



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

SEPTEMBER 2020, VOLUME 68—ISSUE 9

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Reverend Troy Hauser Brydon

Fall is here, and as with everything in 2020, this fall will be different than we're used to. Usually, I'd be writing to you about Kick-Off Sunday and the all-church picnic. Usually, I'd be encouraging you to find a Sunday morning class to grow in faith. Usually, I'd be writing about how excited we are for the start of youth group or how we're looking for more volunteers to work with our growing children's ministries.

This year is not usual, but I'm OK with that. In all of our pivoting in ministry I'm seeing so many ways that the ministry is strengthening and preparing to be so strong when the day comes that we can get back in the building together. I'm seeing people make positive choices to grow in faith. I see intentional encouragement in worship from your Facebook comments. I'm struck that there is so much good we can do even now, even in these circumstances. So, I urge you: Take advantage of this time. It's hard, but it's also a gift and the time God has placed you in.

While this fall will be different, you'll notice that there are still plenty of ways to grow as Christians and as a church. Our newly renamed Faith Formation Committee (formerly Adult Education) is mapping out ways for you to meet in small groups this fall. Some of this will be virtual. Some of this may be in person. Either way, what is needed is for individuals to say "yes." Yes, I need to be in deep community with others from my church in this time. The more who get connected, the stronger we will be.

Second, I am grateful that we've been able to have some of you back in the sanctuary for worship. While it's not ideal (I mean, it would be better without masks and with singing!), I know that it has warmed my heart to see your faces. I am reminded of how great of a privilege it is to be a pastor to you.

Third, as our Nominating Committee is going about their work, I want to note that they'd love your input. Do you have suggestions for deacon or elder? We'd love to hear them. Remember that these are *suggestions* and that the Nominating Committee is charged with discerning the Spirit's direction in our next class of officers. So, think about people who would serve well, and be open to serving yourself.

Finally, I want to remind the church that the biannual General Assembly of our denomination happened this summer. It had to be done virtually, and much of its docket was postponed for two years, yet there were some notable happenings at General Assembly. Elsewhere in this issue you'll see some of those happenings. Together we are a part of the body of Christ, including the larger PC(USA).

In Christ,
Pastor Troy

Upcoming Events

Sept. 13 New Sunday Faith Formation
Classes Begin (*details on page 6*)

Sept. 16 & 23
Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk
Book Discussion Begins

Sept. 20 Safe Church Gathering (formerly
known as the All-Church Picnic)

Sept. 23 Praise & Prayers in the Parking Lot

Sept. 25 PW Mum Sale

Sept. 30 Intro to Zoom Class

Oct. 4 Virtual Crop Walk

Safe Church Gathering (formerly known as the all-church picnic)

Sunday, September 20
noon
Pottawattomie Park

Join us for a safe, fun,
socially-distanced event!

Bring your masks and your own
chairs. We will provide
individually wrapped Jimmy
John's sandwiches, bagged
chips & bottled water,
served by masked and
gloved volunteers.

To RSVP, contact the church
office by Thursday, September 17,
with the number of
people who will be attending
with you:
616-842-6760 or
staff@fpgh.org

In Our Church

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Church & Pastor Contact Information

Pastor Troy Hauser Brydon:

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

Pastor Kristine Aragon Bruce:

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

Church Office:

616-842-6760,
staff@fpgh.org

Prayer Concerns:

Martha Alexander, Brian Anderson
and Joan Tandler, Mary Lou Bender,
Betty Berg, Karen Fox, Marilew
Helmerts, Stan Johnson, Paul Lampe,
Beverly Purcell, Barbara Race, Lisa
Stoner, and Jim & Sandy Teunis

to the family and friends of Shirley
Shuman (mother), Henni Campbell
(aunt), and Ann Satter grandmother)
on the death of Shirley's son, Greg,
on July 30, 2020.

to the family and friends of Elsie
Kraai and Denise Nelson (sister), on
the death of Elsie's son, Duane.
Please remember Denise (sister) and
Don Nelson, and all extended family.

to the family and friends of Harold
Haase on the death of his wife,
Elaine, on August 5, 2020.

to the friends and family of Shirley
Hipwell and her son, Mike, on the
death of her daughter-in-law, Susan,
on August 14, 2020.

to the family of Bill Bolthouse, who
passed away on August 19, 2020.
We offer prayers of sympathy also
for his dear friend, Ginger Dykstra,
and his sister-in-law, Nancy Hall.

Our Sympathy:

to Deb and Scott Stanley and family
on the death of Deb's father, Wes
Fasnacht, on August 25, 2020.

to the friends and family of Carol
Folkert, who passed away on August
30, 2020. A memorial service will be
announced at a later date.

Thank you:

"Thank you church family for all the
support and prayers these past
many months. Thank you so much
for the many cards and words of
encouragement. My health continues
to improve and am looking forward
to worshipping with you again soon."

God bless,
Tim Bullerdick

"A sincere thank you to everyone
that has called, sent a card and
included me in their prayers. The
healing process continues but I am
confident in successful results. We
are blessed to have our church family
support."

Tom Wood

"Thanks so much for the prayers,
cards, and support. My pain follow-
ing surgery is greatly reduced and I
am doing much better. Thanks so
much for everything!"

Tom Franks

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!

Sept. 11 Jim Teunis
14524 Angelus Circle
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Sept. 19 Sandy Beute
17283 Rosy Mound Lane
Apt. 342
Grand Haven, MI 49417

From the Mission Committee Food Pantry Collection

The Mission Committee has
received a request from Love in
Action for donations of the
following items:

- Flour
- Sugar
- Vegetable Oil



If you would like to donate any of
these items, please bring them
directly to the Love in Action
Donation Processing Center at
1106 Fulton Street in Grand Haven.

CROP Walk for Hunger

The 46th annual first Sunday in October (October 4)
Tri-Cities CROP Hunger Walk will be virtual this year.
Read about it at [www.crophungerwalk.org/
grandhavenmi](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/grandhavenmi), then join the First Presbyterian Church
team online as we walk in spirit with the Tri-Cities
church community.

There is a wonderful incentive challenge—for every "walker" who signs up
online and raises at least \$100, anonymous donors will match \$100 (up to
150 walkers). Twenty-five percent of the money raised goes to local food
pantries. If you would like an envelope to collect cash donations, contact the
First Presbyterian team captain, Carole DeYoung (ckdeyoung@charter.net)



From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

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Dear Church Family,

I miss you and I miss being with you in person! While our worship, small groups and other gatherings have needed to be put on hold or greatly modified, I pray you still feel the love of Christ through calls, cards and short visits from others in our church family. Your pastors and staff have been prayerfully racking our brains over how we can help our church family remain connected and continue to grow together in faith in the midst of a Covid-19 world. As a result we are encouraging everyone to find a prayer partner this fall. It could be your spouse, a friend, your walking buddy or anyone with whom you feel comfortable praying out loud. The goal is for prayer partners to pray with one another in person (but 6 ft. apart 😊), over the phone or via a screen at least once a week. Each month we will offer different prayer prompts to help you form your prayers. Trust me when I say you'll be blessed by this experience!

I realize that praying out loud is a huge stretch for many of us. In my 10+ years as a pastor I've heard from many that prayer is such a private act that they don't feel the need to pray with another person. While I agree that prayer is a private act and we need to continue to lift up our individual prayers, the act of praying *out loud with others* strengthens a Christ-centered community as well as our own personal faith. There are many instances of people coming together in prayer throughout Scripture. I'm also a firm believer that God calls us to pray together.

In Acts 1:14 after Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples and women closest to Jesus including his mother, Mary returned to Jerusalem where they met together in the upper room to constantly devote themselves to prayer. While they were scared and probably wondering if they were the next to be arrested and executed just like Jesus, the first thing they did was to come together in prayer. There was comfort in both their number and shared prayers. Galatians 6:2 states: "Carry each other's burdens." While we can't solve a friend's health crisis, fix a friend's marital strife or end a loved one's financial burden we *can pray for them* and *with them*. Just the other day folks in the noon prayer group that meets twice a week via zoom took a few moments to pray out loud for one another after a time of shared prayer requests. Afterward even through a screen I could see on each person's face how meaningful and grateful we were for the opportunity to pray for and with one another. At the end of our time together someone always says: "Wow. I really needed this time together."

My prayer is that each person in our church family has this same powerful experience with others. I know it can be scary to pray out loud if it's not something you're used to doing, but please keep in mind your prayers don't need to be beautiful works of poetry. The last thing God wants our prayers to be are performances. Nine out of ten times, however, the pressure to pray eloquently isn't coming from others, but something we put upon ourselves. I pray that you find that person with whom you feel comfortable praying, and if you need help finding a prayer partner please let me know! I'm happy to help you find one. Until then let's keep praying without ceasing and be surprised by how God continues to show up even in the midst of a pandemic.

Grateful to be on this journey of faith with you,
Pastor Kristine

From the Session

Update from the Session

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

Highlights:

- Approved the acquisition of professional video recording equipment to enhance the church's digital ministry both during the pandemic and beyond.
- Reviewed financial reports for the church operating budget and for Joyful Noise. The Session is grateful to the steadfast generosity of the congregation.
- Resumed planning for Session visioning, a process postponed at the beginning of the pandemic.

It is our joy to serve Christ as the Session for First Presbyterian Church. Please continue to hold us in your prayers.

What to Expect for In-Person Worship

Session has approved a plan for a returning to limited in-person worship once local Covid-19 case numbers come down. We will announce the return to gathered worship a week prior to the return. Communication will come via email, Sunday announcements, and through social posts. As a reminder, here are the expectations for those who wish to worship in-person:

- Everyone will be wearing facemasks.
- People will sign-up the week prior to the service (and to begin with, capacity will be limited to 50)
- Seating will be assigned to promote social distancing.
- All worship aids will be on the screen.
- There will be music but no congregational singing.
- There will be no nursery, no children's programming, and no coffee hour.
- Efforts will be made to make all the elements of the service no-contact.
- At the end of the service, please remain seated until you are dismissed by an usher.

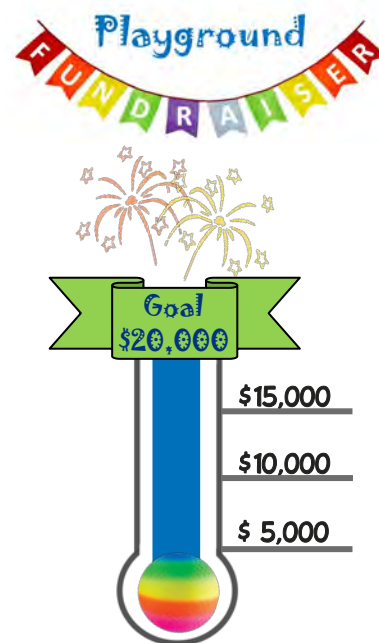
How to Sign Up for in-Person Worship

Signing up to attend worship will happen on a weekly basis, beginning at 9 a.m. on the Monday before the service. To sign up, call the church office (616-842-6760).

After you have made a reservation, detailed Sunday morning instructions will be emailed to you. If you don't have a reservation, please do not show up on Sunday morning hoping there is space for you.

We can't wait to see you again, but please be wise in making personal decisions. If you have health concerns, aren't feeling well, or if you don't want to wear a mask, please stay home and worship with us on Facebook (@FirstPresGH).

We Did It!



Thanks to your generosity, we have reached our goal of \$20,000 raised by the congregation of FPGH! We expect of first pieces of playground equipment to arrive sometime this fall.

(if you'd still like to donate, send in your check indicating "playground" to FPGH, 508 Franklin, Grand Haven, MI, or text 73256 and select "playground")

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
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

Tidings article deadline for October 2020 issue: September 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.

Summary from the 2020 General Assembly

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From lamentation to action — the 2020 General Assembly called the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to do the hard work of justice, working to respond to what some referred to as the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice.

Virtual GA. Because of COVID-19, this became the PC(USA)'s first virtual General Assembly, meeting via Zoom — with technology that had more hiccups than hard bumps ("Can you hear me?" was the first thing many commissioners said). That format also meant the assembly considered "core and critical" business — referring many other reports to the next assembly in 2022. Some business that did make it through: offering the church's presence and advocacy for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and support for the work of the Native American Coordinating Council and for repairing Native American church properties.

Co-moderators. Because the opening plenary on June 19 ran late — in part with commissioners debating what business to defer to 2022, and in a dispute over whether San Francisco Theological Seminary remains as a PC(USA) seminary — the assembly added an extra plenary session June 20 in order to elect co-moderators. The decision didn't take long, as the assembly elected Elona Street-Stewart, an Indigenous ruling elder, and Gregory Bentley, a Black minister, on the first ballot — with 304 commissioners voting for them, three times as many votes as for the next-closest team. Street-Stewart is synod executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and, as a member of the Delaware Nanticoke tribe, an assembly's first Native American co-moderator. Bentley is pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama. From lament to action Their election was emotional, as Oscar J. McCloud prayed during their installation that their paths had been watered with the tears and blood of their ancestors. Bentley pronounced himself to be "hippopotamus happy and dinosaur delighted." Bentley and Street-Stewart have chosen as their symbol the Sankofa bird: standing in the Mississippi River, representing flying forward while looking backward, a hope, Bentley said, of bringing "the best of our cultures to make the church better."



The Sankofa bird, the symbol of the co-moderators of the 224th General Assembly

Racism. On June 26 the assembly approved a resolution called "Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action" — declaring that Black lives matter; confessing that the church has been complicit in perpetuating injustice; and pledging to "confront and dismantle systemic racism" in the church and in society. That resolution was a substitute for another option that commissioners determined was not strong enough — as Milo Browne, a young adult advisory delegate from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley put it: "It is inexcusable for us to stand in silence as people are being killed."

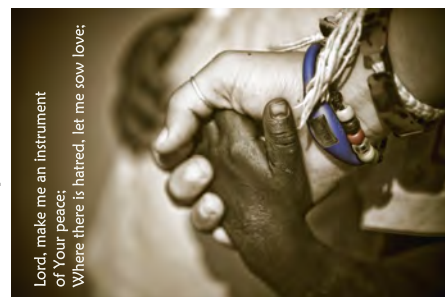
Stated clerk. The assembly re-elected J. Herbert Nelson, 61, to a second four-year term as the PC(USA)'s stated clerk — the denomination's chief ecclesial officer and its voice in the public square. Nelson was the only candidate — no one else applied — and was installed with a prayer from his wife, Gail Porter Nelson, also a PC(USA) pastor. Nelson expressed thanks, saying "I'm still a pastor" at heart — and said "there is a Savior who reminds us you can go to the poor, to the broken, to the widows, and make a difference," to get out of the church building. "I don't ever remember Jesus having a church house. Every one he went into, he got thrown out of."

Budget. The assembly approved a unified PC(USA) budget of \$80.1 million for 2021 and \$83.4 million for 2022 built on the assumption that COVID-19 will cause income to decline by roughly 25% this year and next. The assembly also approved a General Assembly per capita rate of \$8.98 per member for 2021 and 2022 — three cents higher than the \$8.95 per member rate for 2019 and 2020.

September Spiritual Practice: Prayer Partners

For the months of September, October and November we are encouraging worshippers to find partner with whom to pray. This could be a spouse, a family member, a friend or anyone with whom you feel comfortable praying out loud.

Each month, we will provide prayer resources for you to engage with together. For the month of September, we encourage partners to corporately (together, out loud) pray the prayer of St. Francis at least once a week. We hope this prayer will move you towards faithful action in God together.



Encourage an Educator with a note and/or an Amazon gift card!

It's a stressful year for all those working in the schools. We're looking for individuals who are willing to write to one of the many educators (teachers, administrators, bus drivers, social workers etc!) in our congregation a note of monthly encouragement.

If you'd like to be paired with an educator please email Sue Ochs: s2123@aol.com. If you'd like to donate an Amazon gift card for any amount for one of our educators currently in the classroom please feel free to mail them to or drop them off at the main office.



Faith Formation

Fall Faith Formation Offerings

Exploring the Book of Esther

Hal Fitzgerald and Warren Trimble invite you to join them on ZOOM on Sunday mornings to explore Bible passages related to the fall sermon series on Esther.

Classes will run from about 9:00 to 9:40 to allow people to attend services at 10:00. They will begin September 13th and run through to the end of the sermon series. Please contact Hal: hfitz@sbcglobal.net or Warren: warrentrimble@gmail.com or the church office for the Zoom link."

Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk

It's no secret that we are more divided than ever as a country. In this book Pastor Eugene Cho

explores how we as Christians can engage in potentially tense and uncomfortable political conversations while remaining committed to loving our neighbor.



Hope you can participate! Class will meet on Wednesdays September 16 and 23 at 7 p.m. Depending on the weather, we will meet socially distanced in person in the church parking lot, otherwise it will be via Zoom. Additional meetings may be scheduled depending on interest.

Questions? Please contact: Pastor Kristine Aragon Bruce, kristineab@fgph.org

Intro to Zoom Class

September 30th @ 2pm in the church Lounge. Come learn more about how to use Zoom! It's a great

tool to keep us connected while there are limits on our in-person gatherings. This class is limited to 8 so please email Pastor Kristine Kristineab@fpgh.org to RSVP or if you have any questions. Hope you can make it!

The Wired Word

The Wired Word is a weekly study of newsworthy issues written by an ecumenical team of pastors, professors and theologians. Issues are framed by biblical passages in a manner which is respectful and challenging.

Class meets Sunday mornings from 9-10 via Zoom. Please contact the church office or Karen Abraham (abrahamkarenl@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

Community Artist & Speaker Series

Greetings from the Community Artist and Speaker Series Committee. We have missed seeing you at our concert and speaker events, and are tentatively planning for a partial, virtual/live-streamed upcoming season. We will publish and advertise these events in the near future.

My daughter Meggie found this text from the book of Luke that spoke to these times. I think promoting the Arts—even if virtually—takes us in the right direction. Peace, Eric Snyder (committee chair)

Luke 1:78-79

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

FPC Financial Update as of July 31, 2020

Offerings Received

Year-to-Date:

631,864

Expenditures Paid

Year-to-Date:

552,112

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) We would love to help!

From the Earth Care Team

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been bombarded with so many confusing instructions of what to do to stay safe that we have not been able to focus on what is happening to our planet. Add to that the social justice movement, the unemployment and schooling issues, and the upcoming presidential election, we have hardly had time to think about all the plastic waste that has been created. Medical supplies, masks, and many plastics have been necessary for our safety, but what can each of us do to reduce plastic use where we can? Here are a few ideas:



1. At take-out places, ask to not have plasticware and straws put in your order.
2. Take your unbagged groceries to your trunk and put them in your reusable bags there.
3. Avoid single-use plastic items when you can.
4. Continue to clean and recycle all you can.
5. Use reusable containers for food storage instead of plastic bags.
6. As always, reuse whatever you can.

May God bless you for your efforts to preserve His creation.

Meal Ministry

If you love to cook and would like to help out members of our church family who are recovering from medical issues, experiencing personal crisis or loss, or have newborns, join our meal ministry! You really don't even have to love to cook—purchased meals are also welcome!

The Meal Ministry is an excellent way to serve others, share your love of God and make a difference in someone's life. Most members who volunteer only need to make one occasional meal for a family in need.

To sign up to bring meals, contact Carrie Ledet: ledetc@westottawa.net or 616-607-2811.



Tina's I. T. Corner Zoom Meetings Like a Pro

By now most of you have participated in a Zoom meeting or two. Or, maybe you haven't. Here are a few tips and tricks along with some etiquette pointers to help everyone have a great Zoom experience.

Before the Meeting:

- Test your technology—this includes camera/video on your smart device, Wi-Fi access, and screen sharing (if you are the host or presenter).
- Practice speaking to the camera—not the screen. Remember most of us are not naturals in front of the camera and it takes practice to become comfortable.
- Turn off all notifications—if you are using your cell phone or tablet for the meeting turn off notifications before entering the meeting.

Zoom Meeting Participants:

- Be on time—arrive a little early and wait for the meeting to begin.
- Speak up upon entry—just make sure not to interrupt someone midsentence.
- Mute yourself when not talking—click the “mute” microphone option located in the bottom left hand corner.
- Be present and attentive—don't stare at your phone or surroundings, don't type in the background. It may be tempting to check your inbox or carry on a side conversation during a dull moment in a meeting, but don't do it! You might miss out on key information or an opportunity to give input.
- Be respectful—raise your hand. If you want to speak, physically raise your hand or use the “raise hand” feature that is available in the participant panel.

Video Conferencing Etiquette

- Be courteous to other participants
- Speak clearly
- Keep body movements minimal
- Move and gesture slowly and naturally
- Maintain eye contact by looking into the camera
- Dress appropriately
- Make the session animated
- Be yourself and have fun!



From the Mission Committee Pen Pal Ministry Update

Our church has a continuous, silent prison ministry with over 50 women and 11 men writing as Pen Pals—women at Huron Valley Correctional and men at Muskegon Correctional Facility. This ministry may be silent to us who are not aware of it, but speaks loudly to the hearts and souls of our incarcerated friends with a loving... “someone cares!”

Knowing that there is a Christian somewhere “who cares” can sustain an inmate’s faith for another day. There are hundreds of these quotes available from inmates responding to FPC Pen Pal letters--- here are three:

- "I want to thank you for taking time out of your day to write to a perfect stranger. Your letters brighten my day and show me that I have not been forgotten."
- "Thank you for all of your letters. Your writing to me, even when I didn't respond, showed me that there is truly a God above who loves us. You are a blessing to me"
- "Your letters and cards show God's love and that He really cares for me. After corresponding with you, I have become a Christian and was recently baptized."

Our Pen Pals are Jesus’ hands reaching to those whose faith is challenged daily. When you can...hug a Pen Pal!!!

Youth and Children's Ministries

PAGE 9

Below are descriptions of the faith formation opportunities that will be available to students this fall. All opportunities will be in tangent with our current sermon series and whole church theme. This fall, our entire church will be spending 10 weeks in the book of Esther and contemplating how this text calls us to prayerful action. Classes will be outdoors in person as long weather allows and then move to Zoom.

High School Bible Study on Esther

Led by Maddie Lambert

Mondays, Sept. 14-Nov. 30 , 6:30-8:00 p.m.

All high school age students are invited to participate in an in depth 10-week study on the book of Esther. Esther is a riveting 10 chapter narrative that brings to light a need for God's justice and courageous advocates in a time in which whole groups of people are being considered "less than." Each week, participants will read a chapter of Esther as a group and then be given space to individually respond to the text in a new and creative way. This includes: poetry, artwork, prayer, journaling and more. We will also be diving into specifics of the text including historical circumstance and the Hebrew language.

Creative Methods in Response to Esther (5th-8th grades)

Led by Alexis Stark

Sundays, Sept. 13-Oct. 11 , 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Over the course of five weeks, 5-8th graders are invited to explore critical thinking and creative responses to the first five chapters of Esther. Each week, participants will be taught a new form of creative response and reflection (poetry, journaling, creative writing styles, drawing, etc.) based on a lesson, quote, or overarching theme of each chapter. Together, we will use biblical scripture as the foundation to try new things, enjoy conversation, and share the space to expand our faith and creativity.

LEGO Faith Builders on Esther (5th-8th grades)

Led by Maddie Lambert

Sundays, Oct. 25- Dec. 6 , 6:30-7:30 p.m.

In this faith formation opportunity, students will read several key moments in the Esther story together. After reading, participants will be invited to respond to what they heard in the text by building the story out of LEGOs.

Hand2Hand Backpack Ministry

Hand2Hand is a ministry that provides weekend food for school-aged children. For over 10 years First Presbyterian Church has supported children at Mary A. White Elementary, Lakeshore Middle School, Central School and Spring Lake Middle School. While this school year looks a little different, our commitment to support local children has not changed. We have been blessed with an abundance of volunteers, but here are other ways you can be involved:



- **Financial gifts**—your financial support allows us to purchase the food. We send approximately 10-12 items home to almost 100 students each week. One hundred percent of your gift goes directly to food purchases. Please indicate "Hand2Hand" on your offering.

- **Pray** for the students and families. This program is founded on prayer and supported in love.

Thank you for your committed support of this valuable program!

Two New Ways to Volunteer in Children's Ministries

Cutting Specialists 😊



Children's Ministry will be virtual this fall but we would like to send home a monthly packet of tangible stories.

Would you like to be part of the team to help cut out these take-home stories? We are looking for a team of ten to cut out sets of figures each month. You will pick up the supplies at church, cut them out at home, and then drop your completed sets off at church. We will

include them in the family packs. If you would like to be part of this team or want more information, please contact Laura Burns, lburns@fpgh.org.

Virtual Storytime Readers

We will be hosting a virtual story time! Once a week we will be sharing a picture book that helps us think about faith. We have a wonderful line-up of stories this fall! We would like to include many voices.

Would you be willing to be one of our story readers? We will provide the book and the recording resources--we just need you to read the story. If you would like to be part of the story time team or want more information, please contact Laura Burns, lburns@fpgh.org.





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

Sunday Worship:

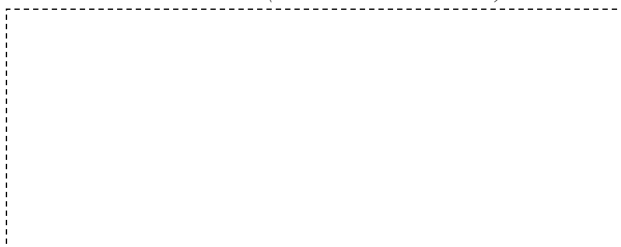
10:00 a.m. on our Facebook page: @FirstPresGH

or watch the recorded service on our

website: fpgh.org

September 2020

deliver to: (or current resident)



Support these Presbyterian Women Fundraisers!

It's time for the annual
Presbyterian Women

Fall Mum Sale

Friday, September 25
from 11-3
in the parking lot

8" pots of beautiful mums in a variety of
colors will be sold for \$6.00 each!

All proceeds go to PW Missions

PC(USA) & PW Masks
are available for a donation
to Presbyterian Women Missions



Contact Sue Ochs:
s2123@aol.com or 231-750-3946