



Presbyterian *Tidings*

JANUARY 2020, VOLUME 68—ISSUE 1

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

Help Feed Our Youth!

We are looking for people willing to provide dinner for our youth group on Sunday nights!

Sign up to cook (or provide) a meal to serve. Over and over again our students have expressed that their favorite part of youth group is the meal provided by church members because it makes them feel loved and cared for.

Meal providers are asked to prepare their meal for about 20 students, bring it at 6 p.m. for set up, and then join students for the meal at 6:15 p.m.

Sign up at the Information Desk on Sundays, or contact Maddie Lambert at mlambert@fpgh.org.



It's Back! Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Talent Show Tuesday, February 25

Now Recruiting Acts!

We are looking for 2-4 minute acts for the show.
Serious or silly, come and show off your talent!

Contact **Maryanne Beery** with questions and to sign up!
(mbeery@fpgh.org)

Holy Helping Hands

Do you....

- Need a ride to an appointment or to church on Sunday morning?
- Need a prescription picked up?
- Have a minor household repair job?
- Need computer help (figuring out Skype, e-mail, Facetime, etc.)?
- Have a piece of furniture to be moved, but can't do it yourself?



Call Holy Helping Hands! These are only a few examples of the way this group can be helpful to you. Contact the church office (616-842-6760) Monday thru Friday between 8 a.m.-4 p.m. with your request and contact information, and you will be set up with the help you need. All services are free.

If you would like to volunteer to be a helper, sign up in the church office.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 12** Congregational Conversation
Shine34 Afternoon at the Aquatic Center
Youth Group Resumes
- Jan. 19** Annual Congregational Meeting
First Friends Lunch
- Jan. 24** Mid-Winter Game Night
- Jan. 24-26** 5th-8th Grade Retreat
- Jan. 26** Ordination and Installation of New Officers
High School Mug Painting
Uneven Ground C.A.S. Concert
- Feb. 7** Red Cross Blood Drive
- Feb. 23** Water Resources C.A.S. Presentation
- Feb. 25** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner & Talent Show
- Feb. 26** Ash Wednesday Worship Service
- Mar. 4** Taizé Worship Service & Soup Supper



Sunday, January 12 Congregational Conversation 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge

hear updates from various areas of ministries, ask questions, and receive the annual report

Sunday, January 19 Annual Congregational Meeting 10:00 a.m.

to elect at-large members of the Nominations Committee and to approve the pastors' Terms of Call

Prayer Concerns:

Christine Bahl, George Bryant, Tim Bullerdick, June Lindberg, Barbara Race, Shirley Swifney, Sandy Teunis, Gerry VanStratt, Carol Winton, and our service men and women

Our Sympathy:

to Ernie Schroeder and Kurt and Beverly Schroeder on the death of wife and mother, Shirley Schroeder, on November 29.

to Rodney and Ann Rotman and family on the death of Ann's brother, Stephen Kerns, on November 23.

to Larry & Debbie Abbey and Rachel & Jason Cotton and families on the death of Debbie's mother and Rachel's grandmother, Carol Green, on November 28.

to Scott and Julie Reenders and family on the death of Scott's mother, Barbara Reenders, on December 5.

to Tim and Jane Stoecker on the death of Tim's father, Wallace Stoecker, on December 13.

Congratulations!

to Joe and Emma VerDuin on the birth of Lincoln Wayne VerDuin, on October 18. Big brother is Deklen, and proud grandparents are Ken and Pat VerDuin.

to proud grandparents, Earl & Cindy Bares on the births of two granddaughters. Cosette Essenburg was born on October 14th to Matt & Jennifer (Bares) Essenburg. Anabelle Marie Greydanus was born on November 19th to James & Stephanie (Bares) Greydanus.

Thank you:

We would like to thank the congregation for all the prayers of comfort and healing during this long journey that the Lord has put us on.

We also appreciate all the cards, letters and meals that have been delivered to us. Your prayers for the coming months will be much appreciated.

- Tim and Pam Bullerdick

FPC Cares...

Please let the church know about births, baptisms, prayer requests, hospitalizations and requests for pastoral care visits. Contact the office at: 842-6760; or e-mail: knienhouse@fpgh.org

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our new members:

- Andrea Alpaugh
- Annika Hauser Brydon
- Jennifer and Jeff Lynn and children Josiah and Shiloh
- Betsy Planteroth
- Mary Switzer
- Carol Wilhelm
- David and Jeanne Ziegler

We are glad you're here!



Every month, we publish birthdays of our members and friends who are no longer able to come to church regularly. Bless their special day with a card from their church family!

Jan. 10 Sandy Teunis
1410 S. Ferry, #A-2
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Jan. 12 Norma Vyn
1410 S. Ferry, #F-5
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Jan. 24 Carol Winton
1410 S. Ferry, #A-3
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Feb. 16 Mary Fullerton
217 Dewitt Lane, Apt. 320
Spring Lake, MI 49456

New Ways to Engage with God

Are you planning out your new year's resolutions? Consider adding new ways to grow closer with God this year!

Check out the "Engage with God" bulletin board on the wall by the Family Ministries desk—each



month a different spiritual rhythm to add to your week will be featured. For January, try adding family scripture readings! Pick up a weekly reading guide at the Family Ministries Desk.

2020 Per Capita

Per-capita is a charge we pay to the Presbytery each year for every member of our congregation. The amount for this year is \$35.20.

Please prayerfully consider paying the per-capita amount for each person in your family who is a church member. *Thank you!*

for FAQs, visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/t9sckdv>

FPC Financial Update as of November 30, 2019

Offerings Received
Year-to-Date
\$843,270

Expenditures Paid
Year-to-Date
\$867,122

To all who give to support the mission of the church—thank you!
You make the ministry go!

If you are not a regular giver, please consider becoming one. Not only is it healthy for the church, it is also spiritually healthy for you!

Giving online is easy! Just follow this link: <https://bit.ly/2xTbGMG> or call (842-6760) or stop in to the church office. We would love to help!

THE new year always brings new beginnings. In my three years here I have found that November through early December is one of the hardest times for me. The weather gets grim. It's cold but doesn't snow. There's very little sunlight. The days are short. I'm someone who is committed to exercise – particularly running – but in those weeks I always struggle to get my body moving outside. The struggle is real. For the past couple of weeks I have been giving in to the busyness of the season and have begun dreaming, “If I make it through December, then...”

Merle Haggard has a beautiful song titled “If We Make it through December.” It begins:

*If we make it through December
Everything's gonna be alright I know
It's the coldest time of winter
And I shiver when I see the falling snow*

There's some steely determination in grinding through the end of the year,

and I believe that knowing there's a new beginning around the corner helps keep us going.

As we turn our calendars to 2020, I hope for all of us that we use well this opportunity for new beginnings. The Christian mystic Meister Eckhart from the 13th century once said, “Be willing to be a beginner every single morning.” Every day is a gift from God. We can use that gift well, or we can misuse that gift. In our humanness, we'll probably do a bit of both, but my prayer for us as we start out 2020 is that we wake up each day with a sense of God's purpose in our lives. What new thing will you try this year? How will you deepen your faith in 2020?

Of course, with the calendar turning, we have lots of endings and beginnings. I give God thanks for deacons and elders who have served us well. Several of them are rolling off of the Session or the Board of Deacons. We

are what we are because of their ministry. I invite you to say thanks to them. I also invite you to be in prayer for your new elders and deacons as they embark on their ministries. We are gifted to have each one of them serving the church.

The new year also brings new energy and aims for the church. We look forward to new educational offerings for all ages. We welcome the input of our cohort that has studied intergenerational ministry, and we look forward to implementing some of their suggestions. We have other exciting plans in development that are not quite ready to be revealed, but stay tuned! 2020 is going to be a wonderful year of ministry and growth at First Presbyterian Church, and I'm so glad you're a part of it!

In Christ,
Pastor Troy

From the Session of FPC

News From the December Session Meeting

Stay in the loop about the actions of your Session! Following is a synopsis of the main points of the last Session meeting.

Highlights:

- Voted to receive nine new members
- Approved the 2020 budget
- Approved the 2020 communion dates
- Called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 19, at 10:00 a.m. to elect at-large members of the Nominations Committee and to approve the pastors' Terms of Call
- Approved the Session meeting schedule for 2020
- Approved the pastors' housing allowances
- Approved the 2020 version of the Camp Scholarship program
- Approved updated wording in the Personnel Manual to comply with the new Michigan Sick Leave law
- Approved developing a new committee of the Session to handle Membership and Outreach

It is our joy to serve Christ as the Session of First Presbyterian Church. Keep us in your prayers.

If you would like more detail, contact Tina Ramones (tramones@fpgh.org) in the church office to be put on an email list to receive the monthly Session minutes in full. The minutes are no longer posted on our website.

Tidings article deadline for February 2020 issue: January 20, 2020

Submittals, suggestions or comments: sbryant@fpgh.org or staff@fpgh.org

FPC editorial staff reserves the right to accept or decline, edit for length and content all submitted material.

Community Artist & Speaker Series

Uneven Ground Traditional Celtic Band Sunday, Jan. 26, 4:00 p.m.

Grounded in the roots of traditional Irish music, Uneven Ground presents a blend of songs molded from hundreds of pub tunes from around the Celtic region. Figuratively named after the Irish slip jig 'On the Rocky Road to Dublin,' the group has become one of the most exciting traditional/folk Celtic bands to emerge on the scene today.

The next C.A.S. event is a presentation and discussion on water resources, by award-winning author and former environmental journalist (and church member) Jeff Alexander, on February 23, at 4 p.m.

All of the Community Artist events are free and open to the public.



Moms' Book Club

This fellowship group was formed specifically for moms in their 20-40's trying to balance motherhood, young children, and nurturing a healthy marriage. You are invited to join them for meaningful connections and engaging conversation.

From January 8-February 19, they will be reading *Keep Showing Up*, by Karen Ehman. You can view the book trailer by following this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ujfn2lx>

Books are available for \$6.50 at the Family Ministries desk, or you are welcome to purchase your own copy. Moms' Book

Club meets on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. in the conference room.

For more information, a reading plan, and to sign up, follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/vfp94yp>

New Adult Ed. Class: Presbyterian Worship

Do you ever wonder what the meaning of worship is for Presbyterians; the purpose of the order of worship; or why we have a corporate prayer of confession? What is the choir? What's the difference between a rite and a sacrament? Who makes the decisions about worship? These are just a few of the questions that will be answered in this 4-week class.

Presbyterian Worship will meet during the 10 a.m. adult education period. It will start January 5 and conclude on January 26, and will be taught by retired (PC)USA Pastor Dale Swihart.



January Food Collection

Each month, the Mission Committee collects non-perishable food and household goods for different local food pantries. This month's donations will go to Love in Action.

Special requests are for:

- Canned tuna
- Tuna Helper
- Canned pasta

Please bring donations to the designated spot in the Gathering Area.



Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven

508 Franklin Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Phone: 616.842.6760

Fax: 616.842.5979

www.fpgh.org • staff@fpgh.org

Sunday Morning Worship Services:
8:45 a.m. (traditional)
& 11:00 a.m. (contemporary)

Staff and Leadership:

Rev. Troy Hauser Brydon, Senior Pastor
Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce, Associate Pastor
Rob Andersen, Worship Assistant
Maryanne Beery, Director of Music & Fine Arts
Sally Bryant, Communications Coordinator
Laura Burns, Children's Ministries Director
Dan Coulier, Maintenance Director
Marc Felt, Gathering Band Leader
Rob Hlebinsky, Organist
Kelli Jullie, Church Administrator
Maddie Lambert, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director
Karen Nienhouse, Membership Services
Christina Ramones, Assistant to the Administrator
Mark Sanchez, Church Host
Sally Segers, Joyful Noise Director

7th-8th Grade Mission Trip

Remember to turn in your \$150 payment and registration slip for the overnight mission trip to Byron Center by March 1! Please make all checks out to FPC.

Trip Dates: July 18-24

Ages: Incoming 7th thru outgoing 8th grade students

Registration Form:

<https://tinyurl.com/v4v4ld6>

High School Mug Painting Sunday, January 26

Come and help us paint mugs for our youth silent auction and spaghetti dinner fundraiser in March! All proceeds raised this year will be used to help our new friends at Koinonia Ministries in Belize build a childcare facility.



There is no cost to participate—just bring yourself and any painting skills you may have!

We will be leaving from the church parking lot at 3 p.m. and returning around 5:30 p.m.

Sign up at:

<https://tinyurl.com/rugontp>

First Friends Lunch January 19, 12:00 p.m.

First Friends is a fellowship group for children infant-2nd grade and their families.* Following the Gathering Service, join us downstairs in the rec. room at noon for lunch, free-play, and parent/family connections.



*Older siblings are welcome too. This is truly fun for the whole family!

5th-8th Grade Retreat

Those who signed up for this year's middle school youth retreat should plan to meet in the church parking lot at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 24 and to be picked up at 11:30 am on Sunday, January 26.

From those at home, we would love prayers for building new relationships, to encounter God and to have a wonderful time together

There will be no Youth Group on Sunday, January 26.

Youth Belize Mission Trip 2020 Participants & Prayer Requests

On June 17-24, 8 students and 5 leaders will be serving with Koinonia Ministries in Orange Walk, Belize. We would love our church family to surround us with prayers as we prepare for this experience. Specific prayer requests from the team are as follows:

- That we travel there and back safely
- That we stay safe while we are in Belize
- That we stay healthy and do not have any digestive distress
- That we embrace new experiences and learning opportunities
- That we are good role models for each other and our new friends in Belize
- That we make new friends and build strong relationships with the people at Koinonia Ministries
- That we are able to focus on the positive and not the things that make us anxious
- That we have fun!

Mission Trip Student Participants: Emma Becker, Ari Abraham, Emma Skodack, Annika Hauser Brydon, Keegan McMaster, Griffin Phares, Mya Phares, Madelyn Portenga

Mission Trip Leaders: Maddie Lambert, Andrew Becker, Karen Abraham, Randy Abraham & Heather Phares

Shine34 Afternoon at the Aquatic Center Sunday, January 12 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Calling all 3rd and 4th grade students! On January 12, join us at the Spring Lake Aquatic Center to swim and splash in the Family Pool. We will also have snacks in the dry room.

We will not be providing group transportation, so please drop your student off at the Aquatic Center at 2 p.m. and return for pick up at 4 p.m.

*Your child must have a Spring Lake Aquatic Center Waiver completed to be able to swim (available via the sign-up link below).

There is no cost, but please RSVP to help us with planning:
<https://tinyurl.com/sdxxjma>





508 Franklin Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
616-842-6760

Sunday Worship Hours:

8:45 Traditional Service

11:00 Contemporary Service

*If you are unable to attend Sunday morning worship,
listen to the service podcast on our website (www.fpgh.org)
or watch the service livestreamed on our
facebook page: First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven*

January 2020

deliver to: (or current resident)

All-Ages Mid-Winter Game Night

Friday, January 24

6-8 p.m.



Come and join us for a fun-filled night of games and activities for all ages! We will have Euchre matches, Bunco, Bingo, board games, puzzles and more for young and old alike. Snacks and beverages will be provided, and you are welcome to bring an appetizer or snack if you wish.



No reservations necessary—just show up ready to enjoy!

The fun begins at 6:00 p.m. Highlight January 24 on your calendar!



All ages are welcome and encouraged to come.