

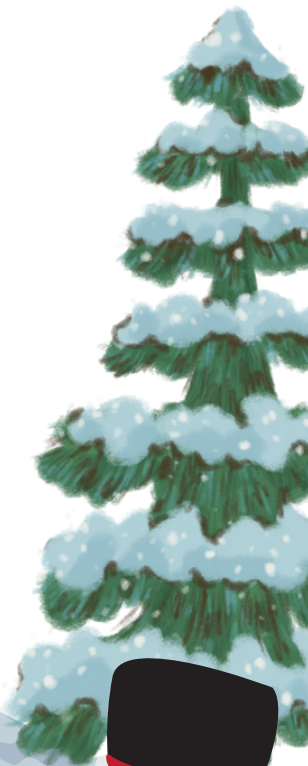


DECEMBER OUTLOOK

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF BUCHANAN**

**CALLED TO
SHARE THE
LOVE OF GOD
IN CHRIST,
WE VALUE
GOD'S
CREATION AND
EMBRACE ALL
GOD'S
CHILDREN.**

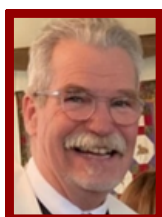
**115 WEST FRONT STREET
BUCHANAN, MICHIGAN**



FROM THE PASTOR

We as humans love stability. Our bodies are designed to operate within a narrow window of environments. Our minds prefer the status quo, fighting for it even if the status quo is not that great. Even in the times we want change, we are often looking to return to some previous state. In the midst of all this, the Advent of Christ can be quite a disruption. It upsets our normal way of being. It confronts us with some harsh realities, both about ourselves and our world. In Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of John 1, the Word "became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood." I love that image. Christmas with the baby Jesus lying in a manger is manageable. At the end of the night, we can give Jesus back to Mary and go home to our beds. But Jesus arriving in the neighborhood, moving in next door--- that's pretty disruptive! That means I might have to adjust my attitude around this new neighbor. I might need to change my behavior in light of his presence. And that's the point of Christmas. It is, in the words of O Holy Night, both about our "soul finding its worth" and the reality that the world still lays "in sin and error pining." The Advent of Christ is an invitation to lean into this disruption. To take stock of where we are, where we're going, and see if we need to make some changes. To appreciate the unimaginable gift of God that is Jesus in the manger, and then act on our gratitude in a hurting world. May we be disrupted this Christmas.

Grace and Peace
Pastor David





CHRISTMAS MARKET

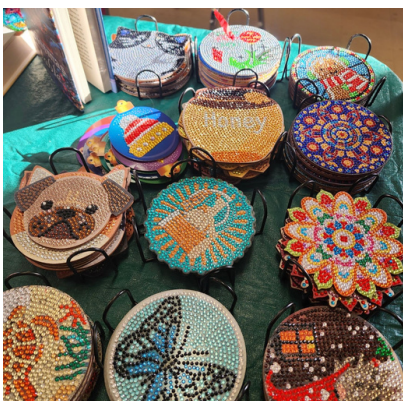
On Saturday, November 25, Fellowship Hall bustled with festive Christmas music, the buzz of crafters selling their wares, and joyful shoppers buying gifts for the holiday season.



The event, held in conjunction with the First Annual Bucktown Christmas Market was made up of a dozen local crafters who each paid a fee for booth space. Some vendors generously added raffle items to our proceed coffers.



Other FPC proceeds came from a few of our old cookbooks (Mary Aalfs), bake sale (Evelyn Cole and Linda Mix), sloppy joe lunch (Bert Garcia and Annette Wesner), sales from David Coulston's photography and fine art resin pieces courtesy of Dru Wrasse's sister. All in all, nearly \$800 was raised for our elevator fund! Thanks to ALL involved.



And kudos to Victoria Henderson and "company" – husband, Derek; kids, Alex, Maddie, and Ameilia; and to Will Golembieski for concept-to-cleanup of the entire event! What a blessing to have Team Henderson among us! Thanks be to God.

NOTE: Donated wrappings left from the event can be reclaimed in Fellowship Hall. Or stop and shop for holiday papers and bags with a free will offering! Plenty to choose from.

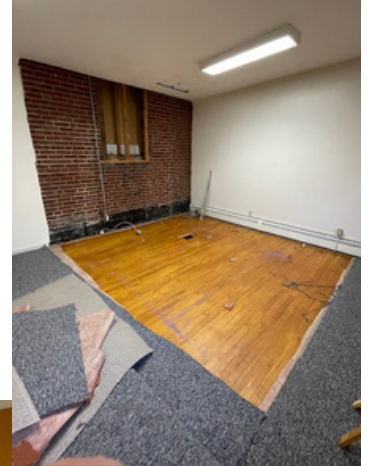
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

During late November Pearson Construction began major work on our elevator project. The status now is as follows:

1. Elevator shaft base has been excavated and the concrete foundation has been poured.
 2. Materials for constructing the shaft have been delivered and staged in the parking lot area.
 3. Upstairs, floors and ceilings have been prepared for shaft construction.
 4. Care has been taken to minimize the impact of this work on the normal church activities in these areas.
- Notes: It is necessary to use significant space in our parking lot for storage of materials and equipment during this construction phase. Please be flexible and understanding when parking and utilize spaces on the street or in the city lot to the east of our building when necessary.

Also during November we have installed the new boiler element in the annex's heating system.

R. Warner



Photos by Dave Coulston



NOTES FOR DECEMBER

Updated Per Capita 2024 is \$40.05

December 10th- Chrismon Service 10:00am, WMS Meeting following Service.

December 19th- Women's Association Meeting

December 24th- Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm There will be NO morning service.

December 31st- New Years Eve Service at New Good Hope Church at 11:00am.

December 25th-27th the church office will be closed.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

December 3rd- Pat Johnson and Annette Wesner

December 10th- Alex and Andrew Bentham

December 17th- Tom and Grace Gordon

December 24th- Johanna Money and Mary Aalfs



Liturgists:

December 3rd- Beth Murphy

December 10th- Cheryl Warner

December 17th- Louann Gardner

December 24th- Tom Gordon

Assistant Treasurers

December 3rd- Jan Ivkovich & Johanna Money

December 10th- Jan Ivkovich & Dave Coulston






December 17th- Dru Wrasse & Pat Johnson

December 24th- Johanna Money & Dave Coulston

DECEMBER 2023



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
 CHRISMON SERVICE WMS MEETING						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		WOMENS ASSOCIATION MEETING 1-3PM	BOOK CLUB MEETING			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT 5PM	MERRY CHRISTMAS					
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
 SERVICE AT NEW GOOD HOPE CHURCH AT 11AM						

