

OUTLOOK

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



Courtesy David Coulston

First Presbyterian Church
Buchanan, Michigan

MAY 2023

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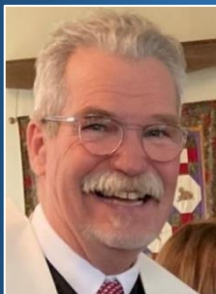
JOIN US IN PERSON:

Sunday Worship at 10:00

ONLINE:

Facebook

www.firstpresbuchanan.org



Pastor David Habicht

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR EARTH DAY

Holy Spirit, you have given us an inner being that longs to be connected with you. We are drawn to leave the concrete and pavement to walk on the earth, to ride the wild rivers, and breathe the clean air. We long for an open place where our eyes take in the full sky and behold the canopy of the universe. We look into the stars and imagine what other forms of creation might be out there and wonder how you reveal yourself to them. O Lord, we glorify your creation in psalms, poems, music, paintings, and photography. But we live as if creation is disposable and we turn away from the reality that someday psalms, poems, music, paintings, and photos will be the only evidence that there was ever an earth that was pure. When you willed humankind into existence in your divine image the very first words you spoke to humans were the instructions to have dominion over the earth. Dominion. Not domination. Loving God, you have blessed humans with the ability to think, to reason, to develop ideas. Inspire us, Lord, and help us inspire others to use our intelligence to develop alternatives to what we are doing, help us find a way to live that does not require draining all our resources to sustain it. Move us to an appreciation of what we have been given and to take to heart our responsibility to care for this gift. When we defer our responsibility as stewards of the earth, we also deny our connection with the earth and we deny our connection with each other. We deny our connection with you. Eternal God, it is from you that all blessings flow. May those blessings flow upon us as clean rain that nourishes the earth and produces wondrous abundance. May we, in turn, bless others till all creation exists in your grace and that you will forever look at it and call it good. In the name of the Triune God we pray. Amen.

FAITH *family* FRIENDS

2023 EASTER BLESSINGS

Each year the FPC Buchanan family comes together in praise for the priceless gift of God's only Son. And the Holy Spirit never fails to enrich us with an ever-deepening faith and love for Him and each other.



*"How good and pleasant
it is when God's people
live together in unity."*

- Psalm 133:1

Easter 2016



Easter 2011



Bake Sale 2012



May 2016



High Tea 2013



May 2010





Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel, author of Presbyterian Women's Association Bible Study, "Celebrating Sabbath – Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight."

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION SPRING GATHERING

Bert Garcia, Jan Van Lear, Pat Johnson, and Dru Wrasse represented our church at the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering in Holland, Michigan on April 22nd. Seventy-eight women from the western side of the state gathered to hear Rev. Dr. Carol Bechtel, author of our 2023 Bible Study, "Celebrating Sabbath - Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight."

We were inspired by her talk, "Come Live in the Light," that in this day when the world seems an edgy place to live, we can take comfort in Philippians 4:6-7: "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Carol led us through Psalm 46, basis for the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and often-quoted phrase, "Be still and know I am God."

Members of the host church recounted its' history and extensive renovation, just completed. During the worship service the offering of over \$1,000 was dedicated to the church's pre-school. It has been their mission for over 60 years to offer the least expensive pre-school education which includes connecting and nurturing parents, many of whom have joined the church.

The church also partners with "Resilience," a mission to take in and restore victims of abuse with shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and job training for self-sufficiency. We were asked to bring new women's clothing to the meeting and over \$1,600 worth was collected for Resilience.

Story by Dru Wrasse

CHURCH
LADIES'
ATTIC SALE
June 9-10
9am-4pm

Bring your items to sell starting Sunday, June 4th and place in south end of Fellowship Hall.



Bake Sales Return

- MAY 20
- AUGUST 5
- SEPTEMBER 30

Please drop off donation items at church prior to 8am, or to our booth at Farmer's Market.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR PEEPS

Q: How long have you attended FPCB?

A: We joined the church in 1985 when we came to Buchanan, however many years. That is a long time.

Q: Why do you love FPCB?

A: It is an absolutely marvelous place to worship God. The congregation is the most loving of any place I know.

Q: Do you have a favorite memory over the years?

A: Oh Golly, I taught Sunday School for absolutely years and years, I have a lot of memories of those children. I guess I think when my husband died, which was 31 years ago, I just felt like that church wrapped me in a blanket of love. People were so wonderful, which I needed at the time. It meant a great deal to me.

Q: Has there been a God-sighting in your lifetime that has made an impact on you?

A: I have God-sightings every day, Allison – from the birds to the trees, to the animals, you know the deer. We were having an installation of a pastor at our church, and whatever the speaker was talking about made me think that (because I was getting tired of teaching Sunday School to the children) that really was my calling. Whatever they said it was like God speaking to me and saying, “You keep it up, Lady.” So, I did.

Q: Do you have a Favorite Hymn, and/or Bible Verse?

A: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Philippians 4-13. My favorite hymn would have to be “In the Garden” because I feel that God is by me, for me, and through me constantly. That song reminds me of that.



BERT GARCIA
Longtime FPCB Member

“It was such a pleasure getting to chat with Bert and learning more about her. Each month we will have similar interviews with ‘vintage’ members. I look forward to getting to know each one of you.”

*Interview by
Allison Gouin*

Celebrating Earth Day

Feature Story by Allison Gouin

Here at FPBC we are blessed to have Green Team that helps us stay connected to God's earth. In 2017 the church was certified as an Earth Care Congregation by the Presbyterian Hunger Program. This is a big accomplishment, and we are very happy and proud to call ourselves an Earth Care Congregation.

Last year the Green Team planted chestnut trees on the hill, in the parking lot behind the church building. Along with planting and tending our own garden, the Green Team shares harvests with our friends at RAM, providing them with fresh, local produce.



"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."

- Psalm 24:1



Below is the Green Team's fearless leader, Mr. Tom Wrasse. Tom is very well-versed on all things green: plants, gardens, trees, etc. We are very blessed to have him leading us in caring for our earth and those around us. Thank you for all you do, Tom!



RECYCLING / DISPOSAL EVENT
BERRIEN COUNTY LANDFILL
Saturday May 13th 8am-12pm

Accepted Items: Household Chemicals, Electronics
(some fees apply), Foam/Polystyrene,
Personal Documents for On-Site Shredding

ON OUR MARKS...

The 175th Campaign Committee has prayerfully met nearly every Monday since June 2022. In order to raise funds for our ADA Compliance initiatives, agendas included grant availabilities, loan advisability/potentials, research on investment standings, fund raising/planning, and safe online giving and much more. At long last, God's miracles have led us to begin Phase I! Session has agreed to notify and authorize Pearson Construction to proceed. They will notify the architects and take immediate steps to begin pre-construction inspections for potential environmental issues. Prepare for many changes in the building and room usage as we proceed to hearing the "first hammer hit the wall." Get ready...get set...volunteers soon be called to action!

"But if I were you, I would appeal to God; I would lay cause before him. He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted."

- Job 5:8-9

11 MONTHS OF GOD'S MIRACLES + OUR FAITH =

- Nearly \$250,000 collected.
- \$90,000 committed over next three years.
- Loan initiatives in process for balance needed.

GIVING IS STILL 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.



Still Hiring...
Great Benefits
Kids Welcome!










A couple of newsletters ago, we announced job openings for the "Church Mouse Team." It's easy: 1) observe folks doing good deeds, 2) report to Allison. Your benefits? Automatically become:

- A vital part of building our community of Christian love.
- More in tune with how and why we're growing.
- Actively involved in praising God by sharing thankfulness.

No application needed. Flex-schedule. Just ask a few questions on your own time, then contact the church office at 269.695.6151. They'll handle the rest.

REMEMBER...IT'S **GOD'S** CHURCH. WE ARE ALL HIS CHILDREN. IT TAKES **ALL** OF US TO BE HIS FAMILY!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				 National Day of Prayer		 Spring Clean Up Day 9-12
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship Music & Sacraments Meeting following Service Mother's Day	14	15	Session Meeting 11AM Womens Assoc & Bible Study 1PM	 Book Club 2PM	18	 Bake Sale 8-1PM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 Pentecost Sunday	 Memorial Day					
28	29	30	31			

MAY

Liturgists:

May 7th - Tom Gordon
 May 14th - Johanna Money
 May 21st - Dave Coulston
 May 28th - Dan Stenberg

Assistant Treasurers:

May 7th - Pat Johnson & Jan Ivkovich
 May 14th - Pat Johnson & Johanna Money
 May 21st - Dave Coulston & Johanna Money
 May 28th - Dave Coulston & Jan Ivkovich

NOTES:

- May 28th is Pentecost Sunday, Please Make Sure to wear **Red** to the service.
- May 20th there will be a Bake Sale from 8am-1pm. Please bring all the sweets you can to contribute.
- Don't forget to be implementing your events into Google Sheets or else your meeting/event may be cross scheduled with another group.