



# PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

JULY 2021, VOLUME 69—ISSUE 7

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

## From Reverend Troy Hauser Brydon

Last October the Session spent two evenings doing some visioning for the church. We dreamed. We talked about the kind of church we are. We talked about the kind of church we'd like to be. One of the results of that visioning was that we decided to have a summer Sunday worship service outside at the new and improved waterfront stadium. I've heard that churches used to rotate using the stadium for Sunday worship, but that practice had disappeared long before I arrived in town four years ago.

The hope in having an outdoor service was that we could get outside of our four walls and into the community so they might see how special First Presbyterian is. We do not do a lot of things that intentionally invite others to be a part of our special church (something we're working on!), but having a public-facing worship service is a step in the right direction. Session's hope in planning this was that it was a chance for all who are apprehensive about returning indoors with others might find comfort in the wide open space of the stadium. In doing something different, it is also Session's hope that all of us would invite others to come to worship that day. It might plant a seed of faith. It might give someone a taste of missing community. It might be a place for us to grow our wonderful church.

So, join us on Sunday, July 18 for worship at the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium. We'll only have that one service that day. The service will use elements of both our worship services to remind ourselves of the gifts we share across services. We'll have the Gathering Band, hymns, the choir, and so much more. We'll take an offering, so you can bring your offering with you. Any loose offering (cash or checks that specify "LIA" in the memo) will go to support Love in Action, the wonderful ministry that helps so many in our community. When we finish the service, Temptations will have ice cream and toppings for those who've been a part of worship that morning. (It's a new take on coffee hour! But we're calling it Sundae on Sunday.)

I was in the waterfront stadium with Harry Nienhouse and Maryanne Beery this week. Standing on the stage made me realize that this is quite the facility and that's it's pretty large. Wouldn't it be amazing if we had hundreds of us show up to be the church together on July 18?

I've missed seeing so many of you, and I hope we can get acquainted again that day. Let's celebrate the beautiful area in which we live and the joy of being a Christ-centered community. See you soon.

In Christ,

Pastor Troy

## Upcoming Events

- Jul 5** Church Office Closed
- Jul 10** 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mini-Golf Outing
- Jul 11** 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Prayer & Popsicles
- Jul 11-18** "Better Together" Prayer Vigil
- Jul 14** Neighborhood Picnic at Spring Lake Central Park
- Jul 18** Worship at the Waterfront Stadium
- Jul 21** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Jul 24** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Beach Cookout
- Jul 25** 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Prayer & Popsicles
- Aug. 17** Neighborhood Picnic at North Beach Park
- Sept. 12** All-Church Picnic at Pottawatomie Park

## Ride Your Bike to Church!

Summer time is the perfect time to ride your bike to church, and thanks to the efforts of the Earth Care Team, Once you get here, use the bike rack near the Clinton Street entrance.

If it's possible, make a plan to ride your bike to church one Sunday a month. It's a great way to get exercise and fresh air, and save gas too!



## 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, Larry Braak, Phyllis Carpenter, Norm Spring, Lisa Stoner, and Sandy Teunis

### Our Sympathy:

to Ralph and Mary Bicknell on the death of their daughter, Anita, on May 26.

To Meghan, John, Jack, and Henry Heritage on the death of Meghan's father, Philip Reece, on June 22.

to Diane Coulier and the entire Coulier family on the death of her husband, Dan, on June 27, 2021. Dan was the beloved director of maintenance here at FPGH for almost 20 years.

### Thank you!

Ken and Betty Johnson wish to thank everyone for their kind words and cards of congratulations as they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last month.

Jon Hall wishes to express his gratitude for the outpouring of cards and support at the passing of his wife, Linda. A memorial service is planned for July 23 at FPGH.

"Thank you to everyone for the get-well cards and notes. They really lifted my spirits and were very much appreciated!"

- Hal Fitzgerald

## 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:

### Carol Winton

**Wednesday, July 7, 11 a.m.**

A service for Carol will be held at her childhood church:  
LeValley United Methodist Church  
4018 Kelsey Highway  
Ionia, MI 48846  
To watch on Facebook Live:  
<https://www.facebook.com/LeValleyUMC/>

### Peggy Leach

**Saturday, July 10, 11 a.m.**

at First Presbyterian Church

### Joe McCrea

**Friday, July 16, 7 p.m.**

A Celebration of Life will be held for Joe McCrea at the American Legion:  
700 S. Harbor Drive  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

### Linda Hall

**Friday, July 23, 10 a.m.**

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 #I-7  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

## Holy Helping Hands

Holy Helping Hands is a program that we instituted nearly two years ago to help with minor repairs, errands, etc. COVID interrupted the program, but we are back and ready to help! Our volunteer list, however, is pretty outdated and needs to be refreshed. We are looking for volunteers to help with one or more of the following services: provide transportation for doctor visits, tackle basic handyman projects, help with simple technology, or help with simple yard projects. If you or someone you know could use these services, please contact the church office.

To volunteer:

Text: 616-212-0865

Email: [hammich@hotmail.com](mailto:hammich@hotmail.com)



## 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 The Salvation Army.

Special requests this month are for:

- Canned baked beans
- Plastic bottled juices (V8, orange, apple)
- Boxed cereal

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!



Dear Church Family,

I hope you are enjoying summer! As I write this I'm trying not to get too depressed about how fast this summer is already flying by. The Aragon Bruce household went back into our "normal" pattern of signing up our kids for late spring/early summer baseball and softball and camp for the kids. We're taking time to visit family in Seattle and Minnesota. Having not done any of the above in the past year it was a shock to the system of getting back into the mindset of figuring out who was going to go to which kid's game and who was going to drop off or pick up etc. It's been crazy getting back into this type of schedule, which is all the more reason I'm grateful for the focus of our current sermon series of "Living 24/6."

I was chatting with a friend, who is also a pastor, who made the observation that of all of the Ten Commandments, we don't feel bad about (or maybe even revel in or brag about) breaking the commandment to take a sabbath. In my last

Tidings article I shared about Credo, a conference I attended virtually in mid-May about sabbath, rest and renewal. I have to be honest with you and admit my commitment to a sabbath lasted only for about two weeks after Credo. I've fallen off the sabbath band wagon.

I'm ready, however, to get back on! I hope you are too. As with any of our commitments there is bound to be a point where, for various reasons, we don't (or can't) follow through. Well, today is a new day! With Christ every second is a new beginning. I keep thinking about what Troy said in his sermon on June 20<sup>th</sup>: "Sabbath is less about obedience as it is about abundance." God doesn't ask us to do something for the sake of just doing *that thing*. God asks us to do something because it will bring us the fulfillment we truly crave, but that we try to find anywhere but in God. In the end, whatever action God calls us to do it will lead us to abundance because it will lead us back to Jesus Christ himself.

Perhaps your schedule is such that you aren't able to take an entire day for a sabbath and it's more realistic to take "sabbath moments." Could you squeeze one morning or afternoon this week to revel in God's creation? Could you take an hour to read a Psalm and use the words of that Psalm in a prayer? Do you have an hour to go out to lunch with a friend and talk about how you can be praying for them that week? Don't forget there's a whole list of sabbath practices to choose from that's available in the entryway of the Clinton Street entrance. My hope and prayer for all of us is that we would be intentional about carving out the time to rest and relax, but above all to remember who we truly are: Christ's beloved for whom he gave his life so that we could have abundant life.

Grateful to be on this journey of faith with you,

Pastor Kristine

## Living 24/6 - Weekly Sabbath Practices

### July 4 - Delighting in Nature

We are surrounded by the beauty God created. Take a hike in one of our many wonderful parks. Pray as you walk. Tell God how grateful you are for the creation.

### July 11 - Playing

Play is a fun part of being human. As part of our picnic at Central Park this week we will play some games that are fun for all ages. If you can't make it to the picnic, then take some time to play this week.

### July 18 - Bringing Refreshment

Take time this week to share coffee or tea with someone you've been meaning to catch up with but haven't found the time to do so. Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with them" (Matt. 18:20). Who knows? You may just find Jesus among you too!

### July 25 - Practicing Hospitality

Invite someone else from church who lives near you to your house for s'mores, dinner, or simply an iced tea. Don't know who lives near you? The office can help make a connection.

### 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.

## From the Racial Justice Committee Why Were Our Church Bells Ringing on June 1, 2021?

The Racial Justice Committee partnered with St. John Episcopal Church and Church of the Dunes to ring the church bells at noon for five minutes on June 1<sup>st</sup>, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tulsa Black Wall Street Massacre.

During the Tulsa Race Massacre, which occurred over 18 hours from May 31 to June 1, 1921, a white mob attacked residents, homes and businesses in the predominantly Black Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The event remains one of the worst incidents of racial violence in U.S. history,

and, for a period, remained one of the least-known. News reports were largely squelched, despite the fact that hundreds of people were killed and thousands left homeless.

As we continue to grow and learn what it means to be followers of the Gospel teachings, we reflect on all of God's people who were unjustly killed and had their community destroyed at the massacre. Our prayers are for justice as God works through us to battle racism.

For more information on the Tulsa Black Wall Street Journal, visit <https://www.tulsahistory.org/exhibit/1921-tulsa-race-massacre/>

Racial Justice committee members are: George Barfield, Carroll Bennink, Tom Creswell, Jane Stoepker, Sue VandenBosch, Mike Weller, and Carol Wilhelm

## Feast and Faith

For the summer, the Thursday Night Book Discussion Group has changed its name to "Feast and



Faith," and is meeting once a month at members' homes for a meal and book discussion.

If you would like to join the group, please contact Linda Gritter ([lindagritter@gmail.com](mailto:lindagritter@gmail.com)) for book selection and location.

Remaining summer meetings are July 22 and August 26, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. All are welcome!

## First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven

508 Franklin Avenue  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Phone: 616.842.6760

[www.fpgh.org](http://www.fpgh.org) • [staff@fpgh.org](mailto: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. 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 August 2021 issue: July 23, 2021**

Submittals, suggestions or comments: [sbryant@fpgh.org](mailto:sbryant@fpgh.org) or [staff@fpgh.org](mailto:staff@fpgh.org)

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

## Volunteers Needed for Waterfront Worship Sunday, July 18

On July 18, we will be holding our Sunday worship service at the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium. There will be one service, followed by an ice cream sundae bar served by Temptations!

We are looking for volunteers to help pass out bulletins, guide people to seating, take the offering, organize the lines for the sundaes after the service and clean up the stadium when we are done.

If you are willing to help please call (616-842-6760) or email (staff@fpgh.org) the church office. *Thank you!*

## The Harvest Table

It's almost time to start reaping the rewards of the hard work you've been putting into your vegetable garden! If you are like me, pretty soon you'll have more tomatoes, cucumbers, and of course zucchini, than you know what to do with!

Beginning on August 1 and continuing every Sunday through August, we encourage you to bring in your extra fruits and vegetables (or even perennial plants) to share on our "Harvest Table" that will be located in the Gathering Area. Anyone is welcome to contribute and to take from the table, but be sure to bring your own

basket or paper bag to haul the free produce home.



## 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 loose offering at the waterfront service going to support Love in Action.
- Approved vacation dates for both pastors.
- Made the Earth Care Team an ad hoc committee of the Session. (Previously ECT was a subcommittee of the Trustees Committee).

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

## Plastic Free July

Join millions of people reducing their plastic waste.

Plastic Free July® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?



Take the Plastic Free July Challenge by following this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/kyymetst>

Look for weekly tips and see our sign up table between services starting July 4th.

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

The Earth Care Team is offering you a chance to win prizes in their "Ride 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. A station will be set up in the Gathering Area for you to enter the drawing. Winners and prizes will be awarded on the 4th Sunday of each month (July 25, August 29, and September 26).

To read an article on the benefits of biking and on bike safety, follow this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/3emhvv3k>



## Neighborhood Picnics are Back!

After a year of hibernation, FPGH Neighborhood Picnics are back! Mark your calendar to meet us in your neighborhood park!

These summer picnics give you a chance to connect with people who live in your neck of the woods! The picnics are at local parks, so kids can run and play together. This is a great way to get to know members who may attend a different worship service than you typically attend. The church will provide the food in a COVID-safe fashion.

### **Dates and Locations:**

**Wednesday, July 14**

Central Park in Spring Lake

**Tuesday, August 17**

North Beach Park (picnic shelter)  
Ferrysburg

### **Time:**

6:00-8:00 p.m.

### **Bring:**

your own place settings  
& lawn chairs



If you are not able to attend the picnic in your neighborhood, feel free to drop in to any of the others that fit your schedule.

## Better Together Through Prayer Prayer Vigil

In response to our “Better Together” sermon series that we wrapped up in June, we invite you to sign up for our upcoming prayer vigil. Prayer is one of our spiritual disciplines, and communal prayer helps as we grow deeper in our relationship with Christ and with one another. Prayer helps us become aware of Jesus at work in our lives and in the lives of those around us.



We encourage you to pledge to pray for 30 minutes daily during the week of week of July 11-17, at a time and in increments that are convenient for you. Feel free to pray alone, with a prayer partner, or with friends and family. You may pledge to pray by signing up in the church office or by using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/3cmvc4n7>.

Suggestions for prayer are: family, people who are sick, neighbors, friends, the environment, government, etc.

Remember that in everything, including the power of prayer, we are better together.

## Midweek Meditation

Iona-Style Worship Service

6:00 p.m.

on the 4th Wednesday of each month  
at church and on Facebook Live

## Children's Ministries Volunteers

Our plan and hope is to re-open in-person Worship Centers this fall. Our amazing class of 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their dedicated parents are graduating on to the Youth Program, which means we have a lot of open volunteer opportunities. 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](mailto:lburns@fpgh.org) to learn more.



## Creative Kids Summer Program

How will you retell the story? Each week we will share a core Bible story and then invite you to recreate the story....this can be done via a video skit, drawing/painting a picture, remaking it with things found in nature, with LEGOs, or any way or with any materials you can imagine! We will be offering this via Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and asynchronously through a weekly email. So whether you are in town or traveling you may join us! For every three stories you re-create you will earn a summer-themed prize. Complete all 12 for a Grand Prize!



## Creation Care Walk

**Tuesday, July 27**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Duncan Woods**

Caring for the earth and the community! All young families are invited to join us Monday evening, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. in Duncan Woods. We'll explore the park, clean up any trash we find, and end with a sweet treat together.



## Fall Confirmation Class

All 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to sign up for Confirmation during the 2021-2022 school year.

Confirmation is a time for students to go deeper in their faith by exploring who Jesus is, engaging with scripture, wondering what it means to be a Presbyterian, and more. At the end of the confirmation experience, interested students are invited to declare their faith in a written statement and become official members of the church!



This is a wonderful opportunity for any student hoping to explore their faith and start asking questions. If you have questions about confirmation or already know you want to sign up, contact Maddie Lambert, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries ([mlambert@fpgh.org](mailto:mlambert@fpgh.org)).

## July Special Events:

- 10:** Current 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade mini-golf at Chinook Pier 2-3:30. Turn in permission slip and \$5 to Tommy Langejans by Wednesday, July 8th
- 11:** Current 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Prayer and Popsicles in the church parking lot 6:30-7:30
- 21:** Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade photo scavenger hunt 7-8 pm. Meet in the church parking lot
- 24:** Current 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade beach cookout at Grand Haven State Park 5:30-7:30. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders invited!
- 25:** 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Prayer and Popsicles in the church parking lot 6:30-7:30. Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders invited!



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: [fpg.org](http://fpg.org)

**July 2021**

*deliver to: (or current resident)*

**PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR A WATERFRONT WORSHIP SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY, JULY 18, AT 11 A.M.  
AT THE LYNNE SHERWOOD WATERFRONT STADIUM!**



**AFTER THE SERVICE, YOU ARE INVITED TO ENJOY A SUNDAY SUNDAY!  
BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY! ALL ARE WELCOME.**