of your
dinner bill will
be donated to
BACN.



First Congregational Church of Frankfort

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Dinah will be on sabbatical starting February 3, and back in the office on March 4, 2014. Let's wish her safe travels!!</p>						<p>1</p> <p>Oliver Simmons</p>
<p>2</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School, Communion & Council Commissioning</p> <p>Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday</p>	<p>3</p> <p>David Koenig</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Eat our for BACN</p> <p>Ryan Strom</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir</p> <p>Evin Elias Peggy & Ralph Jackson</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Norma Bruinsma Marty Davis</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Jack Frost</p>
<p>9</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Lori Dougherty Leslie McElduff</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Steve Jackson</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Owen Chownyk</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir</p> <p>Colton Prance- Jewell Paul A. Robinson Bob & Jan Condon</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Happy Valentine's Day</p>  <p>Molly Frostic</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Shiver By The River Parade</p> <p>Amy King</p>
<p>16</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School</p> <p>Lacey Deloria</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Sharon Grajcar</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Judy Grant Suzy Middleton</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir</p> <p>Kati Prance Hannah Nostrandt Mary Yang</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School</p> <p>Mark Haigh</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Linda Davis Cooper Rath</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir</p> <p>Phil Deloria Kris Dykstra Josie Mendoza Bill & Molly Frostic Michael & Sharon Grajcar</p>	<p>28</p> 	

Steepleviews

First Congregational Church
431 Forest Avenue
Frankfort, MI 49635

We are the “Halloween Church”, the “Hot Dog Church” and at night, we are the Church with the lighted spire acting as a beacon to the heart of Frankfort. – Myra Elias

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

Date	Greeters/Ushers <u>Head Usher:</u> Candace Nostrandt	
2	Michael & Sharon Grajcar, John & Kathy Walthorn	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!)
9	Nora Bungard, Marti Mollema, Ann & Paul Osborn	
16	Lori Dougherty, Alma House, Mary Ann Harness and Doris Clark	
23	Mary Reed, Larry Neuhardt, Candace & Dan Nostrandt	