



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

AUGUST 2021, VOLUME 69—ISSUE 8

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Reverend Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

My heart is full. On Sunday, July 18, over 400 of us gathered in the Lynne Sherwood Memorial Stadium to worship God together. (The official count was 423 in attendance, which is a number we normally see around Easter and is by far the biggest group we've had together in the past year.) There were people who came to

worship who have not been to in-person worship since the pandemic started. It was so delightful to lay eyes on you again. There were visitors to the service from Joyful Noise families, from the community, and from those vacationing in Grand Haven. I was struck by how moving outside put us in the position of welcoming so many new people. It was a good reminder of the need to be invitational.



My heart is full for reasons beyond the crowd. It is full because our choir sang beautifully. It is full because Rob led us with his usual virtuosity but on a different instrument. It is full because the Gathering Band was in full force and got us clapping. It is full because you all gave \$1368.49 in cash offerings that we will give to Love in Action's ministry. It

is full because of all the children who came to worship. It is full because of the conversations we shared before and after worship, even with our mouths full of delicious ice cream.

It was a great deal of work to move our service to the stadium, and I am grateful for all who stepped forward to help. The Worship Committee helped map out the service. Its members were instrumental in advertising for the service and helping with volunteers. We had upwards of 16 ushers welcoming folks and helping throughout the service. The Tech crew of Harry, Eric, Ari, and Jack made the service work both in-person and online. The Gathering Band not only played music but were roadies in setting up and tearing down equipment. A special thank you has to go to Tim Olson, whose sound equipment made the service possible. So, thank you to all those named and unnamed, staff and laity, who made this day happen.

As the calendar moves to August, we'll get one month to get things in shape for a more normal fall around here. I hope you enjoy this month and all

(Continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 3** Grace Gardens Volunteer Day
- Aug. 17** Neighborhood Picnic at North Beach Park
- Aug. 25** Midweek Meditation Iona-Style Worship Service
- Aug. 28** Memorial Service for Chuck Holmes
- Aug. 31** Memorial Service for Mary Coats
- Sept. 11** Memorial Service for Jerry Lamb
- Sept. 12** All-Church Picnic at Pottawatomie Park
- Sept. 26** Ferry Legacy Society Program with Rev. Dr. John Buchanan
- Sept. 29** Memorial Service for Rick vandenBerg

Game of Cribbage, Anyone?



We are currently working on organizing a church cribbage group.

If you are interested, please contact:

Sue VandenBosch:
616-607-7095

s.vandenbosch@att.net

or

Sally Kenrick:
616-842-8371

kenricksally@gmail.com

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:

Alice Akin, Brian Anderson and
Joan Tandler, Earle Bares, Larry
Braak, Norm Spring, Sandy Teunis
and summer campers

Our Sympathy:

to James and Kathleen Sexton and
family on the death of James' father,
John Sexton, on June 17.

to Christine and Doug Bahl on the
death of Christine's brother, James
Rose, on June 19.

Congratulations!

to the Marks family on the birth
of Layla Anne on July 2. Layla
was welcomed by her parents,
Kathryn and Keith, and brothers
Tyler and Parker.

Thank you!

"Thank you so much to my church
family for all the prayers, gifts of
food, visits and other kind acts
during my illness and surgeries.
I am thankful for you all."

-Phyllis Carpenter

"Words cannot express how thankful
I am for all you have done. Thank you
for the food, flowers, cards, gift
cards, thoughts, prayers, and love
that you have shown.

Danny was sincerely loved by all of
you and it shows. Thank you for your
kind hearts."

- Diane Coulier (wife of Dan Coulier)

Upcoming Memorial Services

With most COVID restrictions now
lifted, the families of many of those
who passed away in the past year
are scheduling memorial services
for their loved ones. Here is a list of
the services coming up soon:

Chuck Holmes

Saturday, August 28

1:00 Visitation

2:00 Memorial Service

at First Presbyterian Church

Mary Coats

Tuesday, August 31 (*tentative date*)

Jerry Lamb

Saturday, September 11

9:45 a.m. Visitation

10:45 a.m. Memorial Service

at First Presbyterian Church

Rick vandenBerg

Wednesday, September 29

11:00 a.m. Memorial Service

at First Presbyterian Church



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!

Aug 26 Dorothy Jullie
1410 S. Ferry #1-7
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Sept. 7 Suzanne Cooper
17543 Meadow Wood
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Sept. 12 Verna Schoonveld
1536 Beechtree Commons
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Sept. 19 Sandy Beute
1410 S. Ferry, F-10
Grand Haven, MI 49417

The Harvest Table

How many ways can you make
zucchini?

The garden harvest has begun, and
if you are like me, you've run out of
ways to prepare that prolific green
squash. If you have more vegetables
than you know what to do with,
share your abundance at our
harvest table!

Throughout the month of August,
we encourage you to bring in your
extra fruits and vegetables (or even
perennial plants) to share on our
"Harvest Table" located in the
Gathering Area. Everyone is
welcome to contribute and to take
from the table, but be sure to bring
your own basket or paper bag to
haul your free

produce home.
And if you've got
some great
recipes, feel free
to bring those in
as well!



From the Mission Committee Food Pantry 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 this month are for:

- Canned fruit
- Canned pasta
- Canned meat (chicken,
tuna, etc.)

We are once again collecting these
food pantry donations
at the church. Please
bring donations to the
designated spot in the
Gathering Area.
Thank you!



From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon (continued)

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that it offers, wherever you are this month. I do hope that, as you're ready, you're making plans to be a part of the ministry life of First Pres this fall. Ministry for youth, children, and adults is all coming back to a more typical way of doing things this fall. While we've seen some successes with our virtual connections, we're certainly eager to see you all in the flesh – when you're ready. We also need lots of you to step forward to help with the ministries coming back, so just say “yes!” to helping.

I know the past year has put many of us out of our faith routines. I encourage you to get back into those things that will bring you joy, life, and grace with us. See you soon.

In Christ,

Pastor Troy

From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

Dear Church Family,

I'm not sure where the summer has gone, but here we are in August! I hope and pray you've been able to rest and play well these past couple of months. We only have a couple of weeks left in our “Living 24/6” sermon series on the sabbath.

Depending on when you're reading this you may have just heard my sermon on Matthew 12:9-14 where Jesus is criticized for healing a man with a withered hand on the sabbath. Jesus is asked by the Pharisees “*Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath? so that they might accuse him.*” (v. 10).

Jesus counters with: “*Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.*” (v.11-12)

It's safe to say that Jesus did not have a great relationship with the Pharisees or the majority of people

who had a lot of power. This is because Jesus was starting to have a huge following and his teachings challenged practices that ensured that those in power would stay in power. In this passage the Pharisees are using the sabbath as a way to present Jesus as an unfaithful Israelite who did not honor the sabbath. They wanted to squash the influence he had among the masses to ensure their power would stay intact. In response, Jesus asks them to reflect upon the true meaning of the sabbath and for whom did God create the sabbath? It doesn't matter what day of the week it is if any of God's children is hurting God wants their hurting to stop and he wants to use us to do just that. By enforcing the sabbath the Pharisees have lost sight of what the sabbath is about.

Before we lay more into the Pharisees we need to see ourselves in every person with whom Jesus interacts. As John Mark McMillan, a popular Christian artist once said at

a concert: “Whenever we read scripture we always tend to see ourselves as David instead of Goliath.” We tend to see ourselves as the underdog and the powerless in the Bible rather than in those who are inflicting harm or who wish to “accuse” Jesus. In certain situations we may very well be the Davids of the Bible. I think we need to be open, however, to the possibility that we may instead be the Goliaths and the Pharisees.

I'd like to leave you with these questions from NT Wright's commentary on this passage: “*What systems are currently in danger of being exalted over the needs of real human beings, in your country, your church, your family? What would it mean for the son of man to be master of them?*”

Grateful to be on this journey of faith with you,

Pastor Kristine

Living 24/6 - Weekly Sabbath Practices

August 1—Bringing Healing

Sabbath-keeping is a reminder that God has gifted us with space in our lives to help others. This week, find a place to do something kind for another. You can do this on your

own, or you can volunteer through a ministry like Love in Action or The People Center.

August 8—Celebrating

Practicing Sabbath can also mean fun. You don't need a reason to throw a party, so just do it. Find a way to celebrate and thank God for the gift of others

August 15—Resting

We end where we began - rest. Once again, be intentional about taking time to rest this week. Take a nap. Set aside your phone. Order dinner. Read. Listen to a symphony. Slow down!



From the Racial Justice Committee Join Us in Supporting the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office

Some of the members of the Racial Justice committee will be attending a Call to Action to support the Ottawa County Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Office. The dates that are open to the public to attend are at 1:30 p.m. on August 10 and August 24.

As we continue to follow the Gospel and support all people as God's people, we invite you to join us at one of the meetings held in the Board Room at the Ottawa County Administration Building, 12220 Fillmore Street, West Olive.

For more information, please contact Sue VandenBosch at s.vandenbosch@att.net.

From the Earth Care Committee Care for Your Watershed



You live in the largest watershed (The 5 Great Lakes) holding 90% of the fresh water in North America and 20% of the world's fresh water. On December 8, 2008 the Great Lakes Compact was formed by the 8 states and Canadian Provinces surrounding the Great Lakes that no water could be piped or shipped out of the lakes, and was signed by President Bush.

Here are ways you can help care for your watershed:

- Conserve water by: not leaving it running when brushing your teeth or getting ready to shower, take short showers, and be mindful when using water for anything (washing the car or watering the lawn).
- Avoid using pesticides and weed killer that contaminates the water.
- Don't flush wipes. Wipes expand and break pipes all the way to the water treatment plant, and the wipes must be removed before water can be cleaned and put back into the lake.
- Drive less—walk or bike instead. Many pollutants in our waters come from car exhaust and car leaks.
- Don't pour toxic household chemicals down the drain; take them to a hazardous waste center
- Do not over apply fertilizers. Consider using organic or slow-release fertilizers instead.

Let's all take care of our precious watershed—we cannot live without good clean water!

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 Services
Offered in Person and on
Facebook Live (@FirstPresGH):
9 a.m. (Traditional)
11 a.m. (Contemporary)

Staff and Leadership:

Rev. Dr. 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
Marc Felt, Gathering Band Leader
Rob Hlebinsky, Organist
Kelli Jullie, Church Administrator
Maddie Lambert, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director
Tommy Langejans, 5th & 6th Grade Ministries Coordinator
Karen Nienhouse, Congregational Care Ministries
Tina Ramones, Administrative Assistant
Kerri Roberts, Office Assistant
Sally Segers, Joyful Noise Director

Tidings article deadline for September 2021 issue: August 23, 2021

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.

FPGH YTD Financial Update

Offerings Received YTD:
570,257

Expenditures Paid YTD:
480,144

To all who give to support the mission of the church—thank you! You make the ministry go! Giving online is easy—just follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/npjmu8k3> or call (842-6760) We would love to help!

FPGH Volunteer Day at Grace Gardens

Tuesday, August 3
9-11 a.m.

Grace Gardens is located on the grounds of the Church of the Nazarene at 1620 S. Beechtree in Grand Haven, and produces vegetables for Love in Action's local food pantries. Please meet us there on August 3 from 9-11 to help pull weeds or help in any way needed. No experience is required!



Enter the Earth Care Team's "Ride Your Bike to Church Sunday" Contest!

The Earth Care Team is offering you a chance to win fabulous prizes (donated by Rock n Road Cycle) in their "Ride Your Bike to Church Sunday" contest!

To enter the contest, all you need to do is ride your bike, walk, or car-pool to church on Sunday, and then enter the drawing in the Gathering Area. Winners and prizes are awarded on the 4th Sunday of each month (remaining drawings are August 29 and September 26). Congratulations to Matt Bruce on winning an awesome bike helmet for riding his bike to church in July!



To read an article on the benefits of biking and on bike safety, follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3emhvv3k>

How to Read the Bible

Sundays at 10 a.m. Beginning September 19

It has been said that Jesus' parables not only draw us into the center of his message but moreover that they introduce us to the messenger, to the mystery of who Jesus is himself. Yet Jesus' parables are notoriously difficult to understand, leaving many puzzled, perhaps even frustrated, as to what they might teach us today about following Jesus.

To kick off the "How to Read the Bible" class this Fall, we will spend the first four weeks looking closely at Jesus' parables so that we might come to better know Jesus and his message. The "How to Read the Bible" class will continue afterwards on a subject to be determined with input from the class participants.

Questions? Please contact Matt at: matthew.j.bruce@gmail.com

From the Nominations Committee

Your Officer Nominations Committee is hard at work discerning those God is calling to be elders, deacons, and at-large members of the 2022 Nominations Committee. We would like your help.

First, if you have suggestions for people whom you believe would be great candidates for these positions, send us these names for consideration. You can do so by calling the church office or sending an email to staff@fpg.org. The office will forward those names to the committee.



Second, if you receive a call from a member of the Nominations Committee, we ask that you take the time to discern prayerfully if this is the time for you to serve. The work of the committee has been made more difficult by a year-plus away from normal church ministry and connections, and now is the time to make sure we have strong leadership for our ministry as we emerge from the pandemic. We know most are very busy, but we also know that there is blessing in offering your time and talents to serve the church!

We look forward to presenting a great slate of new officers to the congregation later this fall.

Summer Neighborhood Picnic

The dog days of summer are upon us, and our last summer picnic is going to the dogs—hot dogs that is!

Please join us at North Beach Park for hot dogs on the beach! We will have a variety of dogs, including G&L chili dogs, corn dogs, Chicago-style, and even “grill ‘em yourself” way!

So grab your flip flops and let us treat you to a fun night at the beach! Please RSVP as soon as possible so we can be sure to have plenty of food available. Alternatives to accommodate dietary needs will be provided.



When:

Tuesday, August 17

Where:

North Beach Park (picnic shelter)
Ferrysburg

Time:

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Bring:

Beach chairs and towels, if you want to swim

RSVP:

Follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yz8r8fan>
or call (616-842-6760) or sign up in the church office

From the Mission Committee Gift of Sharing

Christian love was in action this summer at Holy Temple Methodist Church in Muskegon Heights.

Volunteers from FPGH served three mornings per week for eight weeks at Pathfinders, a non-profit that provides a daytime safe house for kids who might otherwise be on the streets. The volunteers led classes in reading, writing, science and math, and provided some fun activities as well. The Director of Pathfinders was so thankful for the help that she said it “made my summer.”

FPGH volunteers included Richard and Ginger Aubrey, Bob and Cathie Day, Kris Kelley, and Paul and Winnie McNergney. Janis Burkhardt, a member at Covenant Life, was also very active in teaching these classes. As we are called to serve, these volunteers offered the love of giving and sacrificing to serve God’s kids. The gift of sharing was obvious and the volunteers all felt “surely God is here.”

During the school year Pathfinders provides a safe house for teens from the end of the school day to late evening with studies, activities and a ride home. If you would like to volunteer and/or donate to Pathfinders please contact Shauna Hunter, 231.215.9957, or suhunter08@gmail.com.

Midweek Meditation

Iona-Style Worship Service

6:00 p.m.
on the 4th Wednesday of each month
at church and on Facebook Live

Coast Guard Parking Fundraiser

Help empower our students to serve and attend retreat experiences by donating to park in our lot on August 3 (evening), August 6 (all day) and August 7 (all day). We suggest a donation of \$10-\$20. Students and families, please sign up to help accept donations by contacting Maddie Lambert at mlambert@fpgh.org.

Food Volunteers Needed:

We are hoping to return to our pre-pandemic Youth Group Sunday night programming starting Sunday, September 26. Students have consistently shared that they missed the meals provided by their church family *the most* during the 2020-2021 program year. We are so thankful for all of our past meal providers! If you are looking for a way to serve our students, please consider signing up to provide dinner. We encourage meal providers to prepare dinner for 35 students. We will provide beverages, cups, plates and silverware. We eat from 6:20-7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. In 2021 we need meal providers for the following dates:

- September: 26
- October: 3, 10, and 17
- November: 7 and 14
- December: 12

Sign up at FPGH or by contacting Maddie Lambert at mlambert@fpgh.org.

Blessing Sunday

All school teachers, administrators, volunteers, and students are invited to our annual Blessing Sunday! During worship at 9 and 11 a.m., participants will be invited to the front of the sanctuary to receive a school year blessing and sticker. If you would like to bring your backpack or device to be blessed, please do so, but they are not required. During this time we will also be welcoming our 5th graders into weekly worship so be ready to introduce yourself and celebrate their presence! We will be celebrating the beginning of a new school year together with cupcakes during coffee hour.

Can't join us? Stickers will also be available for pick up at FPGH after August 29.

New Upcoming 5/6th Grade Opportunity: Ready for Worship!

Starting this September, Tommy Langejans will be leading a Worship and Fellowship opportunity for 5th and 6th grade students once a month during the 11 a.m. worship service. In this class, we will discuss the individual parts of Sunday morning worship and why we do them so that they will be equipped to understand, appreciate, and engage with worship. We will also spend time talking about what it means to be a part of a church body, and enjoy getting to know each other as a group. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon.

Children's Ministries Volunteers

Are you interested in joining the Children and Worship team?



It's an awesome group of volunteers, who find a deeper connection to the Bible stories, one another, and with the children of our church family. You'll be part of a once-a-month rotation. Contact Laura Burns, lburns@fpgh.org to learn more.

August Special Events:

- 1:** 7th/8th Grade Photo Scavenger Hunt, 7-8 p.m.
- 3,6,& 7:** Coast Guard Parking Fundraiser. Please sign up to help us accept donations!
- 15:** 5th-12th grade tie-dying. T-shirts provided, 6:30-8 p.m.
- 29:** • School Blessing Sunday & 5th graders welcomed into worship at both services
 - 8th-12th grade Confirmation informational meeting, 10:30 a.m.
 - 5th grade welcome gathering, 7-8 p.m.

Save the Dates:

September

- 19:** 5th-12th grade Youth Group fall kick-off party, 6-8 p.m.
- 26:** 5th-12th Sunday night Youth Group begins 5:15-7:30 p.m.



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

Sunday Worship:

9 & 11 a.m. on our Facebook page: @FirstPresGH
or watch the recorded service on our
website: fpgh.org

August 2021

deliver to: (or current resident)



Save the Date!

All are welcome to attend a program and reception presented by
The Ferry Legacy Society of First Presbyterian Church

*Sunday, September 26, 3 to 5 p.m.
at Wildwood Springs Clubhouse
17835 Wildwood Springs Parkway
Spring Lake, MI 49456*

- 3:00 p.m. Guest Speaker
The Rev. Dr. John M. Buchanan,
Pastor Emeritus, Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago;
Past Editor/Publisher of *The Christian Century*
- 4:00 p.m. Reception
Wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres



Please RSVP to the church office at 616-842-6760.
Watch for more details soon.