

Steepleviews

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

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December 2014

Anniversaries & Birthdays

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



Catch These Coming Events!

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| December 02 | Dine Out for BACN |
| December 03 | Cookie Decorating |
| December 05 | Poinsettia Orders Due |
| December 06 | Annual Silver Tea |
| December 09 | Holiday Candlelight
Remembrance Service |
| December 13 | BCC Christmas Concert |
| December 14 | BCC Christmas Concert |
| December 18 | Christmas Caroling & Party |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Worship |

You are cordially invited to our

Annual Silver Tea

Saturday, December 6, 2014

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 49635*



**Our Annual Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service will be
Tuesday, 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. Open Communion begins at 6:45 p.m.

Pastor's Page

The Russian winter of 1910 was the severest in memory. It was so cold that it was known as the 'Iron Winter'. Because of its location, a prosperous and popular hotel some twenty kilometers from Moscow, suffered particular loss of business. No one had stayed there for weeks and the owner had laid off most of his staff.

One evening, he was surprised to hear a knock on his front door. Upon opening it, he was confronted by a grey bearded, raggedy old man. The old man said that he had been out in the snow for several days. He was freezing cold and starving hungry. Could the hotelier give him a meal and a bed for the night? "I can certainly do that", said the hotelier, "For one night's accommodation plus a meal, the charge is three rubles. Can you pay?" The old man confessed that he had no money, but if he was sent away, he would surely die in the cold.

The hotelier felt sorry for the old man and told him to come inside. He took him to the kitchen where, bubbling away on the stove was a pot of borsch (beetroot soup). The hotelier ladled out a large portion of the borsch, added a twist of sour cream and for good measure, gave his visitor half a loaf of rye bread. The raggedy old man was obviously very hungry and soon disposed of the bread and the soup. The hotelier laughed to see a great beetroot stain along the bottom of the old man's moustache.

The raggedy old man thanked the hotelier for the food and said, "You won't see the going of me in the morning, but although I have no money now, I will pay you the three rubles when I have it". The hotelier said nothing but did not expect to see either the three rubles or the old man ever again.

The snow eventually cleared and business began to pick up. In fact the hotel became busier than it had ever been. In the spring, being a devoutly religious man, the hotelier decided to go to the great cathedral in the city to give thanks to God for the hotel's recovery and continued success. Upon arrival in the capital he made straight for the cathedral. Once inside, he gazed around the interior of the ancient church. His eyes fell upon the many icons that adorned the walls. He was drawn in particular to one image in a far corner. It was painted in the likeness of an old man with a grey beard and seemed vaguely familiar. As he drew closer, he noticed a dark, beetroot like stain upon the moustache. He looked at the name inscribed beneath the image. It read, "Saint Nicholas". He reached for a candle to place in front of the icon and as he moved the loose earth into which he would fix the candle, his hand touched something small and hard. It was a coin, a ruble. Beside it were two more. He picked them up and looked again at the icon. The beetroot stain was gone and the face was smiling. Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year, Pastor Dinah



Spread a Little Christmas Cheer!

Join us! We will meet at
Paul Oliver Memorial 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.

Beverages for all ages will be provided.

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 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Dinah will join Rev. Barbara Fay of Frankfort United Methodist Church in a time of worship and remembrance. There is no charge for this event, and all are welcome to attend.

By popular demand

Myra's Carmel Corn Recipe

Cook 2 cups brown sugar with 1 cup real butter and 1/2 cup light Karo syrup, bring to a boil for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add



1 teaspoon baking soda stirring carefully. Tends to boil up.

Pour over 3 gallons of popcorn mixing carefully and place into preheated oven @ 200 degrees for 1 hour. Stirring mixture after the first 1/2 hour. Enjoy!

Poinsettia Order Form

_____ @ \$6.50 / 6" plant = _____

_____ @ \$8.50 / 6.5" plant = _____

Available in Red only



In loving memory of
(Orders due by December 5, 2014)

Or

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Council Notes

**There were 12 Council members
at the November 12, 2014
Council meeting.**

Treasurer's Report: Jim MacKenzie

Income for October: **\$ 7,422.14**

Expenses for October: **\$ 8,624.92**

YTD Expenses **\$85,016.98**

YTD Income: **\$75,167.22**

YTD Budget: **\$83,772.83**

Memorials: Signe Ruddy

There were no donations to the Memorials or CIF account in October.

Missions:

Income was \$314.36 from the congregational offerings, \$10.00 designated income for BACN. The Investment Fund provided an additional \$400.00 of income and Brawner/Missions provided \$200.00 of income. Checks were written to all our designated mission supports but at reduced amounts to NACCC and Interserve USA. We made \$100.00 disbursements to BHHC, Community Spirit, and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund from investment monies and additional \$100.00 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund from the \$200.00 Brawner/Missions monies to help cover any shortfall.

Personnel: Jim Buzzell

There was a meeting on salary changes for the 2015 Budget for our pastor and staff. The recommended salary changes will be sent to the Council member prior to the December 10 Council meeting.

Worship: Ann Osborn

1) Sanctuary decorating is scheduled for Wednesday, November 26 at 11 a.m.; 2) the Committee picked out Advent Devotionals and Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve bulletin covers; 3) all Christmas Eve candles and holders were cleaned and replaced; and 4) approved our 2015 budget.

Property: John Walthorn

1) the sound system upgrade in the Sanctuary is scheduled for November 18; 2) the large pine tree in front of the Church will have to be removed in the near future; 3) the Church's copy machine is going to need to be replaced so Pastor Dinah and Andrea Frost will investigate prices on either a refurbished or new one and get back to the Council members; 4) the oven on the left stove in the Church's kitchen is not working so the Women's Fellowship has kindly offered to purchase a new stove and microwave.

Outreach: Judy Grant

1) upcoming events include: OCC collection week beginning November 17, free children's movie "Santa Paws", at the Garden Theater at 2 p.m. on November 29th: Cookie Decorating & Dinner is scheduled for December 3rd at 5:30 p.m. and the Silver Tea is December 6th from 1-3 p.m.; 2) discussion on advertising spending and how costs can be reduced.

Women's Fellowship: Mary Reed

The annual Silver Tea sponsored by the Women's Fellowship is to be held on Saturday, December 6th, from 1-3 p.m.

By-Laws, Finance & Stewardship, Historian, Investment, Nominating and Religious

Education:

no reports

Pastor's Report:

Report was submitted to all present.

Unfinished Business:

none

New Business:

Council Meeting will meet at 4 p.m. on December 10 and decide if we want to continue the early time for the winter months.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Osborn, Church Council Clerk

A Multitude of Gratitude goes to

- Myra Elias and Andrea Frost for putting up Halloween lights.
- Marti Mollema and Maggie Baker for decorating, moving, redecorating and shifting the church dining room decor for all the events. It's such a delight to see what you do.
- Becky Addis and Myra Elias for helping the Sunday School kids make jack-o-lanterns. They were scary awesome!
- All who helped with the Halloween Open House again this year. On a night that required grit to be out and about, you made 970 folks feel welcomed. You were all just wonderful.
- John Walthorn for relocating the jack-o-lanterns after Halloween.
- Andrea Frost for putting away the Halloween decorations after the Open House.
- Robin MacKenzie for lovingly scrubbing the lower level restroom floors on hands and knees. She's right; you can tell a lot about a church by how they care for their restrooms. Bless you, Robin, for blessing us all.
- Matt Addis for putting the irrigation system to bed for the winter.
- Thank you to all those who helped to moved the 440 some boxes from the attic to the Dining Room. Even little Owen and Addie helped to lovingly move the love boxes to the next step of their journeys. Being part of such events remind us of how big - and small - the world really is.
- To all who helped move chairs, tables and furniture out of the way for the janitorial team to be able to shampoo the upstairs and downstairs carpets.

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.



If you wish to make a year end gift to the church, it would be helpful if it were postmarked by Dec. 26. All gifts are truly appreciated and treated with the respect with which they are given. Thank you.



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 all your hard work!





**The Benzie
Community Chorus**
will present their
2014 Christmas Concerts
Sat. Dec. 13
3:00 p.m. at
St. Andrews
Presbyterian
Church and
Sun. Dec. 14
7:30 p.m. at
Frankfort United
Methodist Church.
A freewill offering taken.

Dear Friends at FCCF, I miss you!
Hope I can get up there in 2015 to
bring a personal update. Thank you
for your continued donations to the
NOOR project in Afghanistan.

Good things are happening. For
one, the eye camps to needy areas
have started up again. Those were
“off limits” for 4 years since the
team was ambushed and killed.

Also, the opening of a children’s
ward at the Deste Barchi Clinic – the
last project Tom was working on
before he was killed. Well, it’s now
open and serving the Hazara
people! Praise God and Thank you!

Libby Little



Congratulations

To great-grandma Lois
Anderson! Sophie was born to
Conor, who was born to Carol,
who was born to Lois.
Goodness just keeps on going!

Please Remember in Prayer

Ernie Balcueva
Ed Baldwin
Donna Blough
Joanne Brown
Katie Burns
Saul Christiansen
Doris Clark
Alex Forrest
Eliza Forrest
Rita Gilbert
Michael Grajcar
Melissa Grant
Bill Hirschfeld
Julie Hirschfeld
Nora Hirschfeld
Amber Holmgren
Nancy Knopf
Evie Knottnerus
Erika Lewis
Lois Martindale
Susie Middleton

Cheryl Noll
Don Nugent
Nancy Reed
Tim Ruddy
John & Peter Young

Those serving in the Military:

Matt Conrad
Ryan Kingsinger
Mike Porter
Clark Robinson

The Families of:

Lisa Davis
Jennifer Pope
Sylvia VanHeynigan
Helen Wenn
Ida Young







**Dine Out For
Benzie Area
Christian Neighbors
at Dinghy’s in Frankfort
or The Thistle Pub in Thompsonville
on Tuesday,
December 2nd
and 10% of
your dinner bill
will be donated
to
Benzie Area
Christian
Neighbors.**



First Congregational Church of Frankfort

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 John McElduff Alan Vigland	2 10:00 a.m. Silver Tea Decorating Kendra Lewis Diane Macy	3 10:00 a.m. Silver Tea Decorating 4:00 p.m. Worship Comm. 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:00 Cookie Decorating Jim Buzzell Kathy Crosby	4 9:30 a.m. Yoga 5:15 p.m. Outreach Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Choir	5 <div>Poinsettia Orders Due</div> Denis Crosby Daniel Jewell	6 <div>Annual Silver Tea 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.</div> 
7 10:30 a.m. Hymn Sing & Sunday School & Communion	8 Samantha Haigh	9 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg. <div>7:00 p.m. Holiday Candlelight Remembrance</div> Becky Hubbard	10 9:30 a.m. Human Services Collaborative 4:00 p.m. Council Meeting Peggy Jackson	11 9:30 a.m. Yoga 5:00 p.m. Ministerial Association Meeting 7:30 p.m. Choir Dan & Sandy Gill	12	13 <div>3:00 p.m. Benzie Community Chorus Christmas Concert</div>
14 10:30 a.m. Hymn Sing, Worship & Sunday School <div>7:30 p.m. Benzie Community Chorus Christmas Concert</div>	15	16 Missi & Randy Gilbert	17 <div>6:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling & Party</div>	18 9:30 a.m. Yoga 7:30 p.m. Choir David & Melissa Koenig Clark & Sarah Robinson	19 Joanne Brown Olivia Buzzell Judson Rath Carol & Doug Ehle	20 Genevieve Pomerleau
21 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School & Program 2:00 & 2:45 p.m. Nursing Care Worship	22 Doug Ehle	23 Joel Buzzell	24 <div>6:45 p.m. Open Communion 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</div> 	25  Joe Hubbard	26 Barb Ikens Erma McKinnon	27
28 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School	29	30 Nathan MacKenzie	31 Hilda Quist Billee & Ron Wardwell	7 		

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431 Forest Avenue
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**Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!**

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Date	Greeters/Ushers <u>Head Usher:</u> <i>Mary Reed</i>	
7	Judy Grant, Sue King, John & Kathy Walthorn	Greeter and Ushers: Please arrive at church by <u>10:00 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!)
14	Betty & Fred Milliron, Michelle & Jeff Frostic	
21	Nora Bungard, John & Leslie McElduff Mary Reed	
28	Donna & Ron Phillips, Larry Neuhardt, Candace Nostrandt	