

# OUTLOOK

## First Presbyterian Church, Buchanan, Michigan

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

We've all just been handed something very special: a "brand, spanking-new" New Year with which to do some very special things. Or not. It's really up to us. Newness is something that is very popular in our American culture. Our resolve is high to make this year different than other years. But if the truth be told, the average time between the moment we make our resolutions, and their demise is a sad three weeks. By that time all the newness has been aired out of them – and they become mere chores. It's one of the reasons I don't make resolutions. Instead, I'd like to offer us a different focus on the year ahead. What are the most important "provisions" that you will need for the journey? When you think about the most challenging times in your life, what are the most important things that have tided you over?

Personally, I can think of some precious things that have gotten me through. Most of these things take up little or no physical space, which make sense because Jesus always encouraged his disciples to travel light. In Mark 6:8-9, Jesus "charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts: but to wear sandals

and not put on two tunics." His point was to focus them, not to be impoverished, but to clear their vision of material things so that they can clearly see the most precious provisions of all: other people, and the presence of God in those people.

Of the most precious things on my journey, I count the kind presence of friends in difficult times. I stockpile in my mind the sound of their voices. I also hoard up within my soul those moments when I have been transported by beauty far beyond the ordinary. The ring of truth in scripture; a perfect poem, or word of wisdom from a spiritual mentor. And those transcendent moments when I hear the voice of God through music or song. These are my provisions for the times the wind blows. So, at the beginning of this new journey of 2023, I ask you to contemplate this: Who and what are the real provisions of your life? Think of them and tuck them away in that special part of your heart that you reserve for precious things.

Grace and  
Peace,  
Pastor David



### JANUARY 2023

**CONTACT:**

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Buchanan, MI 49107

[firstpreschurch115@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreschurch115@gmail.com)

**JOIN US IN PERSON:**

Sunday worship at 10:00

**OR ONLINE:**

FACEBOOK 

[www.firstpresbuchanan.org](http://www.firstpresbuchanan.org)





CHRISMON TREE

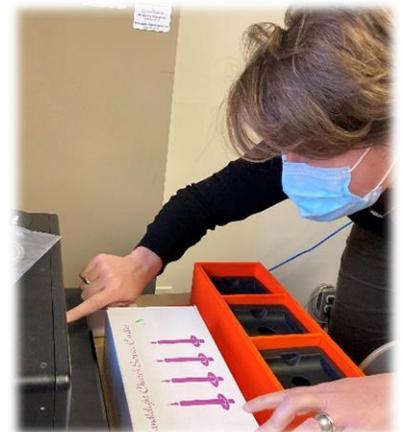


HOPE, LOVE,  
JOY, PEACE

*2022 Advent:  
Treasured  
Traditions*



GLORY TO GOD



A NEW BLESSING  
OF CHIMES

*"...and his name shall be called  
Wonderful, Counsellor, The  
mighty God, The everlasting  
Father, The Prince of Peace."*

*- Isaiah 9:6*

An arctic storm created impossible road conditions, forcing the cancellation of our traditional Christmas Eve Service. Lake Michigan Presbytery provided an online alternative, allowing us to share that experience at home. Yet, as always, memories of Christmases Past united us in worship and celebration.



*Christmases  
Past*



# Sharing God's love in Buchanan

## ADVENT CALENDAR FOOD DRIVE

According to the Mission Committee, the Advent Calendar Project was already a great success just three weeks into the season. More than 60 pounds of food was collected and delivered to RAM – with much more on the way.



## FPC MITTEN TREE

Each year, throughout Advent, our Christian Education Department sponsors a Christmas tree to be “decorated” by the congregation with winter hats, mittens, and scarves for RAM. Thank you, Dru Wrasse and Jan Ivkovich for your dedication to this FPC Christmas tradition.

## CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR LOCAL KIDS

This year the Mission Committee donated over \$200 to Buchanan's Toys for Tots, with distribution through RAM's annual program.



*“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.”*

- Proverbs 3:27

*“Clap your hands,  
all people! Shout to  
God with loud songs  
of joy!”*

- Psalms 47:1



Check out this photo! These people, candidly caught during a short rehearsal break just prior to Sunday worship, are actual FPC choir members (only ONE is a professional). If YOU'D like to have THIS much fun (at least once a week), check in with FPC Music Director, Heidi Ferris (front row, second from right).

*Double Dog  
Dare Ya'!*



## *Come Share Your Ideas and We'll Supply the Food!*

Do you love sharing food, fellowship, and fun through the joy of Christ? On Thursday, January 5, we are gathering in Fellowship Hall at 6pm to create our first-ever “Celebration Team.” **This will NOT be just another committee with a bunch of meetings!**

Bring your ideas and help brainstorm / create a 2023 calendar of irresistible, you-can't-miss-this-stuff, monthly programs for the congregation, church, and community.

In addition to furthering our 175 Years and Beyond fundraising efforts, the goals of the “Celebration Team” will be to plan and create ways to:

- *Enlighten our faith.*
- *Energize Christ's Church.*
- *Engage God's love in Buchanan and beyond.*

## 2022: Phase I – Elevator



Each activity or event at FPCB finds attendees maneuvering up and down stairways to reach common areas for worship, fellowship, or meetings. For many, this has become increasingly challenging. For others, it's impossible.

This was a year for giant leaps of faith at FPCB. After several years of research, it was decided that to better serve the community, we needed to launch an initiative that would meet accessibility requirements of the **Americans With Disabilities Act**. The objective: to create new opportunities for groups and organizations to worship and meet in our building.



Through the thick and thin of the pandemic, a parking lot wall collapse, seemingly insurmountable fiscal barriers, and more... **WE DID IT!** We **MET AND EXCEEDED** our original **Phase I goal**, with plans for construction and installation targeted for 2023.

It goes without saying that we are all passionate about Christ's love for us, our 175-year legacy, and the joy of building a successful future for FPCB. We thank all who have donated time, money, and resources to help move **Phase I** from blueprint to reality. With **Phases II and III (restroom and entrance compliances)** on the horizon, we gratefully continue to receive campaign money. Equally important, we seek the continued passion, talents, gifts, enthusiasm, and prayers of our congregation, families, and friends.

To realize these goals with enthusiasm and energy, it will take **all** of us, working, with God's help, toward creating His future for us... **together**.

2023:  
*Movin' On Up  
... Together*





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 to Buchanan’s Downtown Church***

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

To better serve the community, we have launched an initiative to meet the accessibility requirements of the ***Americans With Disabilities Act***. The planned improvements will create new opportunities for groups and organizations to worship and meet in our building.

To provide you with ways to invest in the future of our church and community we are also partnering with the ***Michigan Gateway Community Foundation***.

### ***Ways to Give***

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

- Regular Sunday donations.
- Mail – 115 West Front Street, Buchanan, MI 49107.
- Phone – 269-695-6151
- Email – [firstpreschurch115@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreschurch115@gmail.com).

**Michigan Gateway Community Foundation** will assist with safe, transparent, and convenient:

- 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/#\\_giveaways](https://mgcf.org/become-a-donor/#_giveaways)



**NOTE: Women's Assoc & Book Club in recess until March.**

# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day. No worship service. Snow lottery: Tom Wrasse & Doug Flannagan.	2 175 <sup>th</sup> weekly meeting, 10am.	3	4	5 <u>2023 "Double-Dog-Dare-Ya,"</u> <u>2023 Planning/Food/Fun/Fellowship Gathering,</u> <u>6pm.</u>	6	7
8 Liturgy: Johanna Money. Deacons host lunch, 11am. Snow lottery: Mike & Mary Aalfs. WMC mtg, 11am. Treas: Johanna Money, Tia Lee.	9 175 <sup>th</sup> weekly meeting, 10am.	10	11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day.	12	13	14
15 Liturgy: Mary Aalfs, Snow lottery: Tom Gordon, Treas: Johanna Money, Tia Lee.	16 175 <sup>th</sup> weekly meeting, 10am	17 Session Meeting 11am.	18 Begin Week of <b>Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU).</b>	19 <b>WPCU.</b>	20 <b>WPCU.</b>	21 <b>WPCU.</b>
22 Liturgy: Mary Aalfs, Snow lottery: Tom Gordon, Treas: Johanna Money, Tia Lee, <b>WPCU</b> , Per Capita Sun.	23 175 <sup>th</sup> weekly meeting, 10am, <b>WPCU.</b>	24 <b>WPCU.</b>	25 <b>WPCU.</b>	26	27	28
29 Liturgy: Tom Gordon, Snow lottery: Mike & Mary Aalfs, Treas: Pat Johnson, Jan Ivkovich.	30 175 <sup>th</sup> weekly meeting, 10am.	31				