



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

OCTOBER 2021, VOLUME 69—ISSUE 10

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Reverend Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

It's the time of year where we turn our attention to pledging our resources towards the coming year's ministry. The good news is that we are seeing much of what we expect in ministry coming back into action. It feels so delightful to see so much ministry going on around our building and grounds. After a year and a half with so much delayed or changed, it is great to see people engaging in a wide variety of ministries supported by our church.

The theme of this year's Generosity Campaign is Resilience. I think that's a great word for our church in this season. The first definition of resilience is "the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties." I have seen our church live out this type of resilience throughout 2021. We have adjusted. We have made extra connection. We have worked hard to be the kind of church God is calling us to be. The second definition for resilience is "the ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape." I'm bearing witness to that kind of resilience, as every Sunday morning is beginning to feel a bit more like it used to feel. Surely this church has changed a bit over the past year, and I am eager to have God use us both for who we've been and for who we are becoming. I see both at play.

In the coming days you will receive our annual Generosity appeal in the mail. I hope that you take time reading through its pages and praying for the ministries of the church. I hope that you consider how God has blessed you and how this church plays a part in your life and in this community. Then I hope you'll return your pledge card to the church to help our leadership have a clear understanding of the resources we will have as we plan ministry for 2022. Pledges are always estimates, so don't feel stuck with your pledge. You can always call us and adjust it up or down if life changes. Know that I am so grateful for this church's faithful generosity!

Switching gears, you are well aware that around 100,000 displaced Afghans who assisted the United States over the past two decades will be needing homes in the U.S. Our state is receiving around 1,300 of God's children, and I'd like for our congregation to consider sponsoring one such family. So, on Sunday, October 17, at 3:00 there will be a meeting at the church to gauge the interest of the congregation. I hope we will find it in our hearts to be supportive of this good, Christian work, but it begins with seeing if there is interest. Please mark your calendars and join us. This kind of work is a clear response to the challenge of the gospel in our times.

Finally, I want to thank the congregation for your continuing sensitivity to caring for one another during this pandemic. So many of you eagerly lined up to get vaccinated, which has made some of our decision-making a bit

(Continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 1** Family Communion Class
- Oct. 3** Peace & Global Witness
Special Offering
CROP Walk
Blackthorn Celtic Music Band
C.A.S. Concert
- Oct. 8** Red Cross Blood Drive
- Oct. 17** Afghan Refugee Sponsorship
Meeting
- Oct. 31** "Spooktacular" C.A.S.
Organ Concert
- Nov. 7, 14, & 21**
New Member Classes

Afghan Refugee Family Sponsorship Meeting

October 17, 3:00 PM

Please join us at this meeting as we gauge the interest of our congregation in sponsoring an Afghan refugee family.

The meeting will be held in the church lounge.



In Our Church

PAGE 2

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, Lisa Stoner, and Sandy Teunis

Our Sympathy:

to Lisa, Dan, Ellery, and Miya Luckey on the death of Lisa's stepfather, Ray Mieras, on September 4, 2021.

to Ed Buening, Becky Yonan and family on the death of Ed's brother and Becky's uncle, Jerry Buening, on September 22, 2021.

to Kelli and Jeff Jullie and family on the death of Kelli's mother, Ellen Johnson, on September 23, 2021.

Congratulations!

to Bob and Robin Eidson on the birth of their grandson, Beckham Ford, on September 17, 2021. Parents are Amanda (Eidson) and Kyle Hitsman.

Thank you!

Jeff and Kelli Jullie wish to thank everyone for all the prayers and cards they received since the passing of Kelli's mother. She had a wonderful long life and we have many great memories.

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:

- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce in Cans
- Macaroni & Cheese

Please bring your donations to the designated spot in the Gathering Area. Thank you!



Peace and Global Witness Special Offering

Through the gifts of the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering received on World Communion Sunday, October 3, the Presbyterian Church (USA) is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and the world. It is a stand against violence to remind everyone that the peace of Christ brings healing and hope.



- 25% of this offering will stay local to support Step Up agency in Muskegon. Step Up helps support young adults who have aged out of the traditional foster care system and are on their own.

Through the gifts given to the Peace and Global Witness offering, we shine God's light from our hearts and hands to others. Offering envelopes are in the pews, or you can donate online at fpgh.org, or text PEACEPCUSA to 41444.

The Giving Tree (replaces the "Angel Tree" program)

Thank you for your generous donations to the Giving Tree in 2020. Our church was able to give \$3,375 in gift cards to local charities.

Giving Tree 2021 is asking you to step forward again with your generosity this Christmas Season. To help make Christmas brighter for Central High School students, we are asking for donations of Meijer gift cards in \$25 denominations. We will be collecting them starting Sunday, November 7 until Sunday, December 5. You can either drop the cards off at the Giving Tree booth on Sundays between services from 10-11 a.m. or bring them to the church office. You may also purchase the gift cards from the Joyful Noise Scrip program. Forms are available in the Clinton Street entrance or you may download one here: <http://www.joyfulnoisekids.com/pdfs/scrip.pdf> (Joyful Noise receives a percentage of the purchase price). Forms and money may be dropped off in the church or the Joyful Noise office.

Every gift card donated will add a decoration to the Giving Tree.

Any questions, please contact Gail Miner:

gailandrobminer@gmail.com.



From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon (continued)

PAGE 3

(Continued from page 1)

less fraught. We have welcomed youth and children back for programming, many of whom are still not eligible for vaccines (we hope they will be soon!). In this time, I encourage all of us to do what we can to walk well with each other in these hard times, knowing that part of our calling is to look out for the “least of these” in the choices we make. Know that I am proud to be your pastor, in part because this community cares for one another. We’ll get through this together.

In Christ,
Pastor Troy

From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

Dear Church Family,

I must confess I’m having a hard time letting go. Letting go of summer. This morning I was angry about having to wear closed-toe shoes. It doesn’t help that the forecast still includes summer-like weather. It’s like nature is saying: “Hang onto these short glimpses of warmth because frigid temperatures and grey are coming your way.” Usually I love fall, but I’m just not ready for it this year. I realize that whether I’m ready or not, the change of seasons is inevitable.

Just as nature has her seasons so does life. We go through seasons of raising infants to toddlers to deciphering the moods of a teenager in what seems like a blink of an eye. We go through seasons of ups and downs in our marriages. We go through periods of being committed to healthy eating to giving in to the whim of every craving. We also

experience different seasons in our spiritual lives. Times of feeling close to God to times of wondering if God is really listening. Some seasons in life are inevitable such as our kids growing up, but other seasons are dependent upon our willpower (or lack thereof). At times we’re good about making good choices for our health, other times we lack the discipline to keep up those choices. There are seasons when we are consistent in our personal prayer lives and seasons when we’d rather read a good book than spend time in prayer.

Knowing this makes me even more thankful that God’s faithfulness is not dependent upon our faithfulness (or lack thereof). Jesus Christ’s love for us is consistent even when we are not. Scripture reminds us of this:

*Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday and today and forever.*
- Hebrews 13:8

*‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’
says the Lord God, who is and
who was and who is to come, the
Almighty. --Revelation 1:8*

None of these verses are followed up with statements such as: “Unless you fail to love God perfectly.”

These passages simply state who God is. Jesus Christ is the same Jesus Christ who loves us and forgives us when we are in the midst of joyful or dark seasons of life. The God who created the world, the God who walks with us even when we refuse to walk with him, and the God who comforts us when we are hurting are all one and the same God who never changes.

While we will inevitably experience different seasons in life, how comforting it is to know that our constant is Jesus Christ whose faithfulness never changes.

Grateful for you,
Pastor Kristine

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:

- We elected elder commissioners for the September presbytery meeting.
- We approved new committee members for Hospitality and Youth.
- We saw preview of the new church website (coming soon!).
- We approved having a Waterfront Worship service again in 2022.

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

Feeding America Food Truck Volunteers Needed

With your gifts, the Mission Committee of FPGH has sponsored a food truck for people in need in our community.

If you are able to come out from 9:30-11:00 a.m. on Friday morning, November 19, your help is needed distributing food and/or carrying it to vehicles.

Please contact Mike Weller if you are able to help out: mcweller1@hotmail.com or 616-402-6109 and then meet us at the food truck that will be parked in St. Pat's parking lot on the corner of US-31 and Fulton.

Recycling Tips From the Earth Care Team

The Earth Care Team will be offering tips for recycling in the coming months. We will start with Plastic. However please know that the best alternatives are still to CONSUME less plastic to recycle in the first place.

Home recycling requires a trivial amount of time, yet offers substantial benefit to the homeowner as well as the environment. According to the EPA, the national recycling rate is just 30%.

Close the Loop: Buy Recycled!

The value of recyclables is driven by market demand. As consumers, we must choose products with recycled content and packaged in recycled materials, so that the materials we recycle are put to use, and markets are sustained.

Plastic

Plastic does not break down in landfills, and since it can be recycled to make many diverse products, effort should be made to recycle all plastic waste. To make best use of plastics, consumers should choose the types of plastics that lend themselves most to reuse and recycling options. To learn about the recycling options for different types of plastic, read our article **Plastics by the Numbers** (<https://learn.eartheasy.com/articles/plastics-by-the-numbers/>)

Recycling centers vary in the types of plastic they accept. Check with your local recycling center, and take care to buy plastic goods that are recyclable.

Plastic goods are assigned different numbers to grade them for recycling: #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE) for containers, #4 (LDPE) for bags, #7 for mixed plastics such as polycarbonates that are not recyclable. Almost all recycling centers accept plastics #1 and #2.

- **Plastic Bottles:** Plastic bottles are usually made of #1 PET plastic, a valuable recyclable material. Among many other items, this plastic can be "spun" into fleece fabric. Tops should be removed before recycling, and put in with your general plastic items. Polycarbonate baby bottles (#7 plastic) are not recyclable. Because it is difficult to clean PET plastic without releasing harmful chemicals, bottles made of PET should not be reused.
- **Plastic Grocery Bags:** Most grocery bags are made of high-density polyethylene, a Type 2 recyclable plastic. Most grocery stores and recycling centers now have bins where customers can drop off used plastic bags for recycling.
- **Polystyrene (#6):** Polystyrene (#6) (cups, food trays, egg cartons, etc.) does not biodegrade. Ask if your recycling center accepts polystyrene for recycling; many now accept this material. Try to reduce your use of this material.
- **Plastic #5 - Polypropylene: One of the Least Recyclable Plastics:** Considered one of the safest plastics, #5 plastic is used for packaging items such as yogurt, cottage cheese, margarine, and vitamins, and is contained in food wraps and bottle tops. It is one of the least expensive plastics to make. However, the process of recycling plastic #5 is less efficient than other plastics, and the end result has little market value. To avoid the waste associated with #5, choose products packaged with plastic #2 (HDPE). Many companies, especially those selling organic food, have switched to plastic #2, a better (but more expensive) alternative. Alternatively, find out if your community has an All Plastics Recycling program that accepts plastic #5 or set aside your plastic #5 containers for reuse.

New Members/Inquirers Classes




Sundays, November 7, 14 & 21

Would you like to become a member of FPC or just want to find out more about the beliefs and traditions of the Presbyterian Church? You are invited to attend our New Members/Inquirers class series coming up in November! Classes run for 3 consecutive Sundays from 10-11 a.m. between the worship services.

To reserve your spot, contact Kerri Roberts at 842-6760 or kroberts@fpg.org

Child care is available

Plastic Recycling By the Numbers

1 PET	2 PE-HD	3 PVC	4 PE-LD	5 PP	6 PS	7 O
Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET, PETE)	High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)	Polyvinyl Chloride (V)	Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)	Polypropylene (PP)	Polystyrene (PS)	Other (O)
Soft drink, Water and salad dressing bottles; peanut butter and jam jars	Milk, juice and water bottles; yogurt and margarine tubs; trash and retail bags.	Juice bottles; cling films; PVC piping	Frozen food bags; squeezable bottles, e.g. honey, mustard; cling films; flexible container lids.	Reusable microwaveable ware; kitchenware; yogurt containers; margarine tubs; microwaveable disposable take-away containers; disposable cups and plates.	Egg cartons; packing peanuts; 'Styrofoam'; disposable cups, plates, trays and cutlery; disposable take-away containers; yogurt and margarine containers	Beverage bottles; baby milk bottles.
						



2021/22 Season

Community Artist & Speaker Series Returns!

Blackthorn Celtic Music Band Sunday, October 3, 4:00 p.m.

Returning to our artist series for the fourth time, the ever-popular Blackthorn Celtic music band is back to take us on a journey through time and emotion!

Based in Detroit and performing throughout the Midwest since 1984, Blackthorn welcomes you to the rich tapestry of Celtic music.

Traditional songs of emigration, sea shanties, lively jigs and reels, and ancient airs combine with some of Ireland's best contemporary songs for a musical experience that captures the history and legend of Ireland and its people.



Spooktacular Organ Concert Sunday, October 31, 4:00 p.m.

Dress up in your Halloween best and join us for an afternoon of spooky and fun organ music!

Artists from West Michigan participate in a frighteningly delightful program of organ music that is sure to entertain kids and parents alike. Classical, popular and Broadway hits will be featured.



Join us in the lounge after the concerts for a light reception with the musicians.

Be sure to put these Community Artist Series concerts on your calendar:

- December 12: West Michigan Winds Small Ensembles
- February 27: Steel Doin' It, Steel Pan Band
- March 6: AGO Young Organist, Katherine Jolliff

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

New Discussion Group Christianity for Today

October 6 – November 24

7:00 – 8:30 pm

(ZOOM option available)

The Bible is the most purchased and possibly the least read 'book' in America. Much of this lack of readership is due to the incongruity and misconceptions created when reading the Biblical stories within the context of our modern worldview.

Christianity for Today is a newly forming discussion group to examine how we can understand Christianity within the context of our modern worldview as successors to the Renaissance and the Enlightenment. We will be investigating whether there can be harmony between Christianity and our present age of big bang cosmology, evolution, unveiling of the human genome, and general skepticism. In doing so, our goal will be to develop new relationships and community here at FPGH.

Christianity for Today discussion materials are available in the church office at no charge, or on the church website at fpgh.org.

Please contact Bob Day as soon as possible if you prefer to join the group via ZOOM.

Note: the discussion material is available for your interest whether you join the group or not, so please take one!

Youth: Snap Shot of Special Events

- **Sunday, October 3:** Parent Gathering led by Pastor Troy at Odd Side Ales 5:30-7:30.
- **Sunday, October 10:** New Confirmation Class introduced during both worship services!
- **Sunday, October 10:** 5th/6th grade "Welcome to Worship" formation opportunity during second service in Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, October 17:** 5th-12th grade parent lunch at 12:30 in Rec. Room. **RSVP by Sunday, October 10** (mlambert@fpgh.org)
- **Sunday, October 24:** Youth Group Halloween Party 5:15-7:30. Come in costume!

Parent Lunch Gathering

All parents/guardians of 5th-12th grade youth are invited to a special lunch at 12:30 on **Sunday, October 17 in the Rec. Room**. This will be a time of fellowship to get to know other parents with youth in our program, discussion about our hopes for our youth's faith formation this year, learning about volunteer opportunities, and more! Please RSVP on Realm or by emailing Maddie Lambert (mlambert@fpgh.org) by **Sunday, October 10**. Lunch will be Paisley Pig pizzas! Let us know if you have dietary restrictions. If you are in need of childcare in order to attend this opportunity please indicate the age of your child needing care in your RSVP so that we can prepare appropriately and safely.

Fall Theme Challenge:

For our first four weeks we will be exploring the theme of "You're Invited to come and Follow Jesus" in scripture together. Jesus calls us as his loved followers to also invite others to come and follow him. Take the first step in inviting a friend to follow Jesus by bringing them to our Halloween Party! Here we will play games, watch a movie and practice hospitality by preparing gifts to give away and packing for Hand2Hand.

YOU ARE INVITED! to come and follow Jesus

September 26:
John 1:35-51

October 3:
John 15:1-15

October 10:
Matthew 22:34-40

October 17:
Matthew 28:16-20

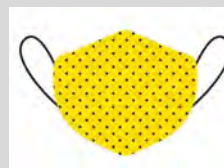
How am I invited to follow Jesus?

Who is following Jesus with me?

What does it mean to follow by loving myself and my neighbor?

When can I invite others to follow Jesus?

Mask Up, Please!



For the wellness of our children we are asking all students and leaders to mask up during all children and youth gatherings this year!

Thanks for loving and keeping one another safe.

Youth Group 2021!

We are so thrilled to return to our Sunday evening 5-12th grade weekly programming! For a refresher of, or first time look at, what our time together looks like, check out this timeline:

5:15-5:25 - Welcome and Free Play

5:30-6 - Break Out Groups

- 5/6th grade bible discussion with Tommy in the chapel
- 7/8th grade bible discussion with Maddie in Fellowship Hall
- 9th-12th grade small group activity with leaders in rooms 20 & 16

6-6:50 - Group Game, Prayer and Dinner in the Rec Room and Fellowship Hall

7-7:30 - Break Out Groups

- 5/6th grade activity with Tommy in the chapel
- 7/8th grade small group activity with leaders in rooms 20 & 16
- 9th-12th grade bible discussion with Maddie in Fellowship Hall

Tidings article deadline for November 2021 issue: October 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.



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

Sunday Worship:

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

October 2021

deliver to: (or current resident)

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