



OUTLOOK

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUCHANAN

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175th
ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL EDITION

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175 YEARS & BEYOND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Dear Friends,

As we are wrapping up the "Commitment" Phase of our campaign, we want to thank all who were able to participate – whether with your commitments, your prayers, or your service. You joined many others in making our campaign a tremendous success!

If you were able to make a commitment – thank you, thank you, thank you!!! It has been recorded and will remain totally confidential. Should your circumstances change, necessitating an adjustment to your pledge, please notify Tom Gordon. It will greatly help in our continuing financial planning.

We realize that not everyone in the congregation was able to make a commitment toward our financial goal at this time. If, however, you find that your financial circumstances change and you want to join the many who have made commitments to this project, you can give your pledge to Tom Gordon or the church office.

You all are valued investors in this project and in the future vision of our church. As such, you will receive periodic updates on the progress of the campaign and the project. Our church leaders will do our very best to keep you informed.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Pastor

General Chair

Was our April Fool's Day wall collapse a hidden invitation? Was God trying to capture our attention with divine humor – just in time for the Celebration?

Together, perhaps we can learn to respond to God's invitations and interact with Him in new ways.



OUR FIRST “SIGN”

During the pandemic, Session and committee representatives continued to meet (online, of course) to prepare for possibility of an (if-ever) reopening. They faced a growing list of difficult issues, old and new – from mandatory ADA-compliant upgrades to potential new Christian programs for a post-Covid world.

Plans also continued for a 175th Church Anniversary Celebration and Capital Campaign, whose funds were targeted for several of those projects.

Meanwhile, created under 1950s building codes, the retaining wall

on the east side of the parking lot had weathered extreme climates as well as could be expected. But on April 1st, it succumbed to a downpour of spring rain.

“Are you SERIOUS, God?” some gasped. “First the pandemic. Now THIS...on April Fool's Day? With the Anniversary Celebration just two months away?”

Covid-weary, but fueled by faith (and God's humor), Session rallied to finish repairs just in time. And thanks to the generations of faithful souls before us, the project *was entirely paid for with existing funds!*

This means that existing and incoming campaign donations will remain targeted for the ADA-compliant projects in process: 1) an elevator installation, 2) handicap upgrades for lower-level restrooms, and 3) the parking lot entryway.

We thank God for the army of pioneers who preceded us at First Presbyterian Buchanan.

Blessings to the current facilitators of the wall project, the Celebration Committee and all those leading us in the Capital Campaign and beyond.

God, we love you, your infinite wisdom, and your divine, motivating humor.

SEE God's Light in everyday “miracles.”

“God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.”

1 John 1:5

Our world would have been unrecognizable to our church founders.

How would they have applied their faith to the pervasive effects of today's negativity?

As we grow beyond our first 175 years, perhaps the most important question we've *ever* faced is, "What's next?"

And you may ask:

"What, in the world can I do?"



WE VALUE YOU AND YOUR INPUT

What do you think God's plan is for FPC Buchanan for the next 175 years and beyond? While you prayerfully consider this, keep in mind our: 1) church family, 2) role in serving the community, and 3) becoming even brighter beacons of His light in a dark world.

Growing together in new ways in the coming months, we'll need prayers, participation, talents, and ideas from all who wish to communicate their unique love of God in meaningful ways.

(We also invite you to take notes. You may want to consider sharing them in the near future.)

A place where both worship and building use are multi-generational... to serve young parents and their children.

A place where all are nurtured to grow into their gifts - social, musical, academic, creative, and spiritual.

A place where people can safely tell their faith stories, share their doubts, ask hard questions, and share their unique experience of God.

IS GOD
NUDGING
YOU
ABOUT
OUR
FUTURE?

HEAR God's Light in unique ways through scripture, sermons and music.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

(Psalm 119:105)

Christ is Alive.

TRANSFORMING
...OUR LIVES
...OUR CHURCH
...OUR COMMUNITY
AND BEYOND!



Anais Edmee Christel Mondy, and Orlando Joseph Totobesola married in their native country, Madagascar. After the birth of their daughter, Anaelle Marie Kirsten, they began plans to realize some lofty dreams: to come to the United States, become citizens, renew their vows in an American church and have Anaelle baptized.

After receiving green cards earlier this summer, joining FPC Buchanan in 2021, and Orlando earning a master's degree from Andrews University, the couple's full attentions turned toward a church wedding and baptism.

The dual service took place during worship on Sunday, August 14, 2022. A multi-cultural reception followed at the picturesque home of members, Roger and Cheryl Warner, where God guided us to new understandings of Christ's universal love that bridges cultures, languages, and countries.

We thank God that our friends, the Totobesola's chose FPC for church membership and shared the privilege of participating in their dream.

Congratulations and blessings to all involved in the joyous event.



WORSHIP, MUSIC & SACRAMENTS

Watch for pre-worship surprises to help:

- Calm our souls.
- Open our eyes and ears to some of the infinite ways God reveals Himself.
- Prepare us to be more at one with Him and each other in worship and praise.

GREAT NEWS!!

CHOIR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11

Contact Heidi to help her lead an exciting new season of song and praise.

Uplifting

Updates

PERSONNEL

We congratulate friend and office manager, Carrie Thompson, as she moves on to a new career opportunity with the Buchanan School System. We offer sincere thanks for her dedication and contributions to the church over the years, especially during the pandemic and 175th Celebration. She has graciously offered to help segue the next manager into the position. Godspeed, Carrie, as you continue to serve Him! You will be missed at FPC.

CHRISTIAN ED

Session has approved the Frolic ages 3-5 Sunday School curriculum for the nursery. We are excited to have a hands-on, age appropriate way to share God's love and plan for all His children through stories, art, music, games and activities. The fun begins September 4, 10am.

INTERACTIVE MISSIONS

Committees are concurrently working toward improvements for outreach missions and internal communications. Upgraded video, internet and office technologies are actively being put in place to those ends.



Plans are also in the making for exciting, spirit-provoking studies for all interested age groups.

Buchanan's Downtown Church

During the pandemic, many leaders and members actively pursued ways to enhance our ability to serve the community. Short- and long-term initiatives currently include:

- Improving facility/properties to meet ADA standards.
- Upgrading technologies.
- Maximizing the outreach potential of our location.

Among the advantages of a downtown location is built-in visibility and identity. This also affords us the opportunity to serve the community with unique outreach services and programs. Many prayers went out, then answered as an LED full-color exterior sign was installed. Online forms are being developed to offer qualified churches and organizations opportunities to post events and activities.



Our ancestors were blessed with resources that met their challenges spanning more than seven decades. For us, the tasks ahead are no less daunting, yet not beyond reach. Solutions are only limited by imagination.

JOIN US. ALL ARE WELCOME!

WORSHIP in person: Sundays, 10–11am

WORSHIP online, live: Sundays, 10–11am

<http://firstpresbuchanan.org>

WORSHIP online, recorded: Monday – Saturday

FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP in Fellowship Hall:

Sundays, 11am-12pm



What exciting
adventures
await us?
God's
road
ahead
is alive with
opportunities

...and it's
only the
beginning!

BECOME God's ever-brighter beacon of love through service.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has come upon you." (Isaiah 60:1)