

# Steepleviews

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

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Rev. Dinah Haag: [haagdinah@gmail.com](mailto:haagdinah@gmail.com)  
Church office: [secretary431@gmail.com](mailto:secretary431@gmail.com)

## February 2016 Anniversaries & Birthdays

- 1 Oliver Simmons
- 3 David Koenig
- 4 Ryan Strom
- 6 Evin Elias  
Peggy & Ralph Jackson
- 7 Norma Bruinsma  
Marty Davis
- 8 Asher Roy Locicero  
Mark Conrad
- 9 Jeff Frostic
- 10 Lori Dougherty  
Leslie McElduff
- 12 Owen Chownyk
- 13 Colton Prance-Jewell  
Paul Robinson  
Bob & Jan Condon
- 14 Molly Frostic
- 15 Amy King
- 16 Lacey Deloria
- 17 Sharon Grajcar
- 18 Judy Grant  
Suzy Middleton
- 20 Isabelle Osborn  
Kati Prance  
Mary Yang
- 25 Cooper Rath  
Freddie Kolehmainen
- 27 Kris Dykstra  
Phil Deloria  
Josie Mendoza  
Bill & Molly Frostic  
Michael & Sharon Grajcar

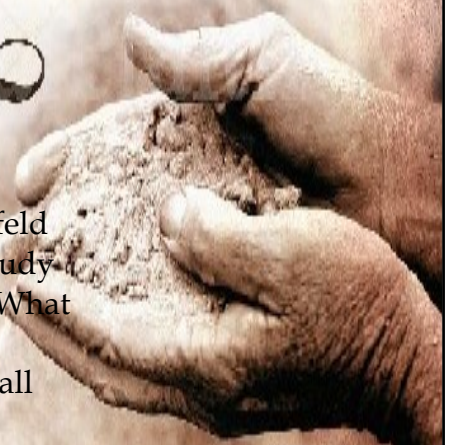
## Catch These Coming Events!

- Feb. 7** Communion Sunday
- Feb. 10** Ash Wednesday Services, Bill's Bible Class and Supper
- Feb. 16** Supporting Our Kids (SOC)
- Feb. 20** Shiver by the River
- Feb. 24** Al's Academy with Julie Hirschfeld
- Feb. 26** Supporting Our Kids (SOC)

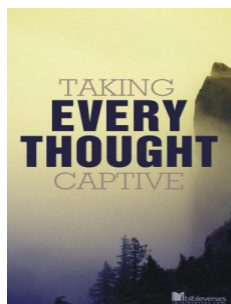
## ASH WEDNESDAY

A 12:00 p.m. service  
will be at the Frankfort  
Methodist Church.

A  
5:00 p.m.  
service at  
our church, followed by  
a light supper. Bill Hirschfeld  
will present a program/study  
"Christ Died for Our Sin: What  
Does That Mean?" All are  
welcome to attend any or all  
aspects of this holy day.



# Pastor's Page



People often wonder what we do during the long winters here in snow-and-cold country. Truthfully, I wonder too, when looking over the previous year to write an annual report. So I thought I might capture this morning for all time.

It's Wednesday, January 13, 2016. It's 15 degrees and has been snowing since Saturday. Not copious amounts right here, but enough to snow blow each day, especially since the snowplow went by sometime in the early morning. I wanted to go to the bank to get that out of the way, and as I back out of the driveway, I am amazed at all the cars around the church.

John McElduff has done the snow plowing thing, and now he's working on the Treasurer's Report for this afternoon's meeting. The BalA VisX Group Class is bouncing away in the dining room and Will Church and sidekick, Ben, are framing up the new ceiling in the Red Room. And Administrative Assistant, Katherine Johnson, has been directing the calls by Northern Fire and Safety and the guy from Integrity Business Solutions.

After checking that the lake is still there, it strikes me that there are a ton of cars downtown. Okay, so it's 11:30, and the Rotarians are shuffling into the Hotel (remember, it's been snowing for days), and the Methodist women are meeting at the Villa (I knew that because I stopped there for some soup for lunch). But there are cars all along the street near Dinghy's so maybe there are more meetings on this

second Wednesday of the month.

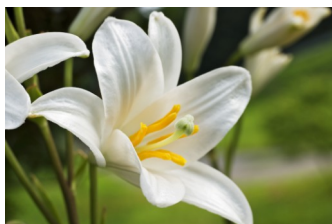
There are lots of folks out of town, and more planning to take off in the next couple of months. But there is life still happening here, and some of it is really good. During any given week, not only does the BalA VisX Group Class meet twice, but there's a free Yoga class, not to mention choir rehearsal and other group meetings of various sorts.

Day after tomorrow, the Benzie girls basketball team will play the Frankfort team here in Frankfort. Since we have an important young lady on each team, it's a great time to show our support for our young people. So I ordered pom-poms in purple and gold and an equal number in red and white and we will make a big noise when one of "our girls" makes a great play.

The mail continues to be delivered, phone calls continue to be made, and new folks become familiar folks. All this life going on around reminds all of us that looks can be deceiving and that it can be easy to forget just all that is going on at any given moment in time.

That's true for God's love, too. It may sometimes look like God's love may be lacking or even withdrawn, but that is not so. A year from now, we may not remember all the blessings of this day and the beauty or grace or even the love that underlies our daily living. But that doesn't mean that God isn't right here, all around us, in and through us. May we continue to learn to lean into God's love and grace — even when we wonder about them. Stay safe and warm.

Pastor Dinah



## Easter Lilies, Tulips and Daffodils Order Form

Once again, we are offering you the opportunity to order Easter Lilies, Daffodils and Tulips to enhance our Easter Sunday Worship Service. Flowers may be given in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special person, or “just because”. After Worship on Easter Sunday, you are encouraged to take your flowers home or you may leave it at church. (Leftover plants find their way into the church gardens.) Please send or phone in your order to the church by **Monday, March 7th.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies @ \$8.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips @ \$6.50 ea. \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils @ \$6.50 ea.

In loving memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

### Shiver by the River is back! February 20

Our church will host free hot chocolate from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. If anyone would like to take an hour shift, feel free to let the church office know. Events that day will include the Betsie Bay Frozen 5k, Winter Parade, Kid’s Snow World, Frozen Ski Ball, horse drawn carriage rides, “Bowling on Main St”, Bridge Run at 2:30 pm wearing fancy/funny costumes, warming Fire Pit at Elberta Waterfront Park, Helicopter Rides at the Boat Launch Parking lot & an after party at the Mayfair Tavern at 3 pm.



### Wednesday, February 24 is Al’s Academy Featuring Julie Hirschfeld!

We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a light supper and then get ready for a passionate program from Julie about the beavers she was able to observe in the wild. So bring your appetite and round-up any friends or neighbors you want to bring. Remember, Al’s Academies are always free!



# Council Notes

## There were 13 Council members at the January 13, 2016 Council Meeting

### Treasurer's Report: John McElduff

Offerings for December	\$ 15,560.93
Expenses for December	\$ 7,425.21
Total Current balance as of Dec 31	\$ 92,106.33
The General Offerings for 2015	\$111,973.61
Total Deposits for 2015	\$117,690.39
General Operating Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$101,811.00

### Investment: Denis Crosby

1) Sharon Grajcar will join the Investment Committee. 2) A motion was made, to ask the congregation, to use the usual 5% withdrawal (\$31,280) from the Investment Fund for 2016, exclusive of the Sesquicentennial Celebration monies. 3) During this current market downturn, the Investment Fund has seen an approximate 6% decrease, but our investment strategy remains unchanged as we look at the big picture. 4) RW Baird will be bringing a report to Council in February or March.

### Outreach: Dinah Haag for Judy Grant

1) "Shiver By The River" is being to be held in February; the Church will give away hot chocolate. 2) Al's Academy continues with a presentation by Phil Deloria on January 27.

### Memorials: John McElduff

\$295 was donated in the month of December.

### Missions: Bob King

All of our Mission commitments continue to be funded 100%.

Personnel: Andy Mollema – Brooke Trentham, our (hopefully, soon-to-be) newly hired bookkeeper, will be meeting with John McElduff on January 20 at 1 pm.

### Property: Andrea Frost

1) The Red Room paneling, ceiling tiles, lighting and insulation have been removed. Thank you to Andrea Frost, Denis Crosby, Bill Frostic, Mary Ann Harness, Leslie McElduff and Andy Mollema for their help in this major job. 2) The plumber will be at the Church on January 16th to check out the bathrooms. 3) It was found that the inside west wall of the Red Room needs to be braced; Will Church will do this.

### Religious Education: D. Haag for Candace Nostrandt:

1) Sunday School continues doing well. 2) Dinah expressed a concern that we make sure to

acknowledge the younger families and children in church, so that they realize they have an important part in this church family.

### Worship: Ann Osborn

1) Upcoming events include: Annual Congregational Meeting and potluck after worship on January 24, Council Commissioning tentatively scheduled for January 31, Full Communion Sunday on February 7, Ash Wednesday services on February 10. Lent, Holy Week and Easter are not far away. 2) New banners for Pentecost & Easter are being purchased. 3) Easter Bulletin covers & Lenten devotionals were chosen.

### Pastor's Report: Pastor Dinah Haag – report submitted.

### Unfinished Business: 2016 Budget Review

Following discussion and review, a 2016 Budget was approved to be presented at the Annual Meeting. And a thank you goes to the Financial people for their good work on preparing the budget.

### New Business: 1) Motion #1: Investment Policy

Exception for 2016 and 2017 allowing Investment Interest Funds to be withdrawn to finance the Sesquicentennial Celebration in the amount of \$5,000 for 2016. Approved by Council to take to Annual Meeting. 2) Motion #2: An Investment Policy change that unused funds shall left in the Investment Fund. Approved by Council to take to Annual Meeting. 3) A note from Administrative Assistant Katherine Johnson thanking the Council for her holiday bonus.

### Constitution & By-Laws, Finance & Stewardship,

Nominating, Women's Fellowship, Historian: No reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm.

Respectively submitted,

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

	Received	Over/Under
January	\$ 5,279.00	- \$3,469.35
February	\$13,512.00	+\$6,422.07
March	\$ 5,795.61	- \$2,955.73
April	\$ 9,035.62	+\$1,687.42
May	\$ 9,215.00	+\$1,755.53
June	\$10,798.58	+\$2,803.01
July	\$ 7,932.00	- \$2,552.35
August	\$ 9,207.00	+\$1,810.60
September	\$11,253.00	+\$3,777.46
October	\$ 7,298.06	- \$3,168.95
November	\$ 6,909.94	- \$1,117.29
December	\$15,560.93	+\$8,135.72



## Frostbite Saturday & Chili Crawl

in Manistee, MI  
February 20, 2016

Frostbite Saturday celebrates the winter chill with ice carvers, live music and a chili crawl through Manistee's historic downtown business district. Make your way downtown and enjoy tasting up to 16 chili entries by talented area chefs.



## Congratulations

to Great Aunt Judy  
Welch

on the birth of

Timothy Charles

Welch on Saturday,

December 19, 2015. All are doing well  
and Great Aunt Judy got to meet him  
over Christmas.

## One of the Missions We Support Is Benzie Food Partners

It's a food pantry that distributes larger  
amounts of food twice a month.

- The average number of households/  
families served per month: 156
- The cumulative total of seniors served:  
1,014
- Benzie County Residents served: 5,311
- The cumulative pounds distributed: 77,836
- New registrations: 93

Regular donations received from Crescent  
Bakery, Food Rescue, Family Fare Markets.  
Seasonal products received from Benzie  
Community Garden, Food Rescue, Food for  
Thought, Sleeping Bear Farms, local residents  
and consumers. Thank you all who help!

## February is our First Congregational Church's Council Appreciation Month

From the money people to the committee  
reporters, 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 gifts.



## Congratulations!

Paul A. Robinson came in  
first for his grade and  
second overall at the  
spelling bee. He got the first 30 words  
correct and then was beaten in a tie -  
breaker round by an 8th grader. Way  
to go, Paul!

John McElduff for  
snow plowing.



Katherine Johnson for helping with  
the snow shoveling.

The Worship Committee for restoring  
the sanctuary to our "ordinary" decor.



## From Marjorie Porter

"I'd like to thank all of  
you for your kind cards,  
calls, and prayers during  
my recent recovery. It is so wonderful  
to have our church family here to  
encourage and support us! Your  
thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.



## Festival of Trees

Last year's Festival of Trees, a popular Thanksgiving weekend event, earned over \$5,000 for Habitat for Humanity Benzie and brought many old friends and new visitors to the Benzie Area Historical Museum. Thank you to everyone who visited, bid on Christmas wreaths, trees & table decorations, provided & decorated trees and wreaths, organized & hosted the event itself, provided food for receptions & enthusiastically welcomed & encouraged visitors to enjoy the festival, museum exhibits & special Santa collections. The Festival will return next November! If you bought a fresh tree at the festival & would consider returning the tree stand so we can use again next year, or if you are interested in decorating/donating or helping plan the 2016 event, please contact Kathi Houston at 231-510-1721 or [kathwithani@gmail.com](mailto:kathwithani@gmail.com).

## Supporting Our Kids (SOC)

Join us in cheering on "our" kids! Tuesday, February 16 we can do that in the Frankfort High School gymnasium at 7:30 p.m. Maile Church and Cecelia Schmitt will play each other again.

Friday, February 26 we can do that in the Benzie Central High School gym at 6:00 p.m. Jake Reed plays then and brother Luke will play at 7:30. Pastor Dinah will bring the pom-poms!



## Please Remember in Prayer

Lynn Buzzell  
Judy Engelston  
Kate Evans  
Dorothy Hardy  
Brian & Marissa  
McElduff  
Joe McHugh  
Dale McLaughlin  
Linda Neiderhoffer  
Dennis & Terry  
O'Neal  
Donna Phillips  
Marjorie Porter  
Sarah Robinson  
Josh Schulz  
Rosalind Skiff  
Patty VanHouten  
Leona Walthorn

### The Families of

Carol Brown  
Ernie Chinavare  
Susan Satansky  
Heather Barley  
Curtiss Dunn  
Katherine Lincoln  
Doug McPhearson  
Obb Mix  
Alan Vigland  
Lucy House

### **Military People**

Matt Conrad  
Cheyenne DuBois  
Mike Kinney  
Clark Robinson  
Ryan Ruddy



## Dine Out For Benzie Area Christian Neighbors

At

The Mayfair Tavern in Elberta and Geno's Sports Bar & Grill in Thompsonville on Tuesday, February 2nd and 10% of your dinner bill will be donated to BACN



# *First Congregational Church of Frankfort*

## February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	01 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class  Oliver Simmons	02 <i>Groundhog Day</i>	03 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 4:00 p.m. Worship Meeting 7:30 p.m. Choir  David Koenig	04 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4:30 p.m. Sesquicentennial Meeting 5:15 p.m. Outreach Meeting  Ryan Strom	05	06   Evin Elias Peggy & Ralph Jackson
07 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion & Sunday School  3:00 p.m. Grief Group at Trinity Lutheran Church  Norma Bruinsma Marti Davis	08 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class  Mark Conrad Asher Locicero	09 4:00 p.m. Property Mtg.   Jeff Frostic  Lori Dougherty Leslie McElduff	10 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class <div>12:00 p.m. Service of Ashes at FUMC</div> 4:00 p.m. Council <div>5:00 p.m. Service of Ashes at FCCF</div> 5:30 p.m. Supper 6:00 p.m. Bill's Bible Class 7:30 p.m. Choir	11 9:30 a.m. Yoga	12   Owen Chownyk	13   Colton Prance-Jewell Paul A. Robinson  Bob & Jan Condon
14 10:30 a.m. Hymn Sing & Worship & Sunday School  <i>Valentine's Day</i>  Molly Frostic	15 <i>President's Day</i> 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class  Amy King	16 <div>7:30 p.m. Supporting Our Kids at Frankfort HS</div>  Lacey Deloria	17 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class 7:30 p.m. Choir  Sharon Grajcar	18 9:30 a.m. Yoga  11:30 a.m. Ministerial Association at FCCF  Judy Grant Suzy Middleton	19	20 <div>Shiver By the River 11:00-3:00 p.m. Hot Chocolate at City Hall</div> Isabelle Osborn Kati Prance Mary Yang
21 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School	22 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class	23	24 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class <div>5:30 p.m. Supper &amp; AI's Academy with Julie Hirschfeld</div> 7:30 p.m. Choir	25 9:30 a.m. Yoga   Freddie Kolehmainen Cooper Rath	26 <div>7:30 p.m. Supporting Our Kids at Benzie HS</div>	27  Phil Deloria Kris Dykstra Josie Mendoza  Bill & Molly Frostic Michael & Sharon Grajcar
28 10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School	29 10:00 a.m. BalA VisX Group Class		7			

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Frankfort, MI 49635

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Anniversaries	1,7	7	John Walthorn, Larry Neuhardt John McElduff, Chris Porter	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!)
Announcements	1, 3, 5, 6 & 7			
Birthdays	1, 7	14	Betty & Fred Milliron Candace Nostrandt, Ann Porter	
Calendar	7			
Greeters	8	21	Mary Reed, Andrea Frost Mary Ann Harness, Sue King	
Prayer List	6			
Thank You’s	4, 5			
Ushers	8	28	Paul & Ann Osborn Bill Hirschfeld, Leslie McElduff	
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