

# OUTLOOK



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
BUCHANAN

*SEE GOD'S LIGHT  
HEAR GOD'S LIGHT  
BE GOD'S LIGHT*

DECEMBER 2022

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## FROM THE PASTOR

This Thanksgiving, take the time to pray. Pray with a grateful heart. Pray to offer praise to God for life and for loved ones. Pray for God to lead you in the path of God's choosing.

People have been so deeply affected this year by disasters and violence in our world. Pray for healing and work that must be done to restore lives and property.

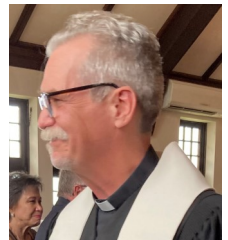
Pray to help people who are hurting. Pray so that the prayers are not words only, but turned into action.

God provides us with true blessings in abundance. We have joy and laughter; we have courage in the face of fear, hope where there is doubt, comfort when we have tears and sadness. God is with us in all things. John Wesley believed in the love and blessings of God. Even on His deathbed, he said, "Best of all, God is with us."

Pray for our community as we seek in Christ. Pray for the church leaders who work to make ministry meaningful. Pray for all the people who serve and provide the financial resources for ministry to take place. Pray for our church as we continue our mission to share the love of God in Buchanan for the transformation of the world.

Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer. Give thanks to God always with a grateful heart. I'm grateful for you and for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. I'm thankful for all that is going on among us as we pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future.

Grace and  
Peace,  
Pastor David





Stop by the office **Monday through Thursday, 9am to 1pm** and say, “Hi” to Allison Gouin (Gwah). God has been incredibly good to FPC during the long, tedious journey back from Covid. Allison is quickly becoming a part of this renewal. And when asked how she feels about being our new administrative assistant, she responds, “I’m very happy to be where God has led me and to meet such welcoming people.” Thank you, Allison. We are blessed.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans



We invite you to share this joint venture of the RAM Advent Calendar with our Mission Committee and Annette Wesner. Donations don't have to be the ones listed, just set aside one item per day. Your contributions can be brought in through the Sunday after Christmas. Jan Ivkovich will see that all are delivered.

FROM THE  
MISSION  
TEAM



Christmas Joy Offering

This final special offering of the year helps provide financial support for current and retired workers in times of need. It is used to support students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges and equipping communities of color with much-needed assistance while in college. Collection envelopes will be placed in the pews during December, and boxes will be placed at the back of the sanctuary for those who wish to put away a little money throughout the week. Thank you for your support.

- Jan Ivkovich, Chair

## FROM THE "GREEN TEAM"



Our RAM Garden had another successful season from mid-May through October. Produce (nearly one bucket per week) included tomatoes, peppers, collards, kale cucumbers, and squash. Operations begin again in mid-April. Also, with the approval of Session and Building and Grounds, two American chestnut trees were planted on the west side of the parking lot hill. The nuts used were obtained from Bertrand Township Orchard where FPC helped with plantings seven years ago. (Coming soon to Fellowship Hour: roasted American chestnuts!)

*NOTE: We are now officially designated as an **Earth Care Congregation** after five consecutive years of certification.*

- Tom Wrasse, Chair

Dear friends and family!

My cup runs over! Words can't express the gratitude and joy I feel for all that has transpired over the last two weeks. All your cards, gifts and messages were greatly appreciated. Thank you to all who attended the after church party. Your presence warmed my heart. Special thanks to my wonderful family and companion, Dick, for arranging this event and for my son-in-law, Tim, for the delicious array of goodies.

*Mary Soales*

HAPPY 90th,  
TO AN  
AMAZING  
LADY!



**Tom Gordon, Coordinator**  
**Pat Johnson, Administrator**  
**Pastor David Habicht**  
**Mary Aalfs**  
**Dave Coulston**  
**Louann Gardner**  
**Jan Ivkovich**  
**Tia Lee**  
**Dick Swem**  
**Jan Van Lear**  
**Roger Warner**  
**Dru Wrasse**

**175 & Beyond Team** has been meeting weekly since the 175th Anniversary. Why? Like you, we're passionate about Christ's love for us, our 175-year legacy, and building a successful future for FPC. We thank all who have donated time, money and resources to help move plans for **Phase I (ADA Elevator)** from blueprint to reality. With **Phases II (ADA Restrooms)** and **III (ADA Entrance)** on the horizon, we continue to receive campaign money. But perhaps more important are the talents, gifts, enthusiasm and prayers of our congregation, families and friends! You are invited to share your fundraising ideas, talents (don't be shy) and enthusiasm with us!

## BUILDING GOD'S FUTURE

...CALLS FOR ALL OF US

Recently an ambitious crew gathered at church for a traditional clean-up day. They also began mini make-overs to prepare for the **Elevator Installation**. With **Phase I's** groundbreaking planned for 2023, we can almost hear the "hammers hitting the walls." But there are still more hands-on opportunities to become part of FPC's dynamic future. As scheduling details with contractors are finalized, consider joining the Make-Over Team. Ask Jan Ivkovich how.



**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."**

**- Jeremiah 20:11**



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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 partnering with the ***Michigan Gateway Community Foundation***. Safe, transparent, and convenient, they can assist you with:

- Direct transfers of securities.
- Qualifying charitable distributions.
- Legacy giving.
- Credit card contributions.

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

- Visit the link below.
- Scan the QR code below.

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



*NOTE: First Presbyterian Church Buchanan will continue to accept cash or check contributions directly.*

FROM THE  
DEDICATION FOR  
THE LITANY OF  
THE BELL CHIMES,  
NOVEMBER 20,  
2022



“God has given us a wonderful gift in music. Believing instruments of sacred music are approved of God, may these Chimes enable us to better sound our praise and thanksgiving.”

“May these Bell Chimes be to all who worship here a source of joy and inspiration for years, even

## ABUNDANT THANKS TO GOD

Sunday, November 20 greeted worshipers with sunny skies, cold, crisp air and the crystal clear sounds of our new Bell Chime system...*and* it was the week of Thanksgiving! A perfect day for a dedication service of thanks.

Heartfelt thanks to the Habicht family— Pastor David, brother Rob and sister Ann whose gift of the bell chimes was given in honor of their parents. The siblings grew up in this church



and they pray that the gift will be a continuing beacon of God’s presence in Buchanan and a tribute to our 175 years of ministry.

Additional thanks to Music Director, Heidi Ferris and to Ann Habicht for a special handbell selection, written by Ann. Beautiful, Ladies. Encore, please!



*...so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow the glory of God.*


*- 2 Corinthians 4:15*

## PRAYERS FOR THE ADVENT JOURNEY

Dear God, we pray that you help us capture the joy of the Season and carry it through the New Year. Keep us aware of your love for us through Christ, and use our love for you to achieve the goals ahead.

*Chimes*  
*Music*  
*Scriptures*

**Join us for the traditions of Christ's birth:**

- Live at 115 West Front Street, Buchanan
- Online real time at [firstpresbuchanan.org](http://firstpresbuchanan.org)
- Online streaming 

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS**

**DECEMBER 4**—Chrismon Service, 10am  
Dan Stenberg and Jan Ivkovich

**DECEMBER 11**—Worship Service, 10am  
Mary Aalfs and Pat Johnson

**DECEMBER 18**—Worship Service, 10am  
Dave and Susan Coulston

**DECEMBER 24**—Christmas Eve Service, 5pm  
Steve and Amy Bender

**DECEMBER 25**—Online service, no in-person service



*Light of the World*



# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			Drum 6:30pm	1	2	3
4 Chrismon Service Liturgist: Pat Johnson	5 Drum 6:30pm	6	7 Drum 6:30pm	8	9	10
11 Communion Liturgist: Dan Stenberg Poinsetta Orders Due	12 175th Comm 10am Peace & Mission 10am Drum 6:30pm	13	14 Book Club 2pm Drum 6:30pm	15	16	17
18 Liturgist: Louann Gardner 2cents A Meal Offering	19 175th Comm 10am Drum 6:30pm	20 Session 11 am Women's Assoc & Bible Study 1pm	21 Drum 6:30pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5pm Liturgist: Bert Garcia
25 Christmas Day Online Service (Not in Person)	26 175th Comm 10am Drum 6:30pm	27	28 Drum 6:30pm	29	30	31