



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
BUCHANAN

*See God's Light
Hear God's Light
Be God's Light*

October 2022

115 West Front St.
Buchanan, MI 49107
269.695.6151

OUTLOOK

FROM THE PASTOR

I have noticed that Michiganders put a lot of work into their gardens. Planting, watering, weeding, pruning or harvesting. There's something about those green plants and colorful flowers that calls us to endure heat and bugs.

It's pretty amazing that we do so for such a short, growing season. All that work, and it's just going to be gone come winter. In a couple of months, all the plants and flowers, all the colors and textures, will be gone. Why work so hard for something that is here today and gone tomorrow? Because it gives us life.

There's a reason green is the color of the Church during the summer. Green is the color of life and growth. Green is the color we wait for through winter.



I remember one winter that was so white, I got excited the first time I saw brown earth. Brown, as we know, comes before green. Green is the color of the plants pushing up out of the earth, reaching for the sun. Green is the color of the leaf buds, sprouting on branches.

Like those plants and buds, we reach for life. Maybe Michiganders work so hard on their gardens because the winter is long, and the summer is short. We need the green of life more than those in milder climates.

But still, it is a lot of work for something that ends so quickly. Human beings must be very determined creatures to work so hard for such brief results. And we are determined creatures.

We work hard to raise our children well. We spend time preparing a meal that will be eaten and gone an hour later. We put energy into building or rebuilding things. We sit with God and breathe and pray, even though we're not sure what we have to show for it.

But human beings seek life. When we stare into the shades of green in the garden or walk in the woods, we receive life. When we dig and plant and even weed, we receive life. Yes, the green and the leaves will be gone before we know it, but we will have seen and touched and smelled it. It will have given us life. Does this ring true for you?

Do you receive life when you:

- ◆ plant and dig in the garden?
- ◆ create, build or fix something with your hands?
- ◆ you're at the lake or taking a walk through the neighborhood?
- ◆ pause for a moment and remember?

Think about what you do, put your time into, and ask yourself if it gives you life.

If it does, be glad, for God, the giver of life, is with you. If that which you put time into, doesn't give you life, God is still with you, but maybe it's something you can change. In life, there are beginnings and endings. In the spring, we plant. In the fall, we dig them up. Eventually summer ends and we head back to school.

When we were babies, our parents cared for us. At some point, many people care for their parents and eventually even bury them.

Just because something ends, doesn't mean it wasn't worth giving our hearts to. Endings may be heartbreaking or perhaps a relief. Beginnings may be joyful or anxiety-producing. But if we give ourselves to that which gives life, it will not merely be worth it. It will be good. You will have a deep life, a full life, a God-filled life.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor David



It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil.

- Mark 4:31

Where do you see God?

*"Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free."*

*"Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!"*



"There's One in Every Crowd"
- Courtesy David Coulston

Come "see"
...and worship with us

- ◆ Facebook
- ◆ firstpreschurch115@gmail.com
- ◆ 115 West Front Street
Buchanan, Michigan
- ◆ 269.695.6151

REDISCOVERING GOD'S LIGHT IN A DARK WORLD

It's difficult not to see that the world is a very dark place these days. What's even worse is no matter how hard we try to do the right things, at the right times, with the right intentions, it's still difficult to experience God's presence, works, and to determine His vision for us "out there."

We all know that darkness is a universal law—part of the vastness of space, our planet, even ourselves. And we know there's no place to hide from it (particularly with today's media surrounding us.)

But, this is 2022! There must be a channel, website, or Facebook post we could go to that has "just the good stuff?" (Oops...what happens when the screens go black?)

As Christians, we've been gifted with a natural longing for the strength, hope and faith which Christ brought to this world with His Light. And today, some of us are literally empty vessels longing again to be filled with that Light.

What a miracle it is that the Holy Spirit has always invited us to face the darkness, even walk through it—with Him. The Bible is filled with the struggles of God's people to keep His Light alive and carry it into the world. We, His contemporary faithful are no less worthy.

As we know, the universe abhors an empty space, and will expand to fill this space. But if we willingly empty ourselves of darkness, and with faith in Him, His Light will fill us, refocusing what we SEE, fine-tune what we HEAR and strengthen us to BECOME even brighter beacons in His world.

You, God, keep my light burning; my God turns my darkness into light. —Psalm 8:28

“GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!”

SOME FOLKS SAY

- ◆ “But you’re just one small church.”
...and a “*SERVIVING*” church—serving God, community and beyond since 1847.
- ◆ “There are so many churches in Buchanan. Besides. Who goes to church anymore?”
...Ask Buchanan Ministerial Association: *Many Churches. One Light.*
- ◆ “Buchanan, Michigan? Why’s *that* so special?”
...Reader’s Digest voted it *The Nicest Place in America*. (True Story!)
- ◆ “So...who’s providing services for the bodies, minds and souls of the unchurched?”
...look into Redbud Area Ministries, Buchanan Schools, Scarecrow Charities, our Police Department, and a village filled with God’s “lightkeepers.”

You’re invited on a spiritual adventure.

Through His works and Word, we’re learning to find our way, and to thrive as Christians in the complicated world of 2022AD and beyond.

Along the way, we invite you to celebrate your God-given talents (which each of us is blessed with, and that you may not know you have) as we grow together in loving community.



A Loving Place for New Beginnings



- ◆ Bible studies for positive impacts on everyday life.
- ◆ Discovering your God-given skills and talents in a safe environment.
- ◆ Celebrating life in fellowship.
- ◆ Finding God's purpose and place for each of us .
- ◆ A warm, yet traditional setting for weddings/baptisms/new memberships.
- ◆ A vibrant, growing, interactive Christian education curriculum.
- ◆ Bountiful joys for weekly sharing.
- ◆ Best "church-food" around.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
BUCHANAN

175 & Beyond

The 175th Capital Campaign Committee is delighted to report that we are ever-closer to realizing the ADA compliance goals, beginning with elevator installation!

It was unanimously agreed that with dollars received, commitments, grants, and loans (from church investments, financial institutions, etc.) the project has a sufficient financial base to proceed with Phase One.

NEXT STEPS—Contact contractor/architect to determine:

- ◆ Adjusted cost.
- ◆ Review and make modifications.
- ◆ Discuss upper and lower entrances to meet ADA requirements.

LOOK UP, DEAR FRIENDS, LOOK UP.



*Buchanan Remembers 9/11
Community Event
At First Methodist Church*

Growing in Christ and Community



*“Buchanan (Michigan) supports
people when they need it most.”*

- Voted “Best Place in America”

- Reader’s Digest

First Presbyterian Church shares this mission with other community churches and organizations. This page, in future monthly publications, will be reserved for like-minded groups and their upcoming events. In the next issue we’ll offer instructions and guidelines for sending us your info. In addition, we can also post on our Facebook and website pages and/or the Front Street electronic sign.

