

Steepleviews

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

Website: www.fccfrankfort.org
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December 2013

Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 01 John McElduff
Bethany Zylstra
- 02 Diane Macy
- 03 Jim Buzzell
Kathy Crosby
Daniel Jewell
- 05 Denis Crosby
- 08 Samantha Haigh
- 09 Rebecca Hubbard
- 10 Peggy Jackson
- 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 Genevieve Pomerleau
Helen Wenn
- 22 Doug Ehle
- 23 Joel Buzzell
- 25 Joe Hubbard
- 26 Erma McKinnon
- 30 Nathan MacKenzie
- 31 Hilda Quist
Billee & Ron Wardwell
Helen & Tom Wenn

Catch These Coming Events!

- December 03 Dine Out for BACN
- December 05 Cookie Decorating
- December 06 Poinsettia Orders Due
- December 07 Annual Silver Tea
- December 10 Holiday Candlelight
Remembrance Service
- December 14 BCC Christmas Concert
- December 15 BCC Christmas Concert
- December 18 Christmas Caroling & Party
- December 24 Christmas Eve Worship

You are cordially invited to our

Annual Silver Tea

Saturday, December 7, 2013

*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*



Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Tuesday, December 24 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.
All are welcome!!

Pastor's Page

A charming story is told of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to present the Christ Child at Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked slowly to the chapel with her cousin Pedro, her heart was filled with sadness rather than joy.

"I am sure, Pepita, that even the most humble gift, if in love, will be acceptable in His eyes," said Pedro consolingly.

Not knowing what else to do, Pepita knelt by the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds then into a small bouquet. Looking at the scraggly bunch of weeds, she felt more saddened and embarrassed than ever by the humbleness of her offering.

She fought back a tear as she entered the small village chapel.

As she approached the altar, she remembered Pedro's kind words: "Even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes." She felt her spirit lift as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the foot of the nativity.

Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant red, and all who saw them were certain that they had witnessed a Christmas miracle right before eyes. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as Flores de Noche Buena, or Flowers of the Holy Night, for they bloomed each year during the Christmas season. Today, the common name for this plant is the poinsettia!

The point of this story is still true: Even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in the Christ Child's eyes." It's the heart that is the real gift we give at this time of year, so give generously of it.

Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year, Pastor Dinah



Spread a Little Christmas Cheer!

Join us! We will meet at Paul Oliver Hospital near the front desk

Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m.

After serenading the Long Term residents, we'll head over to The Maples, and then to the Pines and various homes as we make

our way over to Pastor Dinah's for some good food and togetherness. This is a fun night, and it spreads such good cheer. 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!

If you would like to bring a little something to nibble on, that would be great.

Sloppy joes will be provided, along with beverages for all ages.

Who knows, the caroling may continue at the parsonage!

Holidays can be hard for many different reasons. Sometimes it's good to be able to let down your guard and acknowledge "the hard." So feel free to join others at a



Holiday Candlelight Remembrance Service

At Bennett Barz Funeral Home
Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Dinah will join with Rev. Dan Furman of Benzonia Congregational Church in leading all in a time of worship and remembrance of those dear to us, all while acknowledging that life can be hard at holiday time.

There is no charge for this event, and all are welcome to attend. Be sure to pass on this information to others who may appreciate it.

Cookie Decorating For the Silver Tea!

Which means Mary Reed will be baking cookies that will need decorating. So join us for a Cookie Decorating Marathon on

Thursday, December 05, 2013.

We will have soup at 5:30 p.m. and start decorating at 6:00 p.m. (As usual, there is no charge for this, and it's a lot of fun!)



Poinsettia Order Form

_____ \$ 6.00 / plant _____

_____ @ \$8.50 / plant = _____

Red White



In loving memory of _____

Or

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Please return to the Church Office by Friday, December 6.
Thank you for your gift.

Council Notes

There were 9 Council members at the November 13, 2013 Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Larry Neuhardt

Income for October: **\$ 5,695.65**

Expenses for October: **\$ 8,293.91**

YTD Expenses **\$80,488.99**

YTD Income: **\$71,424.19**

YTD Budget: **\$80,150.00**

Memorials: Judy Welch

During the month of September there were \$10.00 in donations to the Memorials account and no donations to the CIF account.

Investment: Denis Crosby

The Committee met with the R.W. Baird people for an annual update. Investment funds exceed \$613,000.00 with the rate of return around 12% for 12 months. The fund is doing very well.

Missions:

Income was \$378.50 from the congregational offerings, \$25.00 designated income for BACN and \$400.00 from the Investment Fund. Checks were written to all our designated mission projects and to NACCC.

Personnel: Jim Buzzell

Evaluation for our organist, Linda Davis, is scheduled for next week.

Worship: Ann Osborn

Upcoming events include: the Community Thanksgiving service to be held at St. Ann's Catholic Church at 7 p.m. on November 26, Sanctuary decorating at 11 a.m. on November 26, and the next Communion service on December 1. Thanksgiving bulletins were chosen. Discussion will be continued regarding the time change to 10:30 for worship services.

Property: Mary Reed

Seasonal tasks have been performed. (See Thank you list.) Jim Vanderley cannot do the siding job at this time so we will continue to work on obtaining estimates. The bell tower is in need of repair so Andrea Frost is going to obtain bids for this project.

Outreach: John Walthorn

The Church is sponsoring a free children's movie at the Garden Theater at 3 p.m. on November 30th: Disney's "Planes".

By-Laws, Finance & Stewardship, Historian and Religious Education:

no reports

Pastor's Report:

Report was submitted to all present.

Unfinished Business:

The motion from the Worship Committee to change the time of worship to 10:30 is ongoing.

New Business:

None

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Osborn, Church Council Clerk

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

A Multitude of Gratitude goes to

- Will Church for putting the storm windows on the sanctuary.
- Andrea Frost, Mary Ann Harness, Marti Mollema and Ann Osborn for transforming our dining room from Halloween to Fall. It is another beautiful job well done. (And special thanks for washing the sugar and creamer holders that get neglected! The sparkle is nice.)
- Those who take home kitchen towels, wash them and return them. There are many of you that do that, and it is greatly appreciated!
- The community of this church that once again welcomed nearly 1,000 (actually, 927) people into our place on Halloween night. The weather was dreadful, but the gratitude was great. Pastor Dinah asked a couple of kids "new" to the scene if the stuff inside (food) was good. They said, excitedly, "Yes!" When they were asked if the people inside were nice, they said, very sincerely, "Oh yea!"
- Matt Addis for clearing out and turning off the sprinkler systems for the winter. It's wonderful to have expert help offered before it is even requested.
- Robin MacKenzie for helping with some of the leaf blowing. Not only was her help appreciated, but what delight when it was discovered that the two leaf blower machines were in harmony with each other, too!
- Candace Nostrandt for putting away the dehumidifiers and trying to keep reign over the kitchen and pantry. The extra attention is greatly appreciated!



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.

We Got Mail!!

The Fall Festival was a huge success due to the beautiful weather and the work of the enthusiastic volunteers.

The Frankfort-Elberta Chamber of Commerce cannot host this event without your valuable assistance. Thanks for all you do to support our community and our Chamber!

You are the best supporters,
Donna Phillips & Joanne Bartley



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 your work!



DISASTER RELIEF APPEAL

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches has a Mission and Outreach Ministry Council that is collecting funds to support our two missions in the Philippines: NACCC – Philippines and Christian Mission in the Far East.

This country has been hit by at least three typhoons early this summer destroying buildings and crops. In September, the country was hit by a 7.2 earthquake which left thousands homeless. Now, the Philippines is facing the damage caused by Super Typhoon Haiyan. This storm is considered the most powerful typhoon to hit land in recent history. To donate to this appeal, make checks payable to:

NACCC – One Great Hour of Sharing. On the memo line, write Philippine Typhoon Relief. Checks can be mailed

to: NACCC, PO Box 288 Oak Creek, WI 53154. Please keep the people of the Philippines and these missions in your prayers as they try to recover from these back-to-back disasters.



Please Remember in Prayer

Don Bonderenkeno
Shane Bonderenkeno
Brad Buzzell
Oliver Buzzell
Nicky & Tren Elias
Suzanne Gilbert
Bonnie Kincher
Esther Kitchen
Sylvia Knutsen
Nicholas Malevitz
Artha Marmaduke
Paul May
Sandy Nuske
Warren Reed
Bev Schmitt
Stapleton Family
Dori Turner
Susie Vigland
Dawn Walker
Charlie Yost
Virginia Young

Paul Oliver Long
Term Care
Suzanne Gum

Those serving in the Military:
Cody Bates
Steve Chownyk
Matt Conrad
Devin Gokey
Amber Holmgren
Ryan Kingsinger
Mike Porter
Ryan Ruddy
Tim Welch
Brittney Wood

The Families of:
Ron Henry
Jeff Lentz
Jim Marshall
Cheryl Popp






Dine Out For Benzie Area Christian Neighbors
at **Mayfair** in Elberta or **The Thistle Pub** in Thompsonville on Tuesday, December 3rd and 10% of your dinner bill will be donated to Benzie Area Christian Neighbors.



First Congregational Church of Frankfort

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 11:00 a.m. Communion, Worship & Sunday School John McElduff Bethany Zylstra	2 Diane Macy	3 10:00 a.m. Silver Tea Decorating Jim Buzzell Kathy Crosby Daniel Jewell	4 10:00 a.m. Silver Tea Decorating 4:00 p.m. Worship Comm.	5 9:30 a.m. Yoga 5:15 p.m. Outreach Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Cookie Decorating 7:30 p.m. Choir Denis Crosby	6 Poinsettia Orders Due	7 Annual Silver Tea 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
8 11:00 a.m. Hymn Sing & Sunday School Samantha Haigh	9 Becky Hubbard	10 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Holiday Candlelight Remembrance Peggy Jackson	11 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting Dan & Sandy Gill	12 9:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir	13 	14 2:30 p.m. Benzie Community Chorus Christmas Concert at Benzonia Congregational Church <i>Dining Room Reserved for Nostrandt Family Gathering</i>
15 11:00 a.m. Hymn Sing, Worship & Sunday School 7:00 p.m. Benzie Community Chorus Christmas Concert at Frankfort United Methodist Church	16 2:00 & 2:45 p.m. Nursing Care Worship Missi & Randy Gilbert	17 	18 Christmas Caroling & Party 6:00 p.m. David & Melissa Koenig Clark & Sarah Robinson	19 9:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir Joanne Brown Olivia Buzzell Judson Rath Carol & Doug Ehle	20 Genevieve Pomerleau Helen Wenn	21
22 11:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School Doug Ehle	23 Joel Buzzell	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Open Communion 6:45 p.m. 	25 Merry Christmas  Joe Hubbard	26 9:30 a.m. Yoga Erma McKinnon	27 	28
29 11:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School	30 Nathan MacKenzie	31 Hilda Quist Billee & Ron Wardwell Helen & Tom Wenn	Happy New Year!!	7 		

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Merry Christmas!!

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Date	Greeters/Ushers <i>Head Usher: Bill Hirschfeld</i>	
1	Chris & Marjorie Porter, Michael & Sharon Grajcar	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!)
8	Alma House, Bill Hirschfeld, Candace & Dan Nostrandt	
15	John & Kathy Walthorn, Judy Grant and Marti Mollema	
22	Jean & Larry Neuhardt, Mary Reed and Myra Elias	
29	Ann & Paul Osborn, Betty & Fred Milliron	