



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

MAY 2022, VOLUME 70—ISSUE 5

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

Words cannot begin to express the size of my joy for Holy Week and Easter this year. I know we're not out of the woods with the pandemic, but it was so great to worship together without restriction this year. As a pastor, I often find it hard to focus on worship. So often my attention is divided about what is coming next and what I'm doing. That was not so much of an issue this year. I felt my soul stirred as I poured water over hands on Maundy Thursday. I had tears in my eyes as Rob played the organ on Good Friday, struggling to sing the words to "Were You There?" And Easter? It was joy from the sunrise procession to the choir anthems to the final note the band played.

It takes many hands to make our worship services meaningful. For all who played a part this year I say, "Thank you!" Many go above and beyond the call of duty so that these are special days for all who gather. Know that I am grateful for each and every contribution. It takes a team of members and staff to make this special. This year, friends, we made it special. We glorified God together! Such joy.

My attention is turning to May. There's a lot going on with Sundays in May. On May 1, we'll have communion, a New Member Class, and an afternoon speaker on the topic of how we cope with the challenges of our present world. On May 8, which is Mother's Day, we'll welcome our confirmands to membership, and we'll honor two women with Lifetime Memberships to Presbyterian Women. On May 15, we'll celebrate our graduates and welcome our new members. On May 22, we'll celebrate the ministry of Kelli Jullie, who is retiring as Church Administrator. I've invited Tom Cook to be a part of that Sunday with us and look forward to him being here. Kelli's last day in the office will be May 27.

There will be much more to say on this, but for now I'd like to offer a few words of gratitude for Kelli's ministry. The work of the Church Administrator affects all of ministry. It is hard work, and it is work that undergirds good ministry, and if done poorly, it can be very disruptive to ministry. It's easy to see the work of a pastor through a good sermon or a Youth Director through a fun and formative evening, but the work of a Church Administrator is more like a current. It's always there keeping things moving, but unless you pay attention, you don't notice it.

I thank God for the diligent, thorough, and integrity-filled work of Kelli Jullie. She has done her work well and faithfully. She understands the church and its mission. She has helped us do ministry within the direction of the Session. She has helped us care for the church's assets well so that the ministry can go well. I wish Kelli nothing but the best in her retirement. We'll miss her presence around the office but know that this next chapter is an opportunity for new adventures. Job well done, Kelli! When you see her, I hope you can express your gratitude to her for her ministry among us.

In Christ,
Pastor Troy

Upcoming Events

- May 1** New Member Class
- May 6** PW Hanging Basket Pick Up
- May 8** Confirmation Sunday
PW Lifetime Membership Award
- May 15** Graduate Recognition Sunday
- May 22** Reception for Kelli Jullie
Youth "Dive into Summer"
Party in the Parking Lot
- May 29** Congregational Meeting
- June 15** Lunch Park Meet Up
- June 26** 5th Annual Golf Scramble
- July 10** Waterfront Worship

Register Now!

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

Registration brochures are now
available at the Clinton Street
church entrance.

All funds raised 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:

Rob Andersen, Brian Anderson
and Joan Tandler, Larry Braak,
Hal Fitzgerald, Frank & Karen Miller,
Dan Scanlan, and Marilyn VanderVeen

Our Sympathy:

to Cal and Evie Bosman on the
death of Cal's brother, Roger, on
April 18.

to Sara Shambarger and George
Barfield on the death of Sara's
brother, John Mark Shambarger,
on April 22.



Sunday, May 8

PW Hanging Flower Basket Pick Up

The Presbyterian Women send out a huge "thank you!" to congregation members for the great response to their hanging basket sale!



For those who placed an order, flowers may be picked up in the church parking lot on Friday, May 6, from 11-3. If you are unable to pick up your flowers at that time, please contact Sue Ochs at 231-750-3946 or s2123@aol.com.

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 Love in Action.

Special requests are for:

- Boxed cereal
- Sugar, flour, & frosting
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Canned peaches and pineapple
- Diced tomatoes
- Miracle Whip
- Gluten-free or dairy-free products

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!

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

May 29 Betty Whalen
17046 Lloyd's Bayou Dr.
Apt. 414
Spring Lake, MI 49456

Congratulations to the 2022 Class of Confirmands!

We are excited announce this year's class of confirmands:

- Kaitlyn Bays
- Naomi Force
- James Friggens
- Sam Hauser Brydon
- Timothy Olson
- Kevin Sahr
- Grant Taylor
- Meg Taylor



We'll be welcoming these young people into church membership in worship on May 8, and will celebrate with cake in the lounge after services. Please join us!

Welcome, Kristi Deur!

At the recommendation of the Church Administrator Search Team and the Personnel Committee, the Session has approved the hiring of Kristi Deur as our next Church Administrator. Kristi has a background in business, counseling, and the church. She has previously worked in a Methodist church of a similar size to First Pres, and she has run her own business. The search team was impressed by her background, enthusiastic about her skill set, pleased that she has a church background, and thrilled with the reports they heard from her references.

Kristi began at the church in late April, giving her a month to work alongside Kelli to learn the ropes. The next time you're in the office, stop by and say "hi" to Kristi!



Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Search

A great search team for our next Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries has been formed! Members of the team are Andy Becker, Courtney Ransford, Leslie Ver Duin, Josh VerHage, Meghan Heritage, Kristine Aragon Bruce, and student representative Jack Bosch. Please pray for them as they begin this search and please pray for whomever God is calling to be our next Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. *You could help in the search by inquiring with friends who are connected to ministry in some way that we are looking to fill this position.*

From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

Dear Church Family,

With the impending departures of two key staff members, Kelli Jullie in May and Maddie Lambert in August, I'm reminded that change is inevitable. These are two individuals who I've enjoyed getting to know and laugh with every day in the office. I will miss them both dearly. Luckily there's plenty of time to show our appreciation for these two wonderful women!

We have a chance to show our appreciation for Kelli's 20+ years on staff on May 22nd after both worship services. Please mark your calendars! To be perfectly honest, it's hard for me to imagine someone else at Kelli's desk. Most people don't realize all of the work Church Administrators do behind the scenes. Kelli has always been on top of important matters from repairs (both minor and major!) in and around the church to managing payroll to helping Session make sure policies are in place. And that's just the tip of the iceberg of all that Kelli does! I'm also personally grateful for the times Kelli graciously listened

when I came into her office about a ministry question and somehow the conversation led to motherhood (among numerous other topics).

These periods of change remind me that transitions, although inevitable, are hard. While intellectually I know everything will turn out and that God will provide the right person to carry on the strong systems Kelli established to ensure ministry runs smoothly, I don't know *how* it will work out.

As Christians I think we sometimes interpret our anxiety of the unknown as not having enough faith. Please hear me when I say *that is just not true*. One can still believe that God will provide while at the same time be worried and anxious about the unknown. The two are not mutually exclusive. We do, however, get into trouble when we start allowing our anxiety to overpower the truth of how God has worked and will continue to work in our lives.

I admit I'm a worrier and I can be a ball of anxiety. I'm thankful that God has put people in my life I can trust

to listen to me and pray for me when it's difficult to control my anxiety. I'm also thankful for Paul's words in Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Paul doesn't mean quit worrying all together, but in the midst of our worries, present those worries to God. This doesn't mean all of our worries will disappear, but they will no longer immobilize or consume us. Our situations may not even change, but what will change is that we will have a renewed sense of Christ's presence with us. Christ's presence gives us peace about our fears of the unknown and the anxiety of transition. Peace knowing that Jesus Christ is our constant and our foundation in the midst of the ever-changing landscape of our lives.

Grateful for you,
Pastor Kristine

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.



New Member Mentors Needed!

We are in need of Mentors for new church members! Mentors are asked to:

- Call/text their assigned New Member on a monthly basis to check in and invite them to First Pres events that may interest them
- Take them out to lunch/coffee at least once
- Keep up with their new member for a year
- Call them on their birthday



If interested or if you have questions please contact Keith Marks at: kmarks01@gmail.com

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 held our first joint Elder/Deacon meeting in three years! The deacons gave a good report of their ministry.
- We met with the confirmation class and examined them. With joy we approved the confirmands as members of the church.
- We accepted the disbursed funds from the GHACF for our Mission and Omega Funds.
- We accepted the resignation of Peter Morse as an elder and thanked him for his service.
- We approved the hiring of Kristi Deur as Church Administrator.
- We called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 29, at 10 a.m. for the purpose of electing an elder to fill a vacancy.

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

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 June 2022 issue: May 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.

Book Discussion Group: *Now What? How to Move Forward When We're Divided* (About Basically Everything)

From the authors of "I think you're wrong but I'm listening" and recent Calvin January Series presenters Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers, is a new book dealing with our political divide. This book seeks to help us "move forward when we're divided about basically everything." These discussions will be done in a safe environment where there will be an openness and respect for other's views and feelings. Perhaps we can help solve our great divide starting at the local level. This is still in the planning stages but we will keep you informed as to when and where this discussion group will take place.



Thursday Night Discussion Group

This group provides an opportunity for each of us to learn from noted authors as well as from each other within an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding. From May 12-June 6, this group will discuss *Sabbath Resistance*, by Walter Brueggeman. Class meets on Thursday evenings from 7-8 in rooms 16 & 17, and is also available on Zoom.

Ottawa Parks BYOL Meet-Up

Beginning June 15, we'd love to meet you for lunch at various county parks on the first and third Wednesdays of the summer months. Since many of us have lost touch during the pandemic, this will give us more time for fellowship within the church family. In addition, members who haven't been able to meet in church may be able to meet with fellow parishioners in an outdoor setting.

Details of where we will meet are to be determined.

Please contact Carroll Bennink with any questions:

thebenninks@gmail.com



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

Kristi Deur, Church Administrator

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

Earth Care and the PC(USA)

During the Easter season, The PC(USA) collects the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, with proceeds split between three Presbyterian Agencies: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People.

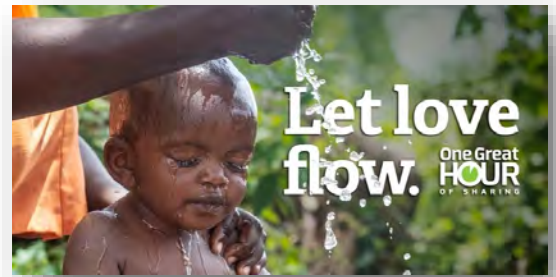
The FPGH earth care team takes much of its direction from the Presbyterian Earth Care Congregation program. We thought you might be interested in how the Earth Care Program is related to the agencies funded by the OGHS.

The Presbyterian Earth Care Program is part of the Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns organization, which in turn is part of the Presbyterian Hunger Program supported by the OGHS offering. At first glance, earth care might seem far removed from a hunger program, but the PC(USA) Hunger program defines its mission as: "Alleviating hunger and eliminating its causes." The hunger program approaches hunger holistically with 5 tools:

- Direct food relief combined with root-cause work
- Sustainable development
- Advocacy
- Intentional and sustainable living
- Education

Our local earth care effort, together with those of the PC(USA), support each of these five tools as we concentrate on our yearly goals involving worship, facilities, outreach, and education:

- We work to attack **root causes** of hunger when we recognize that our lack of care for the earth, such as our carbon footprint, primarily causes harm to the the disadvantaged and hungry.
- We work for **sustainable development** by supporting ministries such as the Presbyterian coffee program which operate to ensure a market, fair compensation, and encouragement to use sustainable agricultural method to those who directly labor to grow the coffee or other such crops. We also encourage sustainable living by promoting plastics free July, ride your bike programs, and a summer produce exchange.
- We promote and support **advocacy** for justice at a local level to complement the PCUSA's national efforts. We try and identify local issues that can lead to poverty, hunger, and injustice.
- We promote **intentional and sustainable living** by advocating for lifestyle choices within our congregation and community that reduce our use of non-renewable resources, plastics, and other materials that may harm the environment and lead to hunger among the disadvantaged.
- We provide **educational** opportunities through the adult education program and other special events such as the local Earth Day celebration.



More information can be found at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/>

Growing in God's Love

Children's Ministries was very excited to have young families unwrap their own *Growing in God's Love Story Bible* last month. We love the illustrations, the stories (that often start with a question) and the hear, see, act prompts. **We wonder what your favorite parts of this Story Bible will be?** We hope some of them will be that it's fun, easy to read, and meaningful!

Each week we'll share a story to read, wonder and engage with. Just because we share them on Sunday doesn't mean you have to do it that day--choose any time and place that works for your family :)

Share your photos and stories on Facebook or Instagram with the #fpghgrowingingodslove

**If you were unable to attend our unwrapping party your Family Story Bible is available for pick up at the Children's Ministries Desk 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday and on Sunday mornings.*



Graduation Sunday, May 15, 2022

On May 15 we will be celebrating our graduates with a slideshow and a 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 how they can be celebrated by this church family.

As is our tradition we will be gifting graduating high school students within our church a journal filled with encouraging notes from congregation members. **Graduate journals are in the Gathering Area.** 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 "Dive into Summer" Party 6-8 pm

All youth and their families are invited to this year's "Dive 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

May 2022

deliver to: (or current resident)

WE ARE ON THE HUNT...

...for our next Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries!

Please pray for us as we begin this search and please pray for whomever God is calling to be our next Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. *You could help in the search by inquiring with friends who are connected to ministry in some way that we are looking to fill this position.*

For a complete job description and how to apply, go to our website, www.fpgh.org, or [download it here](#).

