



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

MAY 2020, VOLUME 68—ISSUE 5

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Reverend Troy Hauser Brydon

I hope you know how much I (and the rest of the staff) miss you. We are doing what we can to stay connected to you all, but what we're doing now simply cannot replace the connections that can happen in person. Sometimes you don't know how good you have it until things are taken away. I'm feeling that deeply right now, as I'm sure you are too.

Still, I'm so grateful that we have found many ways to connect in this new time. Many of us have become experts in Zoom meetings. (I think my family logged over 40 hours of Zoom meetings last week alone!) As the few of us gather on Sunday mornings to lead you in worship, I know that something very connectional is happening. While it's weird to preach to a congregation missing you, we know that what we're sending out through the internet is making so many connections between us and our faith. (We've tried to replicate you with a handful of dolls, but it just isn't the same, friends.)

Last week I started leading a Zoom Bible study on Mark's gospel. Around fifteen of us have gathered online, and I find those two lunch hours are doing a ton of work in lifting up my soul and helping me feel more connected to you. Feel free to contact me for the meeting link and drop in sometime. I think you'll like it.

Sadly, this has been a season of postponements and cancellations. In this issue of *Tidings* we're listing those out so you know what's going on. Some of these items will come back when we can get back together. Others will have to wait for a year until we can get back to them again.

In this season of change, I invite you to pray with me for discernment. How might God be changing us for the better? What might we need to let go of? What are we gaining? We have seen God's hand at work in this difficult time, and my prayer for us is that we are faithful right now and that God is preparing us to be all we need to be in the months and years to come.

I miss you. Hope to see you all in the coming days.

In Christ,
Pastor Troy

From Reverend Kristine Aragon Bruce

Dear Church Family,

As we've been sheltering in place for more than a month many are experiencing what experts are calling "Quarantine Fatigue." All over the country people are becoming more relaxed when it comes to sheltering in place and social distancing. It doesn't help that as I write this, some states are preparing to lift and/or lessen such restrictions. My guess is that we're all experiencing fatigue. This is getting old. When the executive order is lifted, however, it will still be a slow return to "normal." There's still so much we don't know about Covid-19 and so there will still be precautions. We will still need endurance to adjust to drastic limitations in how we gather and interact with others. I find comfort in Romans 15:5, which says: *"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had."*

I'm grateful that none of us have to muster up endurance from within ourselves since most of us don't have much left. God will not just help us to endure, but God himself is our source of endurance. Not just during the Covid-19 crisis, but any time in life when we find ourselves in difficult places. I pray you are comforted by this truth as well. Can't wait to see you in person even if we're both wearing masks!

In Christ,
Pastor Kristine

In Our Church

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Church & Pastor Contact Information

Pastor Troy:

616-604-2617,
church: 616-842-6760 x1005,
email: TroyHB@fpgh.org

Pastor Kristine:

616-604-2618,
church: 616-842-6760 x1006,
email: KristineAB@fpgh.org

Church Office:

616-842-6760,
staff@fpgh.org

Prayer Concerns:

Christine Bahl, Tim Bullerdick,
Stan Johnson, June Lindberg,
Barbara Race, Jim and Sandy Teunis,
Gerry VanStratt, and Carol Winton

Our Sympathy:

to Carrie and Scott Rivette on the
death of Carrie's Aunt Carolyn May
on March 24.

to Sally Dunn-Doering and Doug
Doering on the death of Sally's
daughter, Rebecca Dunn, on March
31, and on the death of Doug's
brother, Carl Doering, on April 22.

to Sharon, Steve, Joe and Ben
VanderBroek on the death of
Sharon's father, Charles Hildebrand,
on April 17.

to Lynne VanderMeer on the death
of her mother, Jean VanderMeer, on
April 18.

to Jodie and Don LaVercombe and
family on the death of Jodie's uncle,
Richard Prentiss, on April 19.

to David Matzen and family on the
death of his wife, Mary Matzen, on
April 23.

to Jerry and Helen Richard on the
death of Jerry's uncle, Roger Atkinson,
on April 26.

Congratulations!

to Ken and Betty Johnson on the
birth of their great-grandson,
Jude Robert, on March 21.
Proud parents are Breanna and
Rob Berheiser.

Congratulations!

to Frank and Becky Steinhauer on
the birth of their grandson, Hayes
David Steinhauer, on April 7. Proud
parents are Breanna and Sean
Steinhauer, and he joins big sister
Kenna at home.

to Dan and Sue Qualls on the birth
of their grandson, Oliver Richard, on
April 7. Proud parents are Jordan
and Paige (Qualls) Breen.

Thank you:

"Thank you to all of you who sent
cards and prayers for me during my
time in rehab for my broken femurs.
I am now at home and continuing to
make progress with walking and
taking care of myself. God's grace
and the prayers of so many pulled
me through." - Sandie Enders

"I want to thank everyone for their
cards and prayers for me and my
brothers and sister. My mother, Jean
VanderMeer, passed away quietly at
her nursing home in Colorado. They
did let family members in to be with
her towards the end. She did not
have the Covid-19 virus. However
being restricted to her room and not
able to participate in social and
physical activities took its toll."

-Lynne VanderMeer

"I am so very appreciative of all the
Easter cards, "Thinking of You"
cards, and visits from my Deacon
and friend, Ron Mass. I feel very
loved and blessed by my church
family. The care and concern shown
to me is helping me get through this
time of total shutdown."

- With gratitude, Heidy Gassmann

"Thank you to Pastors Troy and
Kristine, and everyone behind the
scenes who continue to bring us
beautiful and meaningful worship
services. We also appreciate the daily
reflections by our pastors and other
members of the church community.
In this time where it is easy to feel
isolated and alone, you have done a
great job of letting us know we are
still a family and God is still with us
and loves us.

-Members of FPGH

Happy Birthday!

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!

May 10 June Lindberg
16331 Robbins Road
Grand Haven, MI 49417

May 19 Gerry VanStratt
1125 Robbins Road #C-21
Grand Haven, MI 49417

May 28 Sue McClellan
1450 S. Ferry St, Apt. 228
Grand Haven, MI 49417

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

PW Hanging Basket Flower Sale

The Presbyterian
Women send out a
huge "thank you!" to
the members of the
congregation! Last
year they sold 122
hanging baskets,
and this year they
sold 166!



For those who placed an order,
flowers may be picked up in the
church parking lot on the afternoon
of May 8. If you are unable to pick
up your flowers at that time, please
contact Sue Ochs at s2123@aol.com,
or 231-750-3946.

All proceeds support the missions
of the Presbyterian Women.

From The Generosity Committee

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Thank You

This is a note of thanks from your Generosity Committee. In the past the majority of revenue for the church came from passing the offering plate in worship, but for the past several weeks that has not been possible. Many feared that this would be a massive blow to the church budgets. You, however, have risen to the occasion. Thank you!

Your strong, ongoing support has come through the mail, the drop box at church, e-giving, and even text. The church is managing its resources carefully, and your generosity will allow us to be strong in this time and emerge even stronger when this period ends.

We have an update for you. The church's Ferry Legacy Society had planned a special reception and program with guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. John M. Buchanan, on June 11. For now, this event is on hold. We look forward to rescheduling at a future date and will keep you informed. Everyone will be invited to attend.

Until we can again worship together and you can offer your gifts in person, methods of giving to the church's ministries include:

1. Mailing a check (508 Franklin, Grand Haven, MI 49417)
2. Giving online through Realm or by following this link: <https://onrealm.org/FPGH/-/give/now>
3. Dropping off your check to the new deposit box located inside the first set of doors on Clinton Street
4. Texting FPGH to 73256. This will link you to our secure giving page.

Thank you for your support!

Outreach

Send a Smile

to a Resident at a Nursing or Retirement Home!

Area nursing and retirement homes are still in "lockdown" to protect residents from the spread of COVID-19. This means that they are unable to allow visitors into the buildings. As the residents are surely missing their families and other visitors, these facilities have asked for help in comforting them during this difficult time.

Simply send a generic "Thinking of You" card/letter to one of the addresses listed below, and they will be distributed to residents.

Grand Pines Assisted Living Center

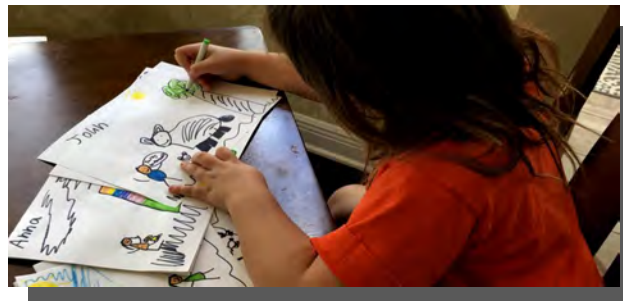
1410 S. Ferry Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Village at the Pines

1450 S. Ferry Street
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Robbinswood Assisted Living Community

1125 Robbins Road
Grand Haven, MI 49417



Children are also encouraged to write or send a drawing!

Coronavirus Cancellations

In an effort to keep you as informed as possible regarding scheduled church-related and Joyful Noise events, we have compiled a list of happenings that were scheduled to occur over the next few months. As you are all aware of the tenuousness of anything being held in this time frame, we have included a column regarding the intended, or hoped for, rescheduled date. For some events, we just don't know. We will keep you updated on the actual scheduled dates.

Activity/Event	Area of Ministry	Originally Scheduled Date	Status
New Member Class	Staff	4/19-5/3	Wait for fall class
Confirmation Sunday	Youth	4/19	Pending
Young Family Lunches	Children's	3/15 & 5/3	Will reschedule when safe to do so
Shine 3/4 Trips	Children's	3/22 & 4/26	Will reschedule when safe to do so
Children and Worship	Children's	Sundays	Will resume when safe to do so
Hand2Hand Ministries	Children's	Thursdays	TBD
Legacy Society Event with Rev. John Buchanan	Generosity	June 11	Looking at September dates
Byron Center Mission Trip	Youth	July 18-24	Maybe next summer
Session Visioning	Session	April 13	Yes - as soon as feasible to meet in person
Belize Mission Trip	Youth	June 17-24	Hopefully next summer
Sunday Morning Classes	Adult Ed	Sundays	Will resume when safe to do so
Various Small Groups/ Classes	Adult Ed	Throughout the week	Meeting online if feasible, plan to resume when safe to do so
Pony Farm Picnic	Joyful Noise	5/15	2021
Golf Scramble	Joyful Noise	6/28	2021
CG Kids Parade Participation	Joyful Noise	End of July	2021
Literacy event - @ Library	Joyful Noise	3/18	2021
Movers For Moms Collection	Joyful Noise	5/20	2021
Emily Amos, Organ Concert	CAS	4/19	2021
Moxie Strings Concert	CAS	5/3	TBD
Core Values Art Roll-Out	Visual Arts	4/19	Whenever we get back together, with possible post-Covid ideas
Pentecost Art	Worship/Arts	5/31	2021
Rob Hlebinksy Recital	Music/Fine	5/31	TBD

Tidings article deadline for June 2020 issue: May 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.

Update from the Session

The Session has been meeting over Zoom since mid-March. Its predominant focus has been adjusting the ministry to this time of social distancing. They have made two significant decisions in their recent meeting:

- The Session applied for and received a loan from the Paycheck Protection Program of the CARES Act. This loan is particularly helpful to FPGH because it allows the church to keep paying the staff of Joyful Noise while very little revenue is coming in due to their closure. This loan can be forgiven, and the church is collecting the paperwork to file for forgiveness.
- Because of the mandates to keep gatherings below ten people, the Session decided not to hold funerals or memorials at the church until these restrictions loosen. Pastors are able to minister to families for small graveside services.

The Session appreciates your prayers as it navigates these unfamiliar waters.

Staying Connected

Even though we are forced to be physically apart from each other, we are committed to staying connected with our church family. Here are ways we can still be together:

- On Sunday mornings join us for live worship at 10 a.m. on Facebook (@FirstPresGH). The recorded video is available on the website (fpgh.org) later in the day.
- Pastors Troy and Kristine and other congregation members have been recording “daily reflections/devotions” and posting them on Facebook. Those reflections are also posted on our website.
- On Wednesday evenings we are streaming short special services on Facebook at 6:00 p.m. These are also posted on our website.
- Pastor Troy hosts a Zoom Bible study on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45, and is leading the group through the Book of Mark. Contact the church office for the Zoom meeting link.
- You may also connect with a prayer group that meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon on Zoom. Contact the church office for the Zoom meeting link.
- A new Zoom group is forming for parents to gather for an hour of fellowship, support and prayer and to congratulate ourselves for making it through another day of working and/or teaching our kids full time! The group will meet on Thursdays at 8 p.m. Contact Pastor Kristine (KristineAB@fpgh.org) or Kate Williams (kwilliams9912@gmail.com) for the meeting link.

Our phones also continue to be answered, so don't hesitate to call us: 616-842-6760, or contact us via email: staff@fpgh.org

First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven

508 Franklin Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Phone: 616.842.6760

www.fpgh.org • staff@fpgh.org

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

Watch live on Facebook at 10 a.m.

(@FirstPresGH), or watch the video recording
on our website (wwwfpgh.org)

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

Missions Supported by the Mission Committee: The People Center

The People Center is one of the organizations supported by our Mission Committee. It is located at 307 Exchange Street in Spring Lake. The purpose of The People Center is to provide a safe place for people of the area to come, to be heard, and to receive practical assistance in an atmosphere of dignity and trust. The entrance is accessed from the parking lot off M-104/Savidge Street, and it has a blue awning over the door.

The following is from: <https://thepeoplecenter.org/about/>

The People Center first opened its doors and its heart on June 4, 1996.

Since the beginning, our intention has been to welcome our neighbors to a safe and honoring place when life becomes stressful and anxious.

From its humble beginning of one home that housed a food pantry, a clothing hutch, and a single efficiency apartment, The People Center has grown. In 2004, The People Center responded to the needs of over 1,800 guests, the vast majority of whom live in the greater Tri-Cities area!

In 1998 and 1999, the second and third apartments were opened to house families in need.

On July 28, 2005 The People Center celebrated the grand opening of its third home, Samantha's Place.

The three apartments in Samantha's Place double the amount of transitional housing The People Center is able to offer the people of our community. The emerging People Center campus now includes six transitional apartments in three homes and continues to provide food and clothing.

With one paid part-time employee and a staff of over 60 volunteers, we are able to help families in our community.

In March 2010, with generous donations from our community, we became the proud owners of our current properties.

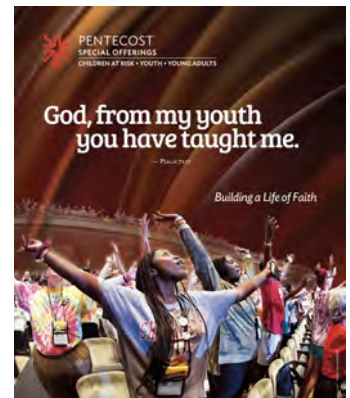
The current hours of operation are Monday & Wednesday 11 AM – 3 PM. Food donations can be dropped off during the above hours. No clothing donations are being accepted right now. Currently, there are no volunteers, but they will be needed in the future. Call 616 844-6710 to volunteer.

Special Pentecost Offering

"O God from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds." Psalm 71:17

On Pentecost Sunday, May 31, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. This celebration is marked by receiving one of the four PC(USA) special offerings. The Pentecost Offering helps nurture the faith of those who are the future of the church—children, youth, and young adults.

- 40% of the offering remains with First Presbyterian Church to support children and youth at risk. Love in Action is working with the Hand2Hand Backpack Ministry at the present time and will be the specified recipient. This ministry provides weekend food bags for local children.
- 25% supports ministries with youth ages 12-18. One example is the Senior Project which offers a path for graduating seniors to explore their next steps in faith, community, and vocation.
- 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers who serve in communities around the world as they grow through transformative Christian service.
- 10% supports the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" PC(USA) initiative begun in 2014 to better the lives of one million children by 2020.



Please support the church of the future. Contribute to the Pentecost Offering via check to First Presbyterian or text PENTECOST to 20222 to give \$10 or visit PCUSA.org/donatePENTECOST

Dear FPGH Family -

It has been a particularly difficult season for our students. Though these last several weeks have been hard, it has been a true honor to watch all of our youth continue to move forward in faith, hope and respect. We have been amazed by their ability to remain positive and seek out ways to connect with one another and help others. Just last week one of our 6th grade girls made bracelets to raise money for Mercy Health's Covid-19 relief fund. How amazing is that? Even in the midst of facing painful cancellations and difficult adjustments to new normal, our youth continue to inspire.

Unfortunately, aspects of our youth ministry program have not been

exempt from a long list of cancellations. The Youth Committee had to make the difficult decision to cancel both of our mission trips this summer: the middle school mission trip to Byron Center and the high school mission trip to Belize. Though we have had to put a hold on spending physical time with our mission partners, we continue to be dedicated to serving alongside them even from a distance. Because of the efforts of our Youth Belize Mission Team and the generous donations made by the congregation, we were able to raise \$4,903 to help support Koinonia Ministries in building their childcare facility. This is a *huge blessing* to them and they are extremely grateful.

The Youth Committee remains passionate about instilling in our

students the understanding that mission trips are more than traveling to a destination. The important work of loving and caring for our neighbors continues! Stay tuned for more ways the church can support and encourage our students in mission.



Thank you for your continued love and support,

The FPGH Youth Committee

Share Your New Worship Space!

We love seeing all of your worshiping faces and places. Let's keep sharing them each Sunday on the Young Families Facebook page: FPGH Young Families (for privacy concerns, this is a private group).



Gather Your Art Supplies Before Worship

Each week during the Children's Message, we encourage the kids to draw their response to the story. So before the service starts, be sure to have all of your art supplies ready to go!

If your children are willing to share their creations, upload them to the Young Families Facebook page (FPGH Young Families). We would love to see their artwork!

If you don't have Facebook but would still like to share your child's creation, email them to Laura Burns at lburns@fpgh.org



Share Your Favorite Bedtime Story!

We would love to hear your favorite bedtime story!

Would you and/or your family be willing to record and share a short video greeting and read your favorite bedtime story? We would like to share it on the Young Families Facebook page (private group).

Contact Laura Burns at lburns@fpgh.org for details.





**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

Sunday Worship:

10:00 a.m. on our Facebook page: @FirstPresGH

or watch the recorded service on our

website: fpgh.org

May 2020

deliver to: (or current resident)



Help us Celebrate Our Graduates!

For our friends graduating from 8th grade, high school and college this is certainly not the final semester they dreamed of. But they have still made a MAJOR accomplishment by graduating from school and being ready to move on to their next phase of life! That is something worth celebrating in all circumstances.

Let us know who is graduating. If you know a graduate, send us a quick note with:

- their name
- where they are graduating from
- any future plans
- a photo, if possible

Please send this to Maddie Lambert at mlambert@fpgh.org before May 15.

Help us celebrate them: If you are willing to write a graduate a letter or send them a fun treat, email Maddie Lambert at mlambert@fpgh.org and she will be happy to supply you with a name and a mailing address! With the remainder of the school year being cancelled, they could use some extra love.



We will be recognizing our grads in worship on May 17