



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

MARCH 2022, VOLUME 70—ISSUE 3

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

“God With Us” Lent 2022

Here are some opportunities to dig deeper during Lent. Please email staff@fpggh.org for more information on any of these below.

“How to Read the Bible: Lent”

Beginning Sunday, March 6, 10 a.m., Recreation Room

What do the final weeks of Jesus' ministry teach us about following him and living the Christian life? During Lent, we will look closely at the Gospel passages that tell us about Jesus' ministry and teaching leading up to and during Passion Week (his journey to and entry into Jerusalem, his arrest, trials, and crucifixion). Attention will be given to understanding what Jesus said and did during these final weeks in their original setting and what Jesus is teaching us today. This is a six-week class, but feel free to drop in at any time! Class is led by Dr. Matt Bruce.

Lent in Plain Sight Women's Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, March 2, 10-11 a.m., Conference Room

This is a one-hour, six-week study based on a women's Lenten study. The first session will be via Zoom, but will meet in person for the remaining five weeks. The book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield is a daily devotional with reflection questions. We will be discussing the highlights for each week and how we have felt God speaking to us. All women are welcome!

“God with Us” Small Group

Beginning Thursday, March 3, 11:45-12:45 p.m., Church Lounge

This is a one-hour, six-week small group in which the discussion will focus on the scripture passages from the Lent Sermon Series “God with Us.” Bring your lunch for a time of fellowship and re-centering on God's word for us. All are welcome!



Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week Bible Study

Beginning Monday, March 7, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Church Lounge

In this book, biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine delves into the history and literature surrounding the last days of Jesus' life. She sets the narrative in historical context and analyzes the risks and motives of the story's characters. All are welcome.

“God with Us” Journals

Available in the Clinton Street entrance or at the Welcome Desk

If we believe that “Every perfect gift is from above”--James 1:17, then every good thing we experience in our day is a gift from God and proof that God is with us. Use these journals to jot down all the ways we've seen Jesus Christ in the people and situations that brought you joy each day of Lent. It could

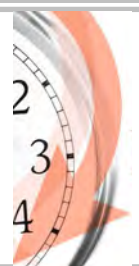
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Upcoming Events

- Mar. 2** Ash Wednesday:
Drive-thru Ashes, 12-12:30 p.m.
Worship Service, 7 p.m.
- Mar. 6** Youth Sunday
Katherine Joliff, AGO Young
Organist C.A.S. Concert
- Mar. 9** Taize Worship Service
- Mar. 13** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar. 16** Taize Worship Service
- Mar. 23** Taize Worship Service
- Mar. 30** Taize Worship Service
- Apr. 6** Taize Worship Service
- Apr. 10** Palm Sunday
- Apr. 14** Maundy Thursday
Worship Service, 7 p.m.
- Apr. 15** Good Friday
Worship Service, 12:15 p.m.
- Apr. 17** Easter Sunday:
7 a.m. Flowering of the Cross
9 a.m. Traditional
11 a.m. Contemporary

Don't forget to
SPRING
FORWARD

Sunday, March 14



Save the Date!

for the 5th Annual
Golf Scramble “Fun”Raiser
on Sunday, June 26, 2022!



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:

Brian Anderson and Joan Tandler,
Larry Braak and Dan Scanlan

Our Sympathy:

to Char and Don Anderson on the
death of Char's sister, Mary, on
February 2.

to Jeanette and Donald
Schollenberger on the death of
their daughter-in-law, Cara Jo
Klockow, on February 8.

to the family of Carol Brouwer,
who passed away on February 13.
Carol will be missed by her
husband, Richard, daughter Sally
(Mark) Bryant, and grandchildren.

to the family of Carlyne Gebben,
who passed away on February 14.

Thank you:

Dale and Barb Swihart send their
thanks for the congregation's
prayerful support during Dale's
recent surgery. It has been an
important reminder that one of
the church's most powerful gifts
is community.

The People Center Volunteers Needed

The People Center in Spring Lake
is in need of volunteers for their
clothing hutch.

Responsibilities include sorting
and organizing donated clothing.
Volunteers should be willing to
donate time on a regular basis
(once a week or once a month).

If you are able to help, please
contact Karen Reenders at
616-844-6710 or
Karen@thepeoplecenter.org.

Game of Cribbage, Anyone?



**Do you love cribbage or would
you like to learn?**

**Come and try it out on the
3rd Thursday of the month
at 6:30 p.m.
in the church lounge.**

**If you have questions,
please contact:**

Sue VandenBosch:
616-607-7095
s.vandenbosch@att.net

or

Sally Kenrick:
616-842-8371
kenricksally@gmail.com

Food Pantry Collection

Each month the Mission Committee
collects non-perishable food and
household goods (like laundry
detergent and toilet paper) for local
food pantries. This month our
donations will be going to the
Central School food pantry.

Special requests are for:

- Cereal (full-sized boxes)
- Pop-Tarts®
- Peanut butter (16 oz.)
- Juice boxes
- Ramen noodles
- Instant potatoes
- Individual mac & cheese cups
- Individual fruit cups
- Canned fruit
- Small bags of chips, popcorn, etc.

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



Every month, we publish birthdays
of our members and friends who
are no longer able to come to
church regularly. Make their day
special with a birthday card!

Mar. 3 Heidi Gassman
17500 Whippoorwill Dr.
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Mar. 4 Mary Lou Bender
11355—168th Ave.
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Mar. 12 Barbara Race
321 Grand Ave.
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Mar. 18 Gary VandenBrand
16118 Fillmore St.
West Olive, MI 49417

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

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THE season of Lent is upon us, and I hope you'll take this season to engage with your faith intentionally. Over these forty lenten days, we have a period of time to reflect on our lives. What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to receive and give forgiveness? What does Jesus' work on the cross mean for my life right now and forever? It's a season that affords us time to concentrate on what is truly important.

The church is offering lots of opportunities to dig deeper into faith. Some are very personal, like a daily gratitude journal. Some are fun. Who doesn't love a little Wordle in their life? Some gather in community, like small group studies. Some are classes, engaging with good teachers who challenge us. Some are worship, including Sundays, Ash Wednesday, Taizé

services, and more. I encourage you to choose at least one of these things to add to your life this Lent.

It's a relief to me that Covid numbers are declining and that many necessary restrictions are lifting. My prayers join yours as we trust that we are able to come back together in ways that bring meaning and hope to our lives. It's been so good to lay eyes on so many of you back in the church building, both on Sundays and throughout the week.

If you haven't yet engaged with the church interpersonally, I pray you'll take a step towards that this Lent. I recognize it's hard. No one wants to get sick or to get others sick. Our youngest still haven't been eligible for vaccination. Some of us are just out of rhythm. Still, in your own way and in your own time, I trust you'll make your way back. There is

something about being together that matters. I hear that regularly from those who have found their way back. I know that's also been true for me, as I try to get myself back to the energy necessary to be more social than the past two years have required!

For those of you who are at home but would welcome a visit from your pastors, give us a call at 616-842-6760. We'd love to see you in your homes too!

I wish you all a blessed Lent. Stay connected, and I hope to see you soon!

In Christ,
Pastor Troy

From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

Dear Church Family,

In my article from last month's Tidings I wrote about our all church spiritual discipline for Lent. The Faith Formation committee will be offering free journals on Sunday, February 27th after both worship services. The theme of our sermon series for Lent is "God with Us." The hope is that we would all use these journals to jot down all the ways we've seen Jesus Christ each day of Lent. You could write down complete sentences or simple bullet points. Whatever you find easiest! If we believe that "Every perfect gift is from above"--James 1:17, then every good thing we experience in our day is a gift from God.

I don't know about you, but for me it's been a loooooong and dark winter. To be honest it's been the hardest winter for me in years. Also, I grew up in Seattle, which has more gray days than Grand Haven or really, any other place in the country, so you'd think I'd be used to long, dark and gray winters. Turns out I'm not. That being said I thought it would be a good idea to get a jumpstart on our Lenten spiritual discipline to help me get out of the winter blues. So today here are a few things I'm thankful to God for:

1. For the kind person who lent me a "Happy Light," (a lamp that mimics sunlight) when she learned I've been struggling with the weather.
2. My kids are both developing a hilarious sense of humor.
3. Our church staff laugh easily together.
4. How supportive our church family is of one another.
5. Currently the sun is shining.
6. The combination of the real sun and my new "Happy Light" is doing wonders for my mood.

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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 declared our Shared Mission support for the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.
- We authorized youth to serve communion on Youth Sunday.
- We authorized the Children's Ministries Committee to purchase copies of the *Growing in God's Love* Bible for families with children in our church.
- We approved use of Alpha Funds to contract with Chris Joyner of the Joyner Advising Group to give our pastors twelve months of coaching.
- We authorized use of Alpha Funds to support the July 10 Waterfront Worship service.
- We approved a special offering to support our Youth Mission in Belize.
- We adopted our Session Covenant.

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

Personnel Updates

There are two staff changes that are coming our way that we want the congregation to be aware of.

First, Kelli Jullie, our Church Administrator, has announced that she will retire on May 27, 2022. We give thanks to God for Kelli's faithful work serving the church for over two decades. We will have the opportunity to celebrate Kelli's ministry on Sunday, May 22.

Second, Maddie Lambert, our Director of Youth and Young Adults, has announced that she is ending her employment with us to focus on her final year of seminary and to discern God's calling for her. We give thanks to God for Maddie's heartfelt ministry to our youth, young adults, and families. Her time with us will come to an end on Sunday, August 7.

The Personnel Committee is already forming search committees to address both of these positions and plans to have the new staff hired in time to have a smooth transition. Your prayers for these searches and transitions are necessary and appreciated!



2021/22 Season

Community Artist & Speaker Series

Katherine Jolliff
AGO Young Organist
Sunday, March 6, 4:00 p.m.

Katherine Jolliff began piano studies at the age of five and started learning the organ in her freshman year of high school from Marco Petricic (U. of Indianapolis). After completing her first two years of high school, she finished her studies at Interlochen Arts Academy. She majored in both piano and organ performance and studied organ with Tom Bara, graduating with honors and the Fine Arts Award in Organ Performance. Katherine will be attending Eastman School of Music as an organ performance major in 2021. She has also won first prize in the East Carolina University Young Artists Competition in organ performance as well as the Bach Interpretation Prize and the Hymn Playing Award.



Please join us after the concert for a reception in the church lounge.

This concert is an event of the First Presbyterian Church Community Artist and Speaker Series, and is free and open to the public. All are welcome.

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be something as simple as the sunshine or a meaningful conversation with a friend. You could write down complete sentences or simple bullet points. Whatever you find easiest!

Wordle Wednesday

Have you jumped on the Wordle bandwagon yet? Here's your chance!

Each Wednesday during Lent, a Wordle link will be sent out church-wide via email. Wordle is an addictive word puzzle in which the goal is to guess a five-letter word. All Wordles will have something to do with Lent.



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My hope is that through the discipline of listing a few things we are thankful for, even for the seemingly mundane things, during Lent, we will develop an awareness of how Christ is with us and provides for us. As a reminder, the hope is to make this a communal activity by encouraging others to share what they're thankful for on the church's Facebook page. This way we can encourage each other to pay attention to the numerous ways Christ shows up for us on a daily basis. My prayer for all of us this Lent is that we would develop a deeper sense of gratitude for God's presence with us not just during this holy church season, but every day of the year.

Grateful for you,
Pastor Kristine

Taize Services

Beginning March 9, Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

Taize worship involves a contemplative approach to worship with short, singable songs with simple text and a quiet time of reflection. It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on Christ's journey to the cross and to be re-centered in his love for us all.

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
9 a.m. (Traditional)
11 a.m. (Contemporary)

Offered in person and online:
Facebook Live (@FirstPresGH)
YouTube (First Presbyterian Church, Grand Haven)

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
Melissa VerHage, Worship Coordinator & Event Host

Tidings article deadline for April 2022 issue: March 23, 2022

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.

Eating Plastic?!

How would you like your credit card prepared to eat with your meal; rare or well-done? This may seem like a silly question, but the average American eats a credit card size portion of micro-plastics per week. That is 4 cards per month and 52 cards per year! Luckily, they are low calorie.

Microplastics are the fragments of stabilizers, lubricants, fillers, plasticizers, and other chemicals manufacturers use to give plastics their desirable properties such as transparency, durability, and flexibility. Microplastics migrate into the food supply and cause health issues such as increased inflammation, impaired fasting glucose, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease.

While exposure to microplastics through food is high, you can minimize ingestion by limiting your consumption of highly processed foods, choosing eco-friendly food packaging, and replacing plastic water bottles with glass or stainless-steel ones.

For additional information, visit this Consumer Reports web site: <https://www.consumerreports.org/health-wellness/how-to-eat-less-plastic-microplastics-in-food-water-a8899165110/>



FROM THE RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Books, A Road Trip, & Memories

Serving on a church committee can be very rewarding for many reasons. It's the same way with our church's Racial Justice Committee, which was established last year to enhance awareness of racial injustice. It is a privilege to be on this journey with the good folks on the committee. We are learning from one another while we challenge and encourage each other.

• • •

Several church book study groups came together last year, resulting in in-depth discussions about racism, with more book study groups being planned. I am doing a bit of reading on my own, too, such as *A New Origin Story: The 1619 Project*. Nikole Hannah-Jones is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter covering racial injustice for *The New York Times* Magazine. She and other *NYT* writers developed "The 1619 Project," published in the *NYT Magazine* in 2019 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in colonial Virginia. The book expands on that work, weaving together 19 essays that

explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America.

• • •

I just visited The Bookman to pick up Imani Perry's *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation* in preparation for going on The Momentum Center's 4-day *Cultural Immersion Experience: Civil Rights Road Trip* in mid-April. It will be a unique opportunity to visit iconic sites in Tennessee and Alabama, each of which played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement. The group will walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and stop by the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, among other sites. Anyone interested in the road trip may contact me at s.vandenbosch@att.net or go to the Momentum Center website at MomentumCenterGH.org

• • •

Claude A. Barnett (1889-1967) was an American journalist, publisher, entrepreneur, philanthropist and civic activist. He founded the Associated Negro Press (ANP), the first international news agency for Black newspapers. The ANP documented the American Civil

Rights Movement and struggles for independence in Africa. Based in Chicago, Mr. Barnett was one of the most influential Black media entrepreneurs in the 20th century, having advanced the role of the Black press in press coverage, news sharing, advertising, public relations and professionalism.

I didn't know Mr. Barnett since he died years before I moved to Chicago, but I did know his widow Etta Moten Barnett (1901-2004). She was a member of the distinguished Women's Board of The Field Museum of Natural History where I worked for many years. She was an actress and contralto vocalist who created new roles for Black women on stage and screen. After her performing career, Etta was active in Chicago as a philanthropist, civic leader and activist. I remember her as a friendly, charismatic, kind, warm, and lovely woman who lit up the room with her smile. She always called me "Baby!"

Sue VandenBosch,
Member of the Racial Justice
Committee

Youth Ministries

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Better Together Parent Group Returns!

Parents/guardians are invited to join Pastor Troy at Odd Side Ales during Youth Group (5:15-7:30) on Sundays, March 6 & March 20 for fellowship and connection.

Youth Sunday, March 6



This Youth Sunday is extra special. In addition to amplifying the voices of our youth, we will also be fundraising for the Youth and Children's Program in Belize. We will be hosting a silent auction of hand painted creations to raise money for Koinonia Ministries in Orange Walk, Belize. Our hope is to raise enough money to help them start constructing a playground for their community.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, giving envelopes are available in the pews and inside the Clinton Street doors.



Food Volunteers Needed

We love and are so thankful for everyone who has provided meals this year for Youth Group!

If you are looking for a way to serve our students, please consider signing up to provide dinner. One volunteer said, "This was such a fun and easy way to serve our kids!" We encourage meal providers to prepare dinner for 35 students and to sign up with a partner. We will provide beverages, cups, plates and silverware. We eat from 6:20-7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

In 2022 we need meal providers for dates in March, April, and May.

Please contact Maddie Lambert (mlambert@fpg.org) to sign up to provide a meal. Thank you!



In Our Church

2022 Per Capita

Per-capita is a charge we pay to the Presbytery each year for every member of our congregation. The amount for this year is \$36.73.

Please prayerfully consider paying the per-capita amount for each person in your family who is a church member. *Thank you!*

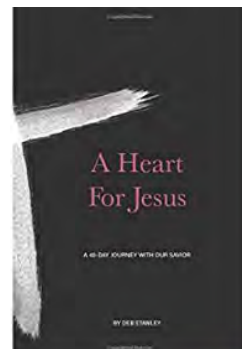
For more info on Per Capita, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ycks3wz4>

A Heart for Jesus Lenten Devotional

If you are looking for a Lenten devotional book, *A Heart for Jesus: A 40-Day Journey with our Savior*, will walk you through the 40 days of Lent.

The book can be found on Amazon or at The Bookman. We love supporting our local bookstore, so if possible, you are encouraged to shop there.

If you experience difficulty acquiring the book for some reason, please contact Deb Stanley. She will make sure you receive a copy.





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 YouTube: First Presbyterian Church, Grand Haven

or watch the recorded service on our

website: fpgh.org

March 2022

deliver to: (or current resident)

Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord!



Your Easter flower dedications make it possible to decorate the sanctuary and to purchase flowers for the Easter worship services.

Anyone who wishes to make a dedication may do so by completing the form below and returning it to the church office (or drop it in the offering plate) by **Palm Sunday, April 10**. After Easter, the flowers will be shared with those who are home-bound or hospitalized.

Please print the name of each person you wish to honor, along with your name and telephone number. Suggested donation: \$12 for each dedication.

DEDICATION 1. Please check one: ☐ in celebration ☐ in honor ☐ in memory of:

NAME: _____

DEDICATION 2. Please check one: ☐ in celebration ☐ in honor ☐ in memory of:

NAME: _____

GIVEN BY: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church, with memo notation: "Easter dedication"