



Buchanan Christian Church

112 W. Third St. Buchanan, MI 49107

BUCHANAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Est. December 17, 1854

112 West Third Street
Buchanan, MI 49107-1229
Electronic Service Requested

The BCC Bugle Newsletter - Volume 45 No. 21 - November 20, 2018

The Buchanan Bugle

Jesus answered Thomas:
"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

BCC Office

Open: Monday-Thursday, Closed Friday
Office: 269-695-6621
Please leave your name, phone number & a brief message

Tel.: 269-695-6621 Fax: 269-695-6351
Email: office@buchananchurch.com
Web Site: <http://www.buchanan.church>

Office Hours:
Mon & Tues: 8-12 & 1-5
Wed & Thurs: 8-4; Fri: **CLOSED**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: NEWS, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- > Sundays: 9:20 am, **Just Coffee** - *Come get some coffee, donut or treat.*
9:30 am, **Sunday School** ; 10:30 am, **Worship Service**
5 -6 pm, **Adult Choir**; 5-6 pm, **Heroes** (K-5th gr.)
6 -7:45 pm, **Small Groups**
- > Wednesdays:
5:30 pm, **Special Prayer Time**
5:30-6:30 pm, **Glorymakers** Children's Choir (K-6th)
6:00 -7:30 pm, **Teen Illumination** (7th-12th)
6:30 pm, **Adult Bible Study**

— NOVEMBER / DECEMBER —

- > 11/26, Mon: 6 pm, **Better Way Design Party** *get some gifts for those on your list.* (new name for Better Way Imports) Better Way helps women who've been in sex trafficking to get out of it and make a living for their families & themselves.
- > 11/29, Thurs: 6-8 pm, **Game Night with Brandon!**

- > 12/2, Sun: 6:30 pm, **BAMA Community Christmas Celebration** at Faith United Methodist Church, 728 N Detroit St, Buchanan
- > 12/8, Sat: 2:00 - 7:00 pm, **Parents Afternoon Out!** Attention **ALL** Parents - It's FREE - *Bring your kids to BCC!* While they are having fun with us at BCC, parents go and enjoy yourselves as you prepare for the Christmas Season. *Enjoy!* For information, contact Jennie Brackett.
- > 12/16, Sun: 10:30 am, **Glory Makers Children's Choir**

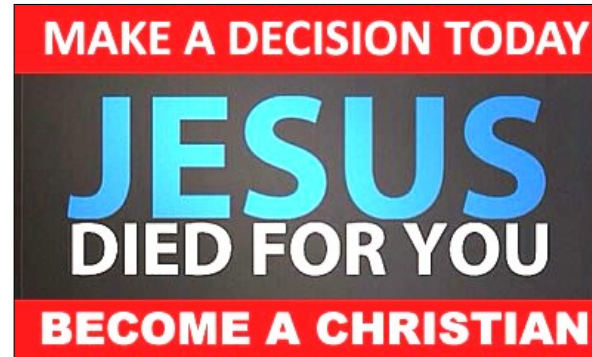
Presents a Musical:

The Christmas Express
Finding Joy in the Journey



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Buchanan Christian Church is to be and to make disciples of Jesus who serve God by serving others.



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Deeper In the Word
Nate Babcock, Senior Minister

Gratitude is Good for the Soul

I have heard my dad pray thousands of times. Almost always his prayers begin like this: “Almighty God in heaven, thank you for another day of life...” That is, his prayers almost always begin with *gratitude* to God for the most basic and most wonderful gift of all: the gift of being alive. The gratitude in my dad’s soul has helped to shape the gratitude in my soul. His awareness of just how good a thing it is to be alive has shaped a similar awareness in me.

Sometimes I get discouraged. Sometimes I get tired. Sometimes I get frustrated. When I go through periods of pain, self-doubt, or self-pity one cornerstone always grounds me in reality and returns me to a proper perspective. That cornerstone is gratitude. When I am feeling down, eventually the Holy Spirit reminds me how much I have to be thankful for. I think about my family, my home, and my friends. I think about how much serving at BCC means to me. I think about the privileges I enjoy simply by being a citizen of the United States. I think about what Jesus Christ went through on my behalf. And, I think about the sheer wonder of life: that I am awake and active under the stars on this marvelous planet which God has made, and that I am able to reach out to God, to others, and to the created world with the mind, spirit, and body God has given me. When I remember all that God has done for me, joy at God’s amazing grace lifts me up and strengthens me.

The Bible urges us to be grateful people (Psalms 107 and 136, 1 Thess. 5:18) both because God deserves our thanksgiving and because gratitude is good for our souls. Focusing on all that we have to be thankful for helps us to:

- Remember that we are not the source of our own blessings, but that we have received so much from God and others.
- See the good and beautiful things even in hard times.
- Encourage other people to recognize their blessings and be grateful.
- Give God the praise he so richly deserves.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” – Ps. 136:1

CREATIVITY, WORSHIP, THANKFULNESS

Three the things which separate humans from our animal friends are creativity, worship, and thankfulness. Humans, created in the image of God, display that image in our own creativity. We express creativity in various artistic and productive ways. One important area of human creativity is music. Birds sing, but all individuals of any species of bird sing the same song, and they have for as long as we have known that species. They are singing the song they were programmed to sing. The only exceptions are a few birds that imitate various sounds or imitate the songs of other birds. Imitation is not creativity. Humans sing and play, many different kinds of music and are constantly creating new songs. We even combine worship with our creativity in music using a variety of styles to honor God. Music moves us, excites us, and touches us deeply, making it a natural outlet for worship.

Thankfulness is another area that separates us from the animals. A couple of years ago, Judy and I were leaving a sandwich shop where we ate lunch. An elderly woman with a smile on her face came up to our car window holding a sandwich. I rolled down the window to see what she wanted, and she said, “Are you the ones who paid for my sandwich?” She said the employee in the store told her that a person ahead of her had paid, so she didn’t owe anything. I told her that I was glad for her, but we were not the ones who had done this generous act. As she went away, it was evident that the small kindness had made her day, but she was disappointed that she didn’t get to thank her benefactor.



There is something about humans that makes us want to express gratitude. Our pets are loyal to us because we feed them, and they get excited when they see us open the food container. But only humans are motivated to express true gratitude. We often show thankfulness toward each other, but our greatest debt of gratitude is to God. G. K.

Chesterton once wrote, “the worst moment for an atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank.” One evidence of God’s existence is that not only does He give us many good things, but He also has given us the desire and ability to say, “Thank you.” I am thankful for the creative ability God has given us. I am thankful for the ability to use that creativity in art, music, and worship. I am also thankful for the ability to express gratitude to God.

by Roland Earnst,
 adapted from an article he wrote for
 the website www.doesgodexist.today



DECEMBER BLESSINGS to CELEBRATE

(Please notify the office if you'd like to have your birthday or anniversary included.)



Birthdays

Jenny Mark - 1
 Jim Strzyzkowski - 1
 Renee Wetzel - 1
 Roy Mark - 2
 Joyce Ferris - 3
 Kady Roberts - 3
 Emma Hempel - 4
 Richard Watson - 4
 Brandy Babcock - 6
 Evan Clayton - 6
 Brandon Smith - 7
 Danica Britton - 9
 Sally Galaske - 9
 Ed Brunke - 10
 Vanita Vigansky - 10

Micayla Mitchell - 11
 Mackenzie Wetzel - 11
 Ben Babcock - 15
 Mike Crow - 19
 Lorie Brunke - 19
 Ruth Metzger - 21
 Matt Weldy - 24
 Rebekah Rininger - 24
 Keith Britton - 25
 Sandy Burkhard - 26
 Brandy Wesner - 27
 Tim Wesner - 27
 Cindy Benson - 30
 Fred Syrette - 31
 Nikki Vigansky - 31

Anniversaries

Bernie & Linda Klinedinst - 1
 Jim & Carrie Strzyzkowski - 6
 Mike & Kay Crow - 15
 Dan & Kathy Furst - 19
 Carl & Estaleen Riggins - 24
 Brandon & Ariel Smith - 28



BCC PRAYER NEEDS

Mission of the Month:

International Conference on Missions

Prayer Focus:

The Persecuted Church

Please Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Nation, *BCC Leaders & Teachers, *Those hurting from loss of loved ones
- *Our shut-ins & home bound, *Victims of tragedy in our nation & elsewhere
- *President Trump & family, *US Troops, *Lord to send forth laborers for the Kingdom

Mandy Dillenbeck Daniel - still in much pain, niece of Mike & Vickie Kitchell
 Judy Young Davidson - intensive care, Lakeland St. Joseph
 Eric Earnst - nursing home in Bridgeport IL, Roland & Judy Earnst nephew
 Audrey Fletcher - depression treatment, friend of Kathy Furst
 Daniel Lee Furst - EKG results are good, to see Geneticist, son of Dale & Kristin Furst
 Keegan Huffaker - surgery recovery, son of Jessica Cabanaw (neighbor of BCC)
 Jason Kitchell - diminished vision from med., no driving or work, son of M&V Kitchell
 David Mayhew - knee surgery recovery, son of Bill & Shirley Mayhew
 Andrew Meredith - had tear in retina, doing well, John Barbour req.
 Lisa Meredith - seizures, possible surgery soon, Ruth Barbour's mom
 Louisa Pederson - doing well now, fell from barn, Cindy Benson req.
 Jeff Randolph (wife, Kristin)- facial surgery, cancer, friend of Justin Foster
 Tad Smith - Praise! muscles responding, using a pullup bar, stroke recovery
 John Snyder - knee surgery recovery (11/12)
 Dan Stover - infection in leg
 Ken Weed - foot surgery recovery

Family of: John E. Raven, faithful former BCC member: wife Colleen, children-Mike Raven, Jason & Mandy Dillenbeck, Jamie Coulston, Tad Raven, Joanna Pugh & brother of Vickie Kitchell & Frances Avers

Family of: Catherine Syrette, longtime BCC member: husband Fred Syrette



Silence by Shusaku Endo

Review by Nate Babcock

Silence is a novel which I will be reading again.

I don't say that about every novel I read, but there are several reasons why I need to return to this modern classic and work my way through it once more.

The first reason I will read *Silence* again is that it has left me perplexed. The story is set in seventeenth century Japan. It is about two Jesuit priests who travel to Japan in order to spread the Christian faith and also to find their mentor, Father Ferreira. The story is perplexing because of the culture in which it is set: I know nothing about seventeenth century Japan and so understanding the cultural customs in the story is challenging. Next, the story is perplexing because of the way in which it is told: much of the first half of the book is told from the first-person perspective of letters written by Sebastian Rodrigues, one of the two Jesuit missionaries. Then, the story-telling method abruptly changes to third-person narration. The story itself contains the logic of this change, but it comes without warning and forces one to think about what is happening. Lastly, I am perplexed by *Silence* because of the story it tells. The threat of persecution hangs like a thundercloud over the storyline because the authorities in seventeenth century Japan were ruthless in their determination to exterminate Christianity from their country. Eventually Fathers Rodrigues and Garrpe come face-to-face with this persecution, and the question on which the story hinges is whether or not these Portuguese missionaries will remain true to Jesus through torture or renounce their faith. What ends up happening, and why, is surprising, and I am not yet certain that I understand what message the author is conveying about his character's decisions.

The other reason for re-reading *Silence* is theological. As the book's title implies, the theological question at the heart of the novel is the silence of God. When God's people are suffering, and when He seems to be silent and still in the face of their plight, what are God's people to do? This is an extremely important question which the Bible itself wrestles with in the book of Job and in the Psalms. Endo has approached this question in a way which invites much deeper reflection.

Often what we look for when we read a book – especially a novel – is a sense of *satisfaction*. We want all the loose ends to be tied up, for everything to come together and make sense in the end. Many of the best and most challenging books don't give us this gift of satisfaction. Instead, they leave us with unresolved questions and lingering tensions. They force us to think and to probe more deeply. *Silence* is that kind of book. It doesn't give us easy answers or a happy ending. It is seeking to give us something more, and I plan to return to it so that I can find out what that is.

BCC COMPREHENSIVE SERVING CALENDAR: DECEMBER

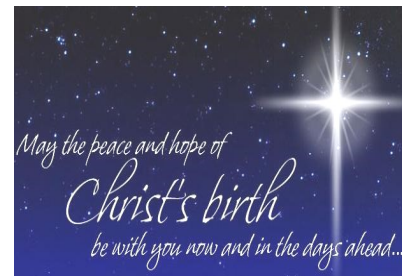
Contact:
B. Smith

BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHERS & CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Birth-2yrs / 3yrs-Pre K / K-2nd / 3rd-6th / Worship Hr.

12/02	Bible School V. Metzger	Bible School C. Benson P. Anderson	Bible School P. Brackett	Bible School R. Neal	Birth-2yrs: J. Ferris / S. Galaske 3 yrs - Pre K: R. & T. Wheat K-2nd Gr.: B. Smith/need volunteers 3rd-6th Gr: S. Weldy
12/09	Bible School V. Metzger	Bible School C. Benson P. Anderson	Bible School P. Brackett	Bible School R. Neal	Birth-2yrs: R. & T. Wheat 3 yrs - Pre K: B. Smith K-2nd Gr.: P. & J. Brackett 3rd-6th Gr: S. Weldy
12/16 Family Sunday	Bible School V. Metzger	Bible School C. Benson P. Anderson	Bible School P. Brackett	Bible School R. Neal	Birth-2yrs: A. Smith 3 yrs - Pre K: M. & N. Mitchell K-2nd Gr.: Family Sunday 3rd-6th Gr: Family Sunday
12/23	Bible School V. Metzger	Bible School C. Benson P. Anderson	Bible School P. Brackett	Bible School R. Neal	Birth-2yrs: D. Bybee / TBA 3 yrs - Pre K: B. & C. Schmeling K-2nd Gr.: B. Smith/ 3rd-6th Gr: B. Smith
12/30	Bible School V. Metzger	Bible School C. Benson P. Anderson	Bible School P. Brackett	Bible School R. Neal	Birth-2yrs: C. Blaine/G. Britton 3 yrs - Pre K: P. & J. Brackett K-2nd Gr.: D. & K. Furst 3rd-6th Gr: St. Weldy

	<u>MUSIC MINISTRY</u>	Praise Team	Accompanist	Sound Tech	Projection Tech
Contact: J. Earnst	12/02	J. Brackett N. Mitchell M. Mitchell P. Brackett	M. Kitchell C. Benson	R. Wheat	G. Brackett
	12/09	D.A. Weldy K. Entwistle T. Entwistle P. Weldy	M. Kitchell C. Benson	B. Babcock	Br. Babcock
	12/16 Family Sunday	S. Weldy D.A. Weldy P. Weldy D. Ferris	M. Kitchell C. Benson T. Wheat	R. Earnst	Z. Furst
	12/23	S. Weldy G. Britton D. Ferris P. Brackett	M. Kitchell C. Benson T. Wheat	B. Babcock	Br. Babcock
	12/30	N. Mitchell J. Brackett M. Mitchell P. Brackett	M. Kitchell C. Benson	R. Earnst	Z. Anderson



BCC SECURITY LOCKUP

Contact: N. Mark

December	T. Entwistle	
	Meditation	Prayer
12/02	R. Watson	P. Brackett
12/09	P. Brackett	R. Watson
12/16 Family Sunday	R. Watson	P. Brackett
12/23	P. Brackett	R. Watson
12/30	R. Watson	P. Brackett

SERVING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Contact: P. Brackett

12/02	R. Watson	P. Brackett
12/09	P. Brackett	R. Watson
12/16 Family Sunday	R. Watson	P. Brackett
12/23	P. Brackett	R. Watson
12/30	R. Watson	P. Brackett

Prayer Warrior

12/02	C. Boyer
12/09	J. Ferris
12/16 Family Sunday	R. & K. Watson
12/23	T. Young
12/30	N. Dunning

PRAYING FOR THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Contact: T. Anderson

12/02
12/09
12/16
Family
Sunday
12/23
12/30

SERVING HOME COMMUNION

Contact: T. Irwin

12/02
12/09
12/16
Family
Sunday
12/23
12/30

12/02	T. Irwin	R. Young
12/09	N. Babcock	J. Burkhard
12/16 Family Sunday	C. Boyer	R. Wheat
12/23	T. Irwin	—
12/30	B. Klinedinst	K. Pratt

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Contact: L. Brunke

December	N. Bicard	C. Blaine
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