



*First Presbyterian Church
Buchanan, Michigan*

MARCH 2023

CONTACT:

269.695.6151

115 W. Front St.

Buchanan, MI 49107

firstpreschurch115@gmail.com

JOIN US IN PERSON:

Sunday Worship at 10:00

ONLINE:

FACEBOOK 

www.firstpresbuchanan.org

OUTLOOK

*Enlightening our faith. Energizing Christ's Church.
Engaging God's love in Buchanan and beyond.*

During Black History Month, I was reminded of the following quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s. "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," that we as humans "are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be...This is the inter-related structure of reality."

We live in an era of division, when we can silo ourselves into bubbles of social media, news, race, economic status. We can wall ourselves off from the problems of the world and be fed a constant diet of self-affirming information. King's statement reminds us that we are made for more than this. That we are not simply individuals. We are the family of God. We are woven together with others in our church, in Buchanan, and in our country. We are, as King says, only who we ought to be when we are in community.

So how might we continue to weave this garment here at First Presbyterian Church of Buchanan? How might we build community with those who don't look like us, or pray like us or do things the way we do? The message of Jesus is one of grace and community of the messianic banquet where all are gathered. May we continue to offer welcome to all who are hungry.

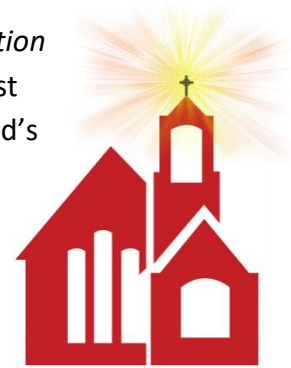


Grace and Peace,
Pastor David



2016 VISION STATEMENT: (Mental picture of what we want to achieve.) “To know God and Make God Known.”

2016 MISSION STATEMENT: (General assertion of how the vision will be achieved.) “We exist to build loving relationships with God all God’s Creation.”

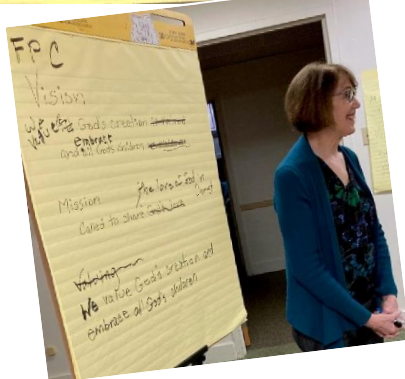


Since 1847 FPC has developed written or implied vision and mission statements to help define who we are for that time and to set goals for where we believe God is asking us to go. Because the last revision was in 2016, many have suggested that updates to meet today’s challenges are overdue. For that purpose, two congregational gatherings were held February 20 and 27.

Thanks to all participants who filled the Gathering Room with inspired ideas, prayer and traditional Presbyterian humor. Special thanks to Dru Wrasse for serving as discussion leader/ refreshment provider and to Jan Van Lear for her infamous split pea soup.

After approval by Session, the revised statements will be introduced to the congregation.

Serving the local + global community
 Being Christ's hands + feet in the world!
 Answering God's Call - what is it for us?
 Where is God leading us?
 Engaging God's love in Rochester + beyond
 Welcoming Everyone Love
 To know God's love to show God's love
 Sharing God's love with you
 Called to share God's love with you



*Celebration
Coaches and
Teams.*

*Ready...
Set...
Go.*



A big shoutout to Jan Ivkovich for serving as FPC's very first Celebration Coach at the February 13th Mardi Gras Fellowship Hour. Thank you, Jan, for a joyous pre-Lenten gathering!

God invites you to share the joy of His love by signing up as Coach for just one event during one month in 2023. You can recruit team members from your own family or even friends you've been wanting to invite to church.,,a great way to comfortably welcome visitors!

If you have your own activity idea, bring it to Session for discussion. God and FCP Buchanan *encourage your creativity.*

For more signup information, see the note from Allison on page 7 of this newsletter, or call her at the church office: 269-695-6151.



God's Newest GPS

175+ years of searching for God's guidance has often amazed FPC Buchanan. At the mid-January *Double-Dawg-Dare Meeting*, we asked for ideas to organize, simplify, and re-energize our outreach and ministry programs in 2023. God's answer to our prayers: Two new road maps for our journey ahead.



EVENT COMMITTEES REINVENTED

- Volunteer to Coach **one event** in 2023. (See list at right or bring your own ideas to Session.)
- Call Allison at the church office to reserve your activity and date.
- Recruit your Team from among church family, the community, and your own family / friends to help you with the event.
- Have FUN!

1

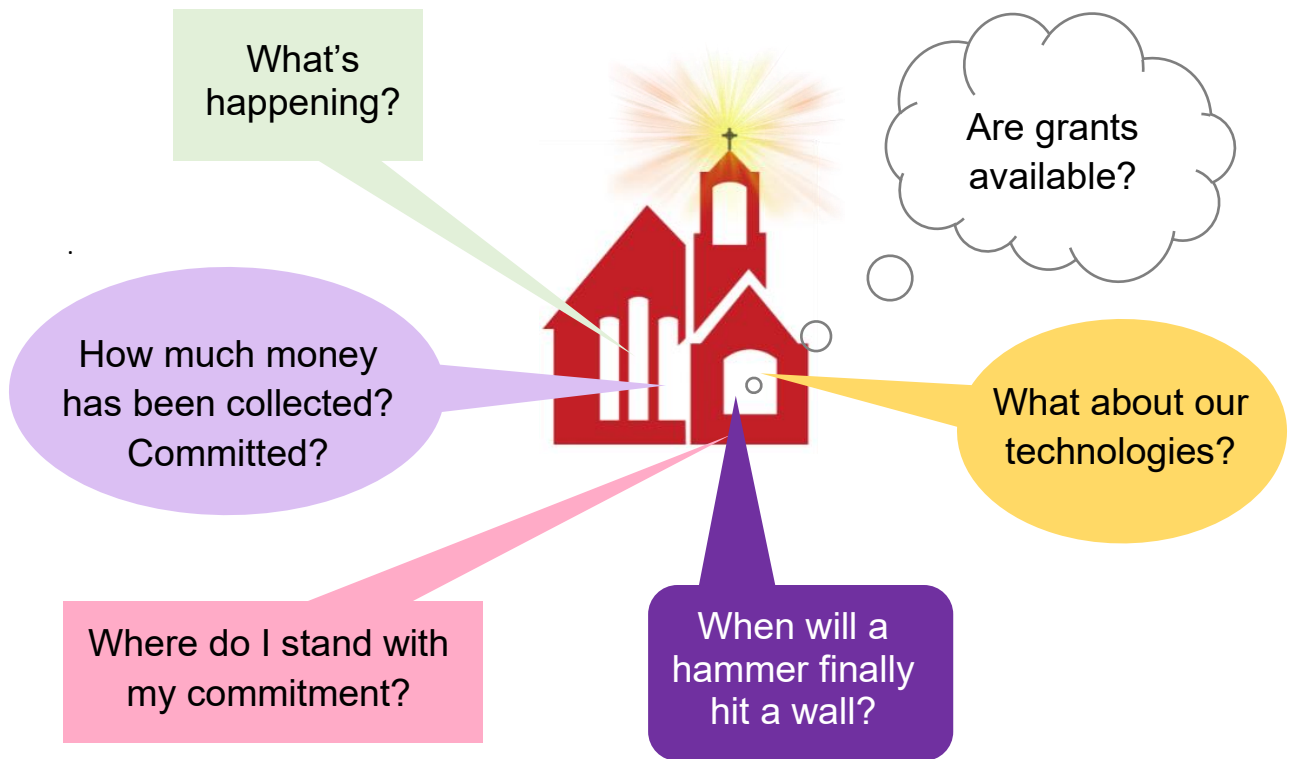
NEW EVENT IDEAS

- Educational lectures.
- Art enrichment classes, events.
- Concerts open to community.
- Rent building to (vetted) groups.
- Takeout dinners.
- Special Fellowship Gatherings.
- International dinners (Madagascar).
- Bring your own ideas to Session.

2

Only Three Months Available for Coach/Team Sign-up!

JANUARY N/A	FEBRUARY Mardi Gras Fellow. Coach: Jan Ivkovich Ash Wednesday	MARCH AVAILABLE	APRIL TBD – CPR Training Coach: Pat Johnson
MAY AVAILABLE	JUNE AVAILABLE	JULY TBD – “Make It, Take It” Crafts Coach: Beth Murphy	AUGUST AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER TBD – Chestnut Sales Coach: Tom Wrasse	OCTOBER TBD – Blessing Animals Coach: Louann Gardner	NOVEMBER TBD – Photos. Calen. Coach: David Coulston	DECEMBER TBD – Bethel College Christmas Concert Coaches: Bert Garcia & Annette Wesner



Much has happened since last June when the 175th Campaign Fund kicked off our ADA Compliance Initiatives. A mountain of data has been collected as cost estimates and timelines were affected by Covid-related supply chain and contractor issues.

Acting as the engine driving this next important step in our history is the 175th Committee, meeting nearly every week since June 2022.

The team agrees: God's grace and guidance is leading us to an exciting and successful future in Buchanan and beyond.

NOT JUST ANOTHER ANNUAL MEETING

March 12
Following Worship

DON'T MISS IT!
BRING QUESTIONS.
GET ANSWERS.



LOOKING AHEAD
On March 19, join us for a long-overdue potluck following Worship in Fellowship Hall. In addition to a dish to pass, bring your responses to the March 12 Congregational Gathering for casual discussion.



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
BUCHANAN



111 Days Avenue, Buchanan, MI 49107

*“And I will
establish my
covenant
between me
and thee and
thy seed after
thee in their
generations
for an
everlasting
covenant, to be
a God unto
thee, and to
thy seed after
thee.”*

Genesis 17:7

Opening More Doors

For over 175 years, the First Presbyterian Church of Buchanan has sought to be a safe and inclusive place to gather and worship.

Our initiative to meet the accessibility requirements of the ***Americans With Disabilities Act*** are designed to create new opportunities for groups and organizations to worship and meet in our building.

We want to provide you with ways to invest in the future of our church and community as safely, transparently, and conveniently as possible.

Giving is Easy

First Presbyterian Church Buchanan will continue to accept cash or checks (made out to FPCB) directly through:

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

Michigan Gateway Community Foundation can help with:

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

To contact Michigan Gateway Community Foundation, visit the link below or scan the QR code.

https://mgcf.org/become-a-donor/#_givealways



From The Office

Do you have an important church event, or meeting planned? Please make sure you notify the church office. Some easy ways to notify the office are:

- [Google Sheets](#); If you are having trouble using this, please feel free to reach out and you can schedule a time to come into the office and I would be more than happy to help you.
- [Email or Call](#) the church office at firstpreschuch115@gmail.com or [269-695-6151](tel:269-695-6151). When doing so state: Name of Event, Date, Time, where you plan to meet.



This helps ensure that there are no other events or meetings scheduled at the same time. It also helps the church office keep everyone in the loop.

Thank You,
Allison, Office Assistant

Symptoms of Inner Peace

By Saskia Davis

Be on the lookout for symptoms of inner peace. The hearts of a great many already have been exposed; and it is possible that people, everywhere, could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what, up to now, has been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

1. A loss of interest in judging other people.
2. A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based upon past experience.
3. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
4. A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
5. A loss of interest in conflict.
6. A loss of the ability to worry
7. Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
8. Contented feeling of connectedness with others and nature.
9. Frequent attacks of smiling
10. An increased tendency to let things happen rather than make things happen.
11. An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others, as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Do you know a Church Mouse?

Is there someone you think deserves recognition for their good deeds? Or do you know of someone who's hard work goes unrecognized? Help us recognize them by being our "Church Mouse". Whenever you see someone that is going that extra mile or lending a helping hand, write into the church office to have it featured in the monthly newsletter. All you have to do is write a letter, or email in your submission stating who, and what you saw that person doing to deserve the spotlight.



‘Inward Work for Outward Living’ Daily Reflections for Lenten Study

GREAT COURSES LED BY TOM WRASSE

Thursday evenings, 6-7 pm, continuing throughout Lent, join leader Tom Wrasse for the academic lecture series, “The Triumph of Christianity” by Dr. Bart D. Ehrman. The series will include a ½ hour video followed by discussion. For more information, go to: [The Triumph of Christianity \(thegreatcourses.com\)](http://TheTriumphofChristianity(thegreatcourses.com)). Since each lesson stands alone, participants need not attend every Thursday.



“Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

- Mark 17

Dear FPC Buchanan Family and Friends,

With a different theme for each week of Lent, you are invited to explore the connection between internal contemplation and outward action. Themes include:

- Fear to live with faith.
- Pain to live with healing.
- Dishonesty to live with truth.
- Joy to live with gratitude.
- Love to live with heart.
- Burdens to live with blessing.

Each daily reflection will combine personal reflection with meditation, visualization, and short prayers. The prayers can be used as mantras or breath prayers: breathe in praying the first phrase, breathe out praying the last. We will meet briefly after church in the Gathering Room to share our reflections on the week’s theme. May God bless you and keep you on your Lenten journey.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor David*

You should receive a weekly email to include daily reflections for that week. If you do not, please contact Pastor David.

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	4
5 <u>Communion</u> Liturgist: Grace Gordon Assistant Treasures: Pat Johnson & Johanna Money Snow Lottery: Chris & Tia Lee	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <u>Post Annual Cong. Meeting after Service</u> Liturgist: Cheryl Warner Assistant Treasures: Jan Ivkovich & Dru Wrasee Snow Lottery: Tom Gordon	13 30 Club Meeting 1:30pm in the Gathering Place	14	15 Book Club Meeting at 2:00pm in the Gathering Place	16	17	18
19 Liturgist: Dru Wrasse Assistant Treasures: Johanna Money & Pat Johnson Snow Lottery: Chris & Tia Lee	20	21 Session Meeting at 11AM Womens Assoc & Bible Study Meeting at 1PM	22	23	24	25
26 Liturgist: Louann Gardner Assistant Treasures: Jan Ivkovich & Dru Wrasse Snow Lottery: Dave Coulston	27	28	29	30	31	