

A watercolor illustration of autumn foliage, including clusters of orange berries and various leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and green, framing the top and sides of the page.

NOVEMBER 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 . . .

Dear FPC Buchanan Family and Friends,

Often, when we ask ourselves about that for which we are grateful, we express thanks for the things we have—family, friends, jobs, community, a meal, a roof over our heads, recovery, our health, the well-being of people we love, healthcare, the end of treatment for an illness, the beauty of the earth. And (can I get an Amen?) we are (and should be) grateful for all of that—God has abundantly blessed us in so many material and relational ways.

But how about giving thanks for the experiences that are not material and are, at least on the surface, not so positive? These kinds of things, when faithfully experienced, end up as a bucketful of life lessons learned and souls deeply transformed. This prayer of thanksgiving, written by a pastor and poet, does just that—it offers thanksgiving for “those other things”—and it really spoke to my heart. I am so glad for it. Maybe you will be able to use it as well. Maybe you will even be able to share it at your Thanksgiving Table this year... for these are universal experiences for which we all can be grateful.

Touch Holiness

by Maren C. Tirabassi

*Today we offer thanksgiving for those other things,
For troubles that shape and sharpen our patience,
for doubts that let faith moments shine,
and for confusions that keep our lives from being rigid.
For sufferings that help us share another's grief,
for fears that mark real terror in the world,
And for pains that open our eyes to joy.
For sorrows that join our hands to hope
and for loneliness that leads us to the heart of God
For all these gifts by which we have become
more human, we give thanks.
Let our thanks reach out
and embrace the daily small ingratitude of our lives.*



Grace and Peace,
Pastor David



PASTOR PAT POTLUCK

Wednesday, October 18, 2023



Not Pictured : Grace Gordon

After serving as Spiritual Leader for the 2023 Presbyterian Michigan Pilgrimage Retreat in Sturgis, Michigan earlier in October, former FPC Buchanan Pastor Pat Ramsden stopped by FPC Buchanan to share traditional Presbyterian potluck fare and a short visit with old friends before returning to her home in Scotia Village, Laurinburg, North Carolina.



Construction Update

After the pre-bid surveys were completed in October, subcontractors have been selected based on their understanding of the projects, submission of their respective bids, and their previous work experiences with the general contractor. The next step is determining the proper sequencing of the individual parts to optimize efficiency and minimize time. Actual work is expected to begin in November.

Meanwhile, much work has been completed by 175th team members toward transitioning office spaces and to clear the initial work sites so that reconstruction can begin.

R. Warner



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

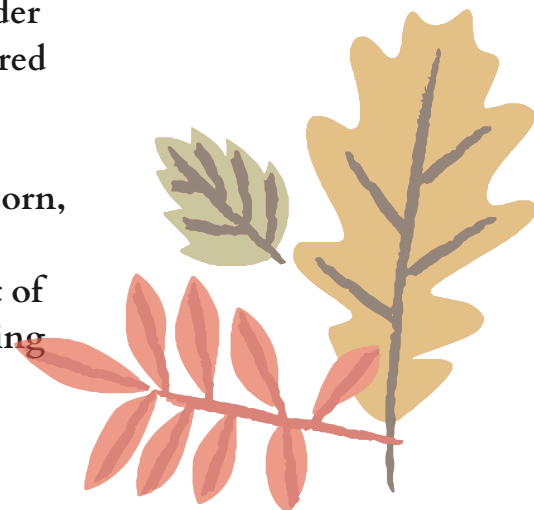
Thanks to those who helped with pre-event supplies and planning and especially those who provided last-minute, feet-on-the-ground setup help: Amy Bender, Ned Gardner, Pat Johnson, Mary Habicht, and Dave Coulston.



Numerous dog breeds, including a well-mannered “pack” of Retrievers, a cuddly chinchilla, a molting chicken, their human parents and other humans came together to worship our common Creator. Pastor David’s sermon helped us understand the special role animals can serve in our spiritual lives as the choir offered a full fare of musical offerings about God’s creation and His animals. Despite ad lib additions of a few new canine woofers, the choir did not drop a note. Thanks, Pastor, Heidi, and a special thanks to our new animal friends.

A presentation by Linda McClane, representative from Leader Dogs for the Blind, and her delightful sidekick, Apollo, shared first-hand knowledge of how much love and support God provides us through His animal kingdom. Fellowship Hour followed, complete with animal crackers, Milk Bones, popcorn, cider...and LOL!

In addition to our recent African Dinner and a growing list of special events, FPC Buchanan Celebration Teams are building roads that are leading us to new plans God has for us.





Just like God's creatures, each of us has been blessed with His love, special gifts and resources. He loves you and what you bring to His table. Seriously! Don't be shy! You have insights for special and unique ways to share fun, raise funds, and expand the FPC Buchanan mission of God's love here and beyond.

If you're interested in discussing ideas, or playing a part in FPC growth on a variety of available levels, just call or text Pat Johnson.

Submitted by Louann Gardner
Celebration Team Member

A VERY MERRY HALLOWEEN

Kudos to organizers Steve and Amy Bender and Victoria Henderson - our Gold-Medal Winter Olympiads of Trick or Treat Outreach. Despite the Blizzard, "herds" of fun-seeking treaters received the warm reach of God's love from the porch at 115 West Front Street. Thanks also to all who donated time, candy and resources.

TRICK
or TREAT



NOVEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		MEETING				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 MEETING						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
						
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
		MEETING				

NOTES

Liturgists:

Nov 5th- Johanna Money
 Nov 12th- Dan Stenberg
 Nov 19th- Pat Johnson
 Nov 26th- Jan Van Lear

Assistant Treasures:

Nov 5th- Dave Coulston & Jan Ivkovich
 Nov 12th- Pat Johnson & Johanna Money
 Nov 19th- Dave Coulston & Jan Ivkovich
 Nov 26th- Pat Johnson & Johanna Money

DON'T FORGET

Nov 5th: Communion

Nov 7th: Session Meeting 11:15am

Nov 11th: Church Work Day 9am-12pm

Nov 12th: Sunday School Bake Sale for Mission Giving following service. There will also be a WMS meeting after service.

Nov 23rd: THANKSGIVING (Office Closed)

Nov 28th: Session Meeting 11:00am