



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

JUNE 2022, VOLUME 70—ISSUE 6

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

I am looking forward to June and to the summer. May is great, but it is so jam-packed with sports, graduations, concerts, and other celebrations that it feels like most of us don't know whether we're coming or going! I know I need a breather, and this is a great town for enjoying the slower pace of summer. Soon the boats will fill the water, tourists will fill the beach and downtown, and the daylight will be blessedly long. Wherever you are this summer, I hope that you can kick back and enjoy the life God has blessed you with!

The first Sunday of June is Pentecost. Fifty days after Easter Sunday we end the season of Easter and celebrate how the Holy Spirit came in power over the disciples and kicked off this movement we call the Church. We live all of our days as an Easter people, but worship on Pentecost always has a little more oomph to it—more color, more art, more vibrancy. I hope you'll worship with us on Pentecost. Remember we'll also collect a special offering that day to support the PC (USA)'s Pentecost Offering. This is one of four special denominational offerings we take each year, and it supports youth ministry.



The last Sunday of June brings our annual Golf Scramble Fun-raiser, which supports Joyful Noise. Every year this event has grown, and I hope you're getting your foursome together to support the good ministry of Joyful Noise. You'll enjoy a fun day of golf. You might run into one of your pastors on the beverage cart. You might even win some prizes. Sign up!

Summer brings other opportunities to build community with each other. Many of these are outside, so for those who are concerned about gathering inside with others, I hope you'll make a point to connect at our summer picnics or at other outdoor activities. It always brings great delight to my heart to be with you, particularly if it's been a while.

Finally, mark your calendars for Sunday, July 10. We'll be back in the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium for our own Waterfront Worship service at 11:00 a.m. It's such a beautiful spot for worship, and I know that the 400+ of us really were delighted by last year's service. Surely we won't run out of room, so invite others to see what First Pres is all about. Fingers crossed that we won't overlap with the loud boats again, but at least there will be Sundaes on Sunday again!

It's going to be a great summer! Can't wait to see you soon, church.

In Christ,
Pastor Troy



Upcoming Events

- June 5** Shaped by Song Disney-Themed Organ Concert
- June 10** Feeding America Food Truck
- June 14** Neighborhood Picnic at Pottawatomie Park
- June 15** Lunch in the Park Gathering
- June 18-25** Youth Mission Trip to Georgia
- June 26** 5th Annual Golf Scramble
- July 6** Lunch in the Park Gathering
- July 10** Waterfront Worship
- July 13-21** Youth Mission Trip to Belize
- July 20** Lunch in the Park Gathering

Win a Prize in the Eco-Sunday Challenge!

The Earth Care Team is sponsoring "ECO-Sunday" starting Sunday, June 5.

For the second year in a row, we are encouraging you to **ride your bike, walk, or car-pool** to church each Sunday this summer. Each time you use one of these methods to get to church, you may enter your name in a drawing at the station that will be set up in the Gathering Area.

Winners and prizes will be awarded on the 4th Sunday of each month. Prizes for the contest are being donated by Rock 'n' Road Cycle Grand Haven and others yet to be determined.

Each month we will feature an article on the benefits of walking, riding bikes and car pooling. Follow this link (<https://tinyurl.com/4ttwzshm>) to read an interesting article on the benefits of biking on carbon emissions.



In Our Church

PAGE 2

Church & Pastor Contact Information

Pastor Troy Hauser Brydon:

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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
& Karen Miller, Dan Scanlan, and
Marilyn VanderVeen

Our Sympathy:

to Jason and Rachel Cotton and
family on the passing of their
brother-in-law, Steve Harmon, on
April 20.

to Russ and Flo Andersen on the
death of their son, Rob, on May 9.
A memorial service will be held
on Thursday, June 9, at 1 p.m. in
the sanctuary.

Congratulations!

to John and Cheryl Nametz on
the birth of their granddaughter,
Emery Jane, on May 3. Parents are
Abby and Sabrina Nametz.



Thank You!

Thank you so much for all of the cards and prayers for George, my family, and me in the loss of my brother. I can't begin to tell you how much the cards meant. What a wonderful congregation we have!

Being in Maryland with my brother's children and their families, my sister-in-law, sister, and her family was just priceless. The memorial service was so wonderful and though we are grieving, we know he is in heaven with Jesus."

- Sara Shambarger

"Thank you to everyone who helped with the wonderful retirement celebration on Sunday! Also thanks for all your prayers, cards and well wishes; you are all appreciated. Jeff & I are so blessed to be part of this church family and look forward to continuing to worship with you."

- Kelli Jullie

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 Salvation Army.

Special requests are for:

- Canned meat
- Jelly
- Salt & pepper
- Sugar
- Drink mixes
- Personal hygiene products
- Household cleaners

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!

June 17 Betty Bytwerk
145 Columbia Ave.
The Inn CH1240A
Holland, MI 49423

June 18 Bill Scott
1410 S. Ferry St. #B-7
Grand Haven, MI 49417

June 22 Charlie Davis
16216 Mercury Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417

June 24 Judy Fisher
313 Robbins Road
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Save the Date!

We will be holding a worship service on July 10 at the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium in downtown

Grand Haven. This will be one combined worship service and no services will be held at the church building that day, unless we are rained out.

Make plans to join us, and if you'd like to help with the service, let us know! (oh, and after the service there will be Sundaes on Sunday!).



Dear Church Family,

As one of your pastors I know I should have ready words of hope in light of recent mass shootings. I am writing this the day after 21 individuals, 19 of which were children, were killed by an armed shooter in Uvalde, TX. The gunman was legally an adult, but let's be honest, at only 18 years old he was just a kid himself. I wish I had words of hope for you, but at the moment I only feel anger, sadness, and fear. Since I became a mom, school shootings have become more common. There have been several mornings when I yell at my kids to hurry up to get dressed, eat breakfast, brush their teeth etc, that I've said to myself: "Be gentle, Kristine. They might be shot in school today." That may seem dramatic, but here's the thing...it's not. If we take a look at where school shootings have happened,

they've happened in wealthy and not-so-wealthy areas. In schools where the population is diverse and where the population is not so diverse. In southern, northern, western, and Midwest states. School shootings can and have happened everywhere. This is the world we live in and one I navigate as a mother.

While I don't have words of my own I find comfort in the words of Psalm 88, which starts this way: *"O Lord, God of my salvation, at night, when I cry out before you, let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry."* The author then goes on to say in verses 11-14: *"Is your steadfast love declared in the grave or your faithfulness in Abaddon? Are your wonders known in the darkness or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness? But I, O Lord, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. O Lord, why do you cast*

me off? Why do you hide your face from me?"

It's not a happy Psalm, but what I find comforting about it is that it gives us permission to grieve, feel hopeless, and be angry even if our anger is toward God. It's not a Psalm that supports an absent God, but a God who listens and walks with us even when we may question God's love and presence with us. I know this to be true even though my feelings say otherwise. By the grace of God I'm hanging on to this truth even if it's by a thread. I also take comfort in the fact that while I'm barely holding on, God continues to hold onto me. And God is holding on to you too.

Grateful for you,
Pastor Kristine

In Our Church

Update from the Session

Following is a synopsis of the main points of the last Session meeting:

Highlights:

- We voted to approve and welcome thirteen new members!
- We elected Ann White to serve as Church Treasurer.
- We spent time talking about The Great Ends of the Church from *The Book of Order* and how our ministries fit within those ends.
- We reviewed the church financial reports, and things are going as planned year to date.

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

Thank You from Alma College

Dunning Memorial Chapel on the campus of Alma College recently underwent an extensive renovation, and the college wishes to thank First Presbyterian Church for its donation to help make this happen. Dan McKean, Associate Vice President for Development, said this in a letter to Pastor Troy, "Your congregation generously supported the modernization of the Dunning Memorial Chapel and designated their gift to recognize the Church Assistant's area... I would like to extend an invitation to you and FPGH representatives to visit... we are so grateful for the friendship Alma College has with FPGH. In the meantime, I have attached a few photos of the Church Assistant's area and the plaque recognizing your congregation's gift."

So the next time you happen to be near Alma, stop by and check out the new chapel, it's beautiful!





"Shaped By Song" Organ Recital June 5, 4 p.m.

On Sunday, June 5, at 4:00 p.m., Rob Hlebinsky will be performing a Disney-themed organ recital here at First Presbyterian Church! Rob will perform your favorites from Disney's Encanto, Frozen II, Lilo & Stitch, Tangled, and more! It will be an afternoon of fun music for the whole family. Feel free to come dressed as your favorite Disney character! Admission is free—don't miss it!

Also, be sure to check out Rob's YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/c/yensidorganist

Feeding America Food Truck Volunteers Needed

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

If you are able to come out from 9:15-11:00 a.m. on Friday morning, June 10, your help is needed to distribute food and/or carry 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.



Sunday Faith Formation

We have good news!

Sunday morning Faith Formation classes typically take a break during the summer months, but this summer Dr. Matt Bruce will be teaching a class called *How the Bible Actually Works*. Participants will explore the Bible with a video series called *The Bible for Normal People* by Peter Enns. Each class starts with a short 10-minute video, followed by a discussion. Peter Enns is an American Biblical scholar and theologian. He earned an M.Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary and a M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Class will meet in the Rec. Room on the lower level from 10-11 a.m. on Sunday mornings, beginning June 12. For questions and details, contact Bob Day (dayrc33@yahoo.com).

In addition, past classes of the Sunday morning "How to Read the Bible" series with Dr. Matt Bruce have been recorded and are available to watch on the church website (under Ministries) and on YouTube (search "First Presbyterian Church, Grand Haven").

The Wired Word class is taking a summer break, but lessons will continue to be emailed every Thursday to those who have chosen to receive them. The Wired Word takes events in the news and looks at them through a Biblical perspective. If you would like to be added to the Wired Word email list, please contact the church office (staff@fpgh.org).

AA Speaker Invitation

Kelley Carter, son of church members Ross and Diane Carter, has extended an invitation to anyone interested to hear his testimony at the Alano Club.

The open meeting is on Sunday, June 5, at 7 p.m. The Alano Club is located at 419 Fulton Street (behind the Community Center). Attendees are also welcome to a bonfire at Kelley's house after the meeting, at 407 Fulton (two houses away from the Alano Club).

Tidings article deadline for July 2022 issue: June 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.

Summer Lunch-in-the-Park Get Togethers

Pack your own lunch and meet us in the park! To help encourage the fellowship we all missed during COVID, we'll be gathering at local parks several times over the summer months. We will start gathering around 11:30, but won't plan on eating our lunches until 12:15. You may stay as long as you wish. The parks have restrooms and picnic tables, but we encourage you to bring a chair that may be more comfortable. Bring your own lunch and something to drink.



Here are the dates and locations of the get-togethers:

June 15: Connor Bayou Park, 12945 N. Cedar Drive, Grand Haven

July 6: Coast Guard Park, 18161 North Shore Road, Spring Lake

July 20: Mill Point Park, 612 W. Savidge, Spring Lake

August 10: Hemlock Crossing & Nature Center, 8115 West Olive Road, West Olive

Summer Discussion Group: *Pantsuit Politics*

Another new adventure in Faith Formation will be to study all sides of some of the important political issues of today. Participants will listen to *PantSuit Politics*, a podcast hosted by Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers who authored "I think You're Wrong but I'm listening," and then come together each week for a discussion based on the podcast. The hope is that this will help us understand other's views even if we disagree with them.

This group will meet on Wednesday evenings, starting on June 22 at 7:00. The ground rules and topics we wish to study will be determined that evening. This will most likely be a 6- or 7-week class. More information will be coming soon.

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

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

From The Earth Care Team

As a team, one of our goals is to reduce our building's energy footprint by lowering our usage of energy. We researched solar panels, building enclosure, lighting and heating/cooling. Through the help of Michigan Gas Utilities, MYSECO, Rycenga Electric and others, we created an initial plan to reduce our energy consumption and lower our utility bills. Our first step was to implement an easy task, replacing lighting within our church with LED bulbs, as the incandescent and fluorescent lamps burned out. We are now considering replacing all remaining lighting with LED, which will provide us with a three-year payback and save an estimated \$1,350 on our electric bills from that point forward.

Heating circulation pumps will be replaced with more energy efficient units as current pumps require replacement. This alone is an estimated \$865.00 annual savings. After a cooling system evaluation, we learned that new controls can be programmed and adjusted remotely from a computer or cell phone by a designated person(s). This is estimated to save another \$2,210 per year by better temperature control, only cooling areas of the church which will be occupied vs. our current system which doesn't allow this much flexibility.

The control systems are being evaluated in more detail, considering when these more expensive changes should be implemented.

The Earth Care Team will continue to work toward new energy savings, with the goal of having a positive impact on our environment.

Kids Hope

We're excited to announce a new partnership with First Pres and Griffin Elementary School: Kids Hope.

We are looking for people willing to build positive, caring, one-on-one relationships with students. All children face challenges, but some hurdles are bigger than others, and sometimes kids need a little extra support to build resilience and hope. Kids Hope USA mentors (supported by behind-the-scenes prayer partners) spend one hour per week talking, reading, playing, and listening to a child at school. Research shows that by helping a child feel loved and valued, the child can better learn, grow, and succeed.

If you are interested in being a mentor for one student for one hour a week next school year, or if you are interested in being a prayer partner to pray for a particular mentor and student each week, or if you just want more information about either of these opportunities, please reach out to Jill Osborne at 616-402-0711 or josborne2318@gmail.com. Thank you!

Pentecost Special Offering

Who was the first person to teach you about Jesus? Who helped you open the doors to understandings of God and faith? For many of us, these things happened during our childhood . . . at home, at Sunday school, at a church service, at camp, or maybe through a youth mission trip.

The foundation of faith is often established in the first third of life. That's why Presbyterian congregations join together in support of the **Pentecost Offering** to nurture the church of the future—**children, youth, and young adults**.

- **40%** of this offering stays local. This year it will be given to Mosaic Counseling for their School Outreach Program which offers individual and group counseling, suicide prevention training, and crisis assistance.
- **25%** goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience. Gifts train volunteers to engage in mission in the U.S. and around the world. It also provides funds for retreats and counseling to help YAV's discern God's call.
- **25%** supports ministries with youth, ages 12-18. Support includes the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, daily digital devotions, and an endeavor to help graduating seniors explore their next steps in faith, community, and vocation.
- **10%** supports the "Educate a Child, Transform the World" national PC(USA) initiative to better the lives of children with equitable, accessible, quality education.

Envelopes to support the June 5 Pentecost Offering are in the pews and in the Clinton St. entrance, or text Pentecost to 91999 to give.



Children's Ministries

PAGE 7

Flat Jesus Returns!

Have you seen him? Flat Jesus is back in town!

You can pick up your own Flat Jesus at the Children's Ministries desk. Take him home, color him, and then take photos with him: participating in worship, out in nature, helping with a service project, as you travel, or enjoying a treat around town.

Post your pictures with the **#fpgflatjesus** or send them to Laura at lburns@fpg.org. Also, be on the lookout for our FPGH Giant Flat Jesus. God is everywhere!



LEGO Faith Builders



Beginning June 12, kids (Y5-4th grade) will have a chance to recreate Bible Stories through one of their favorite mediums—LEGOS! During both worship services children will gather in the Chapel to hear a Bible Story told from their new Story Bibles: *Growing in God's Love*. And then will re-create pieces of the story using LEGOS. It's a memorable and meaningful way to engage and carry these stories with us. Be on the lookout each week as we display their creations—we invite you to engage with God's stories in new ways. Ask the kids to tell you about their LEGO creations!

Youth Ministries

A note on grade levels this summer: If you are an incoming 5th grade youth for the 2022-23 school year, you can attend all 5th/6th grade events. If you are an incoming 7th grade youth for the 2022-23 school year, you can attend both 5th/6th grade and 7th-12th grade events.

JUNE

- 10:** Feeding America food truck (7th-12th grade families) at 9:15 a.m. in St. Pat's lot
- 12:** Georgia Mission Team Commissioning Sunday during worship
- 14:** All church picnic at Pottawatomie Park at 6 p.m.
- 16:** 7th-12th Grade Lost City Holland 6-8 p.m. \$16 per youth, sign up by June 13.
- 18-25:** Georgia Mission Trip
- 22:** 5th/6th Grade Photo Scavenger Hunt and Ice Cream 7p.m.

JULY

- 7:** 7th-12th grade cookout and beach games at GH State Park 6-8 p.m.
- 10:** Worship on the waterfront 11 a.m., Belize Team Commissioning Sunday during worship
- 13-21:** Belize Mission Trip
- 20:** 5th/6th Grade Craig's Cruisers 3:30 p.m. (Details TBA)



AUGUST

- 2,5-6:** Coast Guard Parking Fundraisers
- 7:** Maddie Lambert's last Sunday in Worship
- 16:** All church picnic at North Beach Park at 6 p.m.
- 21:** 5th-12th grade Tie-Dye 5:30-6:30 p.m. In parking lot at FPGH
- 28:** Summer Mission Trips recap Sunday during worship





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

June 2022

deliver to: (or current resident)

**Sign up for the
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FIFTH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE “FUN” RAISER**

**Sunday, June 26
at Pigeon Creek Golf Course
Registration: 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Shotgun Start: 1:30 p.m.**

Come out for an afternoon of golf, food, fellowship, and fun with your FPGH family!

Brochures with full details and registration form are available in the church office or by entering this link into your web browser: bit.ly/3NzbA1i.

Sponsorship opportunities are available, and donations of team prize items, contest prizes, door prizes and silent auction items are also needed.

If you have questions or would like more information about making a donation, please contact either:

- **Alishia Terrill:** msugal@tds.net or 616-638-1783; or
- **Tina VanderWall:** 616-402-4877 or 616-402-4877



Proceeds will benefit Joyful Noise Christian Childcare's Outdoor Play Spaces.