



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

APRIL 2022, VOLUME 70—ISSUE 4

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

There has been a growing sense of excitement around the church over the past couple of weeks. I have felt that energy in meetings, in midweek gatherings, and on Sunday mornings. For the first time in two years, I am starting to see some momentum around the church. People we haven't seen in two years are coming back. (So GREAT to see you!) People who had been back occasionally are starting to show up regularly. (So happy to share life with you!) Visitors have been coming with increasing regularity. (I hope we're all intentional about welcoming them.) It's also so nice to welcome back home our friends who have escaped the cold for the warmth of Florida or Arizona.

This is the season to come to church! As our calendars turn to April, there are lots of reasons to gather. Spring break ends on **Palm Sunday**, which is always a festive day of worship. Holy Week will build towards services on **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday**. Both services will be in our sanctuary. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00 p.m. Together we will follow the steps of Jesus on his final night—from communion to washing, from Gethsemane to arrest. On Good Friday, we will gather for a brief service at 12:15 p.m., where the focus will be on Jesus' crucifixion—a space to worship in grief and sadness.

And then, of course, is the celebration of **Easter Sunday**. This is Pastor Kristine's third Easter with us, and, thankfully, this is the first "normal"

(Continued on page 3)

Upcoming Events

- 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 Worship:
7 a.m. Flowering of the Cross
9 a.m. Traditional
11 a.m. Contemporary
- Apr. 18** PW Hanging Basket Orders Due
- May 1** New Member Class
- May 6** PW Hanging Basket Pick Up
- June 26** 5th Annual Golf Scramble
- July 10** Waterfront Worship

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday, April 14
7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday worship service at FPC

Good Friday, April 15
7:00 a.m.

Men's worship and breakfast with the men of Spring Lake Presbyterian Church (at SLPC). All men are invited.

12:15 p.m.
Good Friday Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 17

Sunrise Worship, 7:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship, 9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship, 11:00 a.m.



Save the Date!

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

Registration brochures available soon at the Clinton Street church entrance. Register before May 1 for the early bird rate!

All proceeds will go to the Joyful Noise Playground Enhancement Fund.



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:

Brian Anderson and Joan Tandler,
Larry Braak, Hal Fitzgerald, Frank
and Karen Miller, and Dan Scanlan

Our Sympathy:

to the family of David Roper, son
of Bill and Sue Roper, who passed
away on February 28.

to Bob and Leda Palmatter and
family on the death of Bob's mother,
Shirley Palmatter, on March 3.

to Bruce and Margaret Spoelman
and family on the passing of
Bruce's brother, Paul, on March 8.

to Fran Khodl and family on
the passing of Fran's husband,
Don Khodl, on March 22.

Thank you:

The family of Carol Brouwer
thanks you all for your expressions
of sympathy and support during
her illness and passing. Your words
have been kind and comforting,
and very much appreciated.

PW Hanging Flower Basket Sale

Fuchsia, Begonia,
Geranium, or
Impatiens—which
is your favorite
flower? The Pres-
byterian Women are once again
selling beautiful hanging baskets
just in time for Mother's Day!



Order forms are
available at church
or may be [down-
loaded here](#). Orders
are due by April 22,
and pick up is Friday, May 6 from
11-3 (if you are not able to make
this time, let us know and we will
make arrangements).

Plants are \$18 each and all
proceeds support the missions of
the Presbyterian Women.

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
People Center.

Special requests are for:

- Laundry detergent
- Comet, Ajax, and spray cleaners
- Soap, shampoo, and conditioner
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products

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



You are Invited...

to our

New Member Class

Sunday, May 1

12:30 –2:00 p.m.

(lunch provided)

Do you have questions about
the Presbyterian Church?

Are you thinking about
becoming a member of
First Presbyterian Church?

To reserve your spot,
contact Kerri Roberts in the
church office:
842-6760 or kr Roberts@fpgh.org.



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!

Apr. 7 Char Soule
400 Barber Street
Spring Lake, MI 49456

May 18 Pat Austin
17041 Lloyd's Bayou Dr.
Apt. S
Spring Lake, MI 49456

May 19 Jeanne Wynne-Parry
1410 S. Ferry, G-10
Grand Haven, MI 49417

May 19 Larry Fischer
313 Robbins Road
Grand Haven, MI 49417

May 28 Sue McClellan
1450 S. Ferry, Apt. 228
Grand Haven, MI 49417

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon (continued)

PAGE 3

(Continued from page 1)

Easter she'll get to have with us. We'll gather in the Lounge before we move to the Sanctuary for the 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service where we flower the cross. (This is one of my favorite First Pres traditions!) At 9:00 a.m. we'll have our traditional Easter Service with the Geneva Choir, organ, and brass. 11:00 a.m. brings us the exuberance of our Gathering Easter Service. It's going to be a wonderful Sunday, and I hope you'll be there.

This is a season to invite others to join you at church. Perhaps you have family or friends who might find a place at First Pres. Invite them! Perhaps you've been at worship and realized you're missing people who used to sit near you. Give them a call and invite them to sit with you again! Perhaps you are someone who just hasn't found your way back with us. Come! We love you and miss you.

Christians are an Easter people. Our faith and lives are oriented around life conquering death through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this season when so much has felt like a kind of death or where things have felt lifeless or gray, I hope we will all encounter the joy of resurrection as we gather in worship and as God sends us once again into our neighborhoods to be a people filled with joy.

In Christ,
Pastor Troy

From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

Dear Church Family,

I've had several conversations with folks recently about how they are feeling overwhelmed. There's a lot to be overwhelmed by. COVID is still with us even though we are starting to see glimpses of what life was like before March 2020. The war in Ukraine has created anxiety in younger generations about nuclear war and has renewed such anxiety for those of us who grew up during the Cold War era. Add to all of that our usual to-do lists and other unexpected situations life tends to throw at us and we found ourselves bombarded by a tsunami of anxiety. Pastor Troy said something that stuck with me in one of his recent sermons. He said something along the lines of because we've been in survival mode for the last two years we have nothing left to deal with the stress and pain of today. It's times like these it can be difficult to believe the words of Psalm 63:

"For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy." --Psalm 63:7

In the midst of deep anxiety, it's difficult to remember how God has been our help in the past much less feel that we are indeed under the comfort of God's "wings." As someone who has BIG feelings, I want to affirm that your anxious feelings are real, warranted, and completely understandable. God also understands what it is we're feeling. The thing about anxiety and feeling overwhelmed is there's so much going on around and within us that it's hard to have any focus. Focus on God much less focus on what concrete steps we could take to help us deal with our anxiety.

I'd like to suggest that right now you do one thing: Take a deep breath. Great job! Now do that again :) For your third breath as you inhale say: "For you have been my help" and as you exhale say: "in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy." Now do that again two more times. You just executed a breath prayer based on Psalm 63:7. I realize this doesn't stop the war in Ukraine, make COVID disappear, prevent the rise in gas prices, or make our bank

accounts more full. But this breath prayer does give us focus on God. While things are still hard you've just created space to focus on God in the midst of your tornado of anxiety. As we get closer to Easter Sunday I'd encourage you to be more intentional about these breath prayers. I'd also encourage you to examine if you're doing enough life-giving activities that can help to balance out your anxiety. Activities such as going for a walk, journaling (like the "God with us" Journal!), or time with trusted friends with whom you can be honest about your anxiety just to name a few. Also know you've got pastors who are more than willing to be a listening ear for you as well as a church family whom you can rely on to listen and pray for and with you.

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 ordained Kim Goldman to serve as a ruling elder.
- We endorsed Matt Bruce to move from inquiry to candidacy in the ordination process.
- We reviewed our Child Protection Policy and received training in sexual misconduct.
- We approved use of Alpha Funds to purchase a new drum set and amp for the Gathering Service.

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

Updates on Communion

The Worship Committee has been assessing how to best handle communion throughout the pandemic. We are thankful that COVID numbers have declined noticeably and that our understanding of how COVID spreads is far greater than it was a year ago.

Beginning in April we will resume serving communion in the way we used to serve it. At the Traditional service, elders will pass trays to you while you are seated in the pews. At the Gathering service, you will come forward to receive communion by intinction (i.e., dipping). Elders will wear masks while serving communion for now.

As with all things in this pandemic, there is no perfect way to handle anything, particularly when it relates to the congregation gathered in worship. We continue to appreciate your grace and understanding as we do our best to be the church together.



News from the Presbytery of Lake Michigan



At its March stated meeting, the Presbytery of Lake Michigan called the Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence to be its Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk. This call brings to an end a few years of transitional leadership for the presbytery. Fran may be a familiar face to many of you. She has been the presbytery's clerk for years, and she was one of the Transitional Co-Leaders of the presbytery and clerk for the past few years. She will be installed to her ministry in the spring, and we look forward to Fran's leadership of the presbytery in the years to come.

Synod Scholarship for Christian Leadership

The Synod of the Covenant is offering scholarship grants to students displaying Christian Leadership. These grants are available to full or part-time students working towards a first baccalaureate degree or certification at colleges, universities, and vocational schools. Applicants will be asked to describe the ways or organizations for whom they provide Christian leadership, especially those that help churches or ministries to thrive, address structural racism, and/or engage issues of poverty. Applications are due by May 15. More information is available at the synod's site: <https://synodofthecovenant.org/2022-higher-education-scholarship-application/>.

Tidings article deadline for May 2022 issue: April 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.

Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing

During Lent Presbyterians come together to share God's love through **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This special offering works to serve the hungry, the thirsty, the displaced, and the sick.

- **32%** of the offering goes to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Last year PDA distributed \$6.5 million in 56 countries including the United States. PDA recently responded to the December tornadoes in the Midwest and the fires in Colorado and California. pcusa.org/pda
- **36%** goes to the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Last year PHP gave 131 grants totaling nearly \$1 million impacting 20 countries including the United States. Food, fruit trees, animals, seed banks, gardens, and water pumps were part of that response. pcusa.org/hunger
- **32%** is given to the committee on the Self-Development of People. They work with low-income communities to overcome oppression and injustice including immigration/refugee issues, racism, skills development, disability needs, and farming cooperatives. pcusa.org/sdop

Our gifts to the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offer an outward sign of thanks for the presence of God in our lives as we connect with those who "have the least" (*Matthew 25*). Ponder the lyrics of a song written for OGHS:

*When the wind and the rain of the hurricane left me homeless on the street
Did you give me clothes and shelter, did you bring me food to eat?
When the warlords came and I fled the flames;*

*When they made me a refugee—
Did you feel my racing heart beat? Hear my cries of agony?
When the heat and the sand of this barren land left me struggling to survive
Did you help me find clean water so my family could thrive?
When I was lost and lonely and wandering in despair
My greatest time of need was your one great hour to share.*



Special envelopes will be in the pews during Lent and on the table in the Clinton Street entranceway. You can also give at pcusa.org/give-oghs or text **OGHS 91999**.

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

Invest in Our Planet! Earth Day 2022

The Earth Day 2022 theme is "Invest In Our Planet." What Will You Do?

First Presbyterian's Earth Care Team is participating in the 16th Earth Day Lakeshore Celebration on Saturday, April 23 at Central Park from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. We will have a booth and will be giving away reusable metal straws to the first 100 patrons. The event is free and open to the public. There is also a Green March starting at 12:30, downtown Grand Haven. Please come join this informative and fun event. In June, we will be celebrating Earth Day in worship.



For more information on the theme of this year's Earth Day, Invest in Our Planet, click on the following link to a short YouTube video. <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2022/>

From the Racial Justice Committee

As the Racial Justice Committee continues to learn, educate and grow, we are always looking for resources and information to help us.

At the formation of our Committee, almost one year ago, we were overwhelmed with the amount of resources, books, documentaries, videos, and workshops. It seemed as if opportunities to learn about Racial and Social Justice were everywhere. One of the resources we found, and invite you to look into, is the Presbyterian Church USA website, <https://www.pcusa.org/>. It is full of resources, articles and events that are happening across the globe.

As stated on the page *Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community Churchwide Antiracism Policy*, "Racism is the opposite of what God intends for humanity. It is the rejection of the other, which is entirely contrary to the Word of God incarnate in Jesus Christ. Racism is a lie about our fellow human beings, for it says that some are less than others. Because of our biblical understanding of who God is and what God intends for humanity, the PC(USA) must stand against, speak against and work against racism."

As we journey together in our understanding of what God wants for us individually and as a church, may we approach our learning with open minds and open hearts.

Jane Stoepker,
Racial Justice Committee Member

The Harvest Table is Back!

The "Harvest Table" will be open for sharing beginning May 1! Bring your early produce and any extra bulbs, seedlings or plants/roots for Spring planting.

This is a great opportunity to get fresh foods and new plants for your garden. Please bring your own paper or other reusable (not plastic) bags to carry your goodies home.

Thank you,
from the Earth Care Team



"Earth day should encourage us to reflect on what we are doing to make our planet a more sustainable and livable place."

- Scott Peters

You Are Invited to An Unwrapping Party!

Calling all families (infant-4th grade), Children's Ministry has a special family gift for you!

To find out what it is, you are invited to an unwrapping party in the Lounge after both services on Sunday, April 24. It will be fun to be together. Can you guess what the surprise is? It's been wrapped with love. ❤️ I can't wait to give it to you! See you on April 24!



Pinewood Derby Wednesday, April 20



Come race with the scouts! Pack 3005 will be holding their annual Pinewood Derby on Wednesday, April 20 at 6 p.m. downstairs in Fellowship Hall. This event is open to ALL families in the church who are interested in learning more about Scouting.

The scouts of Pack 3005 will be building and racing their own new cars for the event. The scouts have been kind enough to share their previous year's cars with any other youth interested in racing!

So if you're interested in a fun evening of racing, come join us! Arrive at 6 p.m. to select your car and get checked in for the racing. Events will begin at 6:30 with advancement awards for scouts, promptly followed by Pinewood Derby racing!

April Youth Calendar:

- **April 3:**
Spring Break, No YG
- **April 10:**
Palm Sunday Activity and Stations of the Cross during YG
- **April 17:**
Easter, No YG
- **April 24:**
Normal YG gathering

Graduation Sunday, May 8, 2022

On May 8th we will be celebrating our graduates with a slideshow and special blessing. If you have someone graduating from high school, undergraduate, graduate school, etc. reach out to Maddie Lambert and she will be glad to give you information on they can be celebrated by this church family.

As is our tradition we will be gifting graduating high school students within our church with a journal filled with encouraging notes from congregation members. **Journals will be out in the Gathering Area starting Sunday, April 3.** You can either put a note directly inside the journal or take a sheet of labels home to write encouraging words on and bring them back to stick inside the journals.



Save the date! May 22, 2022 Jump into Summer Party 6-8 pm

**Jump
into Summer!**

All youth and their families are invited to this year's Jump into Summer parking lot party. We will be enjoying hot dogs, ice cream and fun outdoor games. This is also the first youth event that our incoming 5th graders are invited to attend! We are so excited to celebrate summer with you.



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

April 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"