



First Presbyterian Church Buchanan, Michigan

APRIL 2023

CONTACT:

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115 W. Front St.

Buchanan, MI 49107

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JOIN US IN PERSON:

Sunday Worship at 10:00

ONLINE:

FACEBOOK

www.firstpresbuchanan.org

"For it will be like a man 'going on a journey,' who called his servants and entrusted to them his property."

- Matthew 25:14

OUTLOOK

*Called to share the love of God in Christ,
we value God's creation and
embrace all God's children.*

Dear FPC Buchanan Family and Friends,

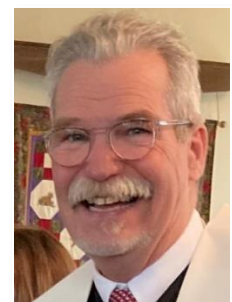
Our lives are very busy. Our daily journeys take us in a million directions. With so much going on, it's often difficult for us to see Easter as anything more than just another holiday or another forerunner of spring. But Easter was never intended to be simply a spiritual bump on the path to self-fulfillment: Easter is intended to be a totally new road.

Easter is just the right time to alter the road you are traveling, to reconsider where it's leading, and to discern whether that's really the direction you want to go. Though we realize our journey takes us through and to different spaces and places, we are not born with a GPS system. And so, often we are not certain of where we are or where we're going.

Don't stress. It's alright. Easter is an invitation to get ourselves together and chart the journey to a new place, a new kind of life. The Easter invitation may cause anxiety for some travelers who may not accept what it has to offer. But the One who has indeed traveled this way before, offers us signs of what is to come.

Easter is Jesus' story and Jesus' invitation to experience life as it was intended. As a faith community we are dedicated to trek the road God has prepared for us. Along the way we share both the joys and concerns that all travelers experience and wonder at the surprises ahead of us. Easter is a significant moment in our lives when it is incumbent on us to decide whether to travel in the rush hour traffic, or to trust God's plan.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor David





"Well done good and faithful servant."

- Matthew 25:21

Alfred Eugene Eaton, born January 16, 1932 and long-time member and active leader at FPC Buchanan, entered the Church Triumphant on March 7, 2023. We extend our sympathies and prayers to his wife, Bonnie (Poorman), who married Al in 1957 in this church, and to his loving children and family. Al's love of the Lord and devotion to family, church and community will be cherished always.

Fellowship, Food, and Gratitude

March 19th, following Worship, many gathered to enjoy a potluck. Provisions were generously donated by members plus the family of Al Eaton, whose memorial luncheon was held the previous day. Thanks to all involved. And thank you, Lord, for this church which you have so abundantly blessed, and for families and friends, past and present. Most of all, we praise you for the opportunities given to share in service for you.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

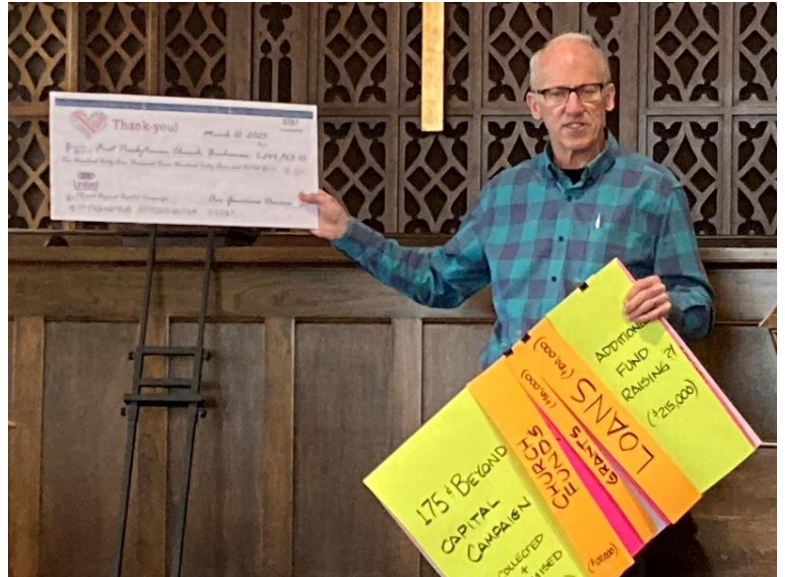
The March 12th reports included those from:

- Pastor
- Miscellaneous. Committees
- Financials
- Capital Campaign

Approvals for:

- 2023 Budget
- Nomination of Officers

Thanks to Pat Johnson for her dedicated compilation of the Annual Report. Copies are available in the office.



SESSION 2024 CLASS

Tom Gordon
David Coulston
Pat Johnson

SESSION 2023 CLASS

Jan Ivkovich
Dru Wrasse
Johanna Money

DEACONS 2023 CLASS

Grace Gordon
Mary Aalfs
Evelyn Cole

Church is not a place. It's a body – a family with blood ties through Jesus Christ.



				
PALM SUNDAY April 2, 10AM First Pres. Buchanan	MAUNDY THURSDAY April 6, 6PM First Pres. Buchanan	GOOD FRIDAY (BAMA) April 7, 6PM <u>Church of the Nazarene</u>	EASTER SUNDAY April,9, 10AM First Pres. Buchanan	KIDS' EGG HUNT * April 9, 11AM First Pres. Buchanan

*Call Miss Dru (574.904.4414) to report how many kids you're bringing to Egg Hunt.



Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP).



 **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, **OGHS is the single, largest way** that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Typically received during Lent (February 22 – April 9), each gift to *One Great Hour of Sharing* supports three individual programs and areas of assistance. Donations can be made using the special pew envelopes, or the take-home banks for daily giving.

BEYOND 175 YEARS WITH RENEWED VISION, NEW MISSION

Since 1847 FPC has created written or implied vision and mission statements for the purpose of giving us a mental picture of who we are and providing general guidelines for how that vision can be realized.

Periodically revised to meet the challenges of the times, the most recent statements were renewed in 2016. Several people have been eager to make updates designed to address our journey today, and on the road ahead. Two recent congregational gatherings produced a recommendation and delivered it to Session. It was approved in the format at right.

FPC BUCHANAN 2023 VISION/MISSION

“Called to share the love of God in Christ, we value God’s creation and embrace all God’s children.”

BDL's NEW SEED LIBRARY MIRRORS EARTHCARE MISSION

Since 2019, seed libraries across the State of Michigan have come together to promote growing, saving, and sharing seeds. This year **Buchanan District Library** joins the program and is happy to offer membership to local households *free of charge*. Seeds and growing tips are accessible to all when you visit BDL:

- Fill out membership form.
- Pick up seeds.
- Enjoy growing and harvest.
- Save some seeds to return to BDL next year.
- And/or consider donating current, commercially packaged, open-pollinated seeds.

As an EarthCare Congregation, we congratulate and thank BDL for offering this valuable new program to our community.



OUR FIRST CHURCH MOUSE TELLS US: “I recently heard someone saying, “If I die before the elevator’s installed, promise to take my ashes for a ride!” Also mentioned: “Her initials are “B.G.”

Join our *Church Mouse Team!* If you see or hear of anyone going above and beyond with service to God, church, or community, or by bringing joy through humor, contact Allison.



Coming Soon!

“Getting to Know Our Peeps”

A new column will be introduced in the May Outlook. It will feature some of the longest-standing members of our church family. Dedicated to re-discovering our common love of God in Christ, we will also explore their ideas for accomplishing God’s mission at FPC.

28th ANNIVERSARY EMPTY BOWLS

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
4pm-7pm
Buchanan High
School Gym

JUST \$5/person – Pick out a handmade clay bowl to take home. Choose from a soup (including vegetarian), chili, or mac and cheese. All profits are donated to RAM. Made possible by a partnership of Roti Roti Art Center of Buchanan, Buchanan Community Schools, Redbud Area Ministries, local potters, and continuing generosity of local merchants, area foundations, and Buchanan’s caring community.

CHURCH LADIES’ ATTIC SALE *June 9-10* 9am-4pm

Bring in your items to sell starting Sunday, June 4th and place in south end of Fellowship Hall. Volunteers are welcome. (The fun is free)



A BRIDGE
BUILT WITH
GOD'S
MIRACLES

For years, we've been called to extend God's love and word by improving accessibility in our facilities, Buchanan and beyond. Last June we began building a bridge toward that goal.

"If we choose to live by faith, we must open our eyes to see God's miracles, because the two go hand in hand."

- Emily Belle Freeman

10 MONTHS OF GOD'S MIRACLES + OUR FAITH

\$247,000 collected.

\$90,000 committed over next three years.

Imagine! A good portion of funds needed for the Elevator Initiative is poised to move forward. In less than one year!

FAITH IN GOD, HIS MIRACLES, THE FUTURE

The 175th Campaign Committee has prayerfully met nearly every Monday since last June. Agendas include research in grant availabilities (over 40 to date), loan potentials, investment standings, fund raising planning, and safe online giving.

This committee is devoted, like you, to that "first hammer hitting the wall." Together we can bridge the gap between the goal and reality of ADA compliance and more ways to serve God.

GIVING IS EASY

Cash or checks (made to FPCB):

- Regular Sunday donations in Campaign Fund envelope/collection plate)
- Mail: 115 West Front Street, Buchanan, MI 49107
- Phone – 269-695-6151
- Email – firstpreschurch115@gmail.com

Michigan Gateway Community Foundation for:

- Direct transfers of securities
- Qualifying charitable distributions
- Legacy giving
- Credit card contribution
- Checks (made to **MGCF**)



To contact **MGCF**, scan the QR code.

APRIL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2  Palm Sunday Liturgist: Jan Van Lear Assistant Treasures: Dru Wrasse & Dave Coulston	3	4	5	6 Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00 PM 	7	8
9 Easter Assistant Treasures: Pat Johnson & Jan Ivkovich Liturgist: Mary Aalfs 	10 30 Club Meeting 1:00pm in the Gathering Place	11	12	13	14	15
16 Liturgist: Dan Stenberg Assistant Treasures: Johanna Money & Jan Ivkovich	17	18 Session Meeting at 11AM Womens Assoc & Bible Study Meeting at 1PM	19 Book Club Meeting at 2PM in the Gathering Place	20	21 28th Annual Empty Bowls Soup Supper Friday, April 21st 4-7 @ BHS 	22  Earth Day
23 Liturgist: Pat Johnson Assistant Treasures: Johanna Money & Dave Coulston	24	25	26	27	28  ARBOR DAY	29
30 Liturgist: Boyd Nutting Assistant Treasures: Dru Wrasse & Pat Johnson						