



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

JULY 2022, VOLUME 70—ISSUE 7

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

Our choir sings a lovely anthem called “Come to the Water.” It begins like this:

*O let all who thirst,
Let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing,
Let them come to the Lord:
Why should you pay the price,
Except for the Lord?*

Whether you’re thirsty, poor, seeking, sad, tired, or even happy, I invite you to “Come to the Water” this July 10. A year ago we gathered in large numbers in the Waterfront Stadium to worship the Lord together. That year it was an opportunity for many of us to worship in person with others for the first time in a long time.

We liked it so much, we’re doing it again this year, but our purpose has changed a bit. Last year it was a chance to come out of homes and do something together that felt less risky. This year it’s a chance for us to come together and bring others with us who might otherwise never come into a church building. So, you are needed.

You are needed because I want to see you worship with your church family. You are also needed because you know others who could use encouragement and connection to a community like ours. So, come and bring others! July 10th at 11:00. It’s going to be wonderful!

The theme of the service will be water. Why? Well, because water is an important theme in the Bible. We’ll spend time with Jesus at a well. Also, we’ll celebrate a baptism. (I tried to find a way to do this in the river, but no one else seems enthused about the idea!) We’ll commission our Belize mission team, which will be going to that lovely country situated on the Gulf of Mexico. My hope is that being by the water—even in the weeks to come—will remind you of God’s promises to you.

As you come, please be prepared for worship. If the weather is anything like last year, then you’ll get lots of sun. Bring your own water, chair, sunscreen, and maybe even an umbrella for shade. Please do not congregate near the businesses in the Depot so they have room for customers to come and go.

It’s a gift to live in such a beautiful town. My prayer is that this is not only a beautiful Sunday together but also a chance for us to deepen our ties to each other, to the faith we share, and to our community. Come to the water!

In Christ,
Pastor Troy



Upcoming Events

- July 5** Beach Clean Up
- 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
- July 29** Whitecaps Outing
- July 31** New Member Class
- Aug. 2, 5 & 6** Youth Coast Guard Parking Lot Fundraiser
- Aug. 3** Patriotic Flute & Organ Recital
- Aug. 10** Lunch in the Park Gathering
- Aug. 16** Neighborhood Picnic at North Beach Park
- Aug. 24** Lunch in the Park Gathering

Win a Prize in the Eco-Sunday Challenge!

For the second summer in a row, the Earth Care Team is encouraging you to **ride your bike, walk, or carpool** to church on Sundays. Each time you use one of these methods to get to church, you may enter your name in a drawing at the station that is set up in the Gathering Area.

Winners and prizes will be awarded on the 4th Sunday of each month. Prizes for the contest have been donated by Rock 'n' Road Cycle.

Each month we will be featuring an article on the benefits of walking, riding bikes and carpooling. 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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Pastor Kristine Aragon Bruce:
616-604-2618,
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email: KristineAB@fpgh.org

Church Office:
616-842-6760, staff@fpgh.org

Prayer Concerns:

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

Our Sympathy:

to Tom and Moni Franks on the
passing of Moni's brother-in-law,
Malcom Fenton, on May 26.

to Damon, Kim, William and
George McLaughlin on the death of
Damon's father, David McLaughlin,
on May 27.

to Keli, Tim, Taylor and Maddy
Olson on the death of Keli's sister
Cindy Engel, on May 31.

to the family of friends of Kathy
Garza, a long-time Joyful Noise
employee, who passed away on
June 23.

Congratulations!

to Jim and Valerie Porenta on the
birth of their grandson, Simon
Solanus Porenta, born on May 20.

To Calvin Clark on the birth of his
grandson, Jeffery. Proud parents
are John and Julie Clark.

Thank You!

"Thank you to all of you for your
prayers and cards in memory of
our son, Rob. A special thank you
to the choir for the beautiful music
and to the pastors for their thought-
ful messages."

- Flo and Russ Andersen

"Thank you to all of the volunteers
who came to help hand out food at
the Feeding America truck in June.
I would also like to thank the
congregation for providing food
for 147 families. Your effort and
support were greatly appreciated
by many."

- Mike Weller

"I would like to thank my church
family for all the many prayers,
cards, phone calls, and the kind
words and support in expressions
of sympathy in the recent loss of
my husband, Don Khodl. I also
want to thank Pastor Troy and all
who helped with our wonderful
memorial service for Don. It meant
so much to me and my family.

I am so very blessed to be a part of
such a special and caring church
family."

- Fran Khodl

Waterfront Worship 2022!

We will be holding
a worship service
on July 10 at
11 a.m. 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 bring
your friends and neighbors! After
the service there will be free
"Sundaes on Sunday!"



Save the Date! Whitecaps Game



Who doesn't love a good baseball
game? Let's go see one together!

On Friday, July 29, the Whitecaps
are playing the Dayton Dragons (it
is also Nickelodeon Paw Patrol
Night!). The game starts at 6:35, and
we would love to see you there.

If you plan on going, please sign up
and pay in the church office by
Monday, July 25. Tickets are \$13.50
each. We will be purchasing a block
of tickets so we may all sit together.

Go 'Caps!

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:

- Pasta & sauces
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Fruit cups
- Hamburger Helper
- Syrup
- Cake mixes
- Personal hygiene products
- Household cleaners

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

Thank you!



Dear Church Family,

At the time of writing this the discussion group “Faithfully Navigating Politics” met for the first time last night. This group will meet for the rest of July at 7 pm in the lounge on Wednesday nights. This group will spend part of the time discussing the latest episode of the “Pantsuit Politics” podcast hosted by the duo Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers. Sarah and Beth have been friends since college, both are lawyers, and while they affiliate with different political parties they’ve remained close friends. We hope to learn more from them about how to have civil conversations and to be more intentional about how our faith intersects with our political views.

At our first meeting, we covered ground rules of how to have kind conversations within this group. We covered the acronym: RESPECT.

R=take **Responsibility** for what you say without blaming others
E=use **Emphatic** listening
S= be **Sensitive** to differences in communication styles.
P=**Ponder** what you hear and feel before you speak
E= **Examine** your own assumptions and perceptions.
C=keep **Confidentiality**
T=**Trust** ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong.

These helpful discussion guidelines are from Kaleidoscope Institute, (<https://www.kscopeinstitute.org>). One participant commented that in their Bible Study they do a lot of the “P” which is to “ponder what you hear and feel before you speak.” They explained that when reading scripture, their group reflects on how they feel and what they hear when they study a particular passage before they share with the rest of

the group. This isn’t that much different from what we guide our kids to do in Children and Worship on Sunday mornings.

Part of what the “Faithfully Navigating Politics” group is asked to do is to be more intentional about pondering God’s word. If we are striving to faithfully navigate politics and not add to the divisiveness, we can’t do it without centering ourselves on Christ’s faithfulness to all. At the end of the day, we may not agree with our neighbors on certain political issues, but the hope is that we can still see one another as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. I hope you are able to drop in on this group when you can, and even if you can’t I hope and pray that we all continue to ponder Christ’s faithfulness to us all.

Trying to be faithful alongside 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 installed Ann White to the Session.
- We received further training on communion
- We approved funds to assist with the Youth and Young Adult Director search.

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

You are Invited...

to our

New Member Class

Sunday, July 31

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 kroberts@fpg.org.

Patriotic Flute & Organ Recital August 3

As we celebrate the United States Coast Guard, let Maryanne Beery and Rob Hlebinsky stoke your patriotic spirit with a flute and organ/piano recital!



The concert is free and open to the public, and will be held in our sanctuary on Wednesday, August 3, from 12:15-12:45.

Take a break from the heat and be refreshed and invigorated with your favorite patriotic songs. You can even sing along!

Ferry Legacy Society & Planned Giving

The Ferry Legacy Society is named for William Montague Ferry, the founding pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven in 1836. Its purpose is to honor members and friends who include the church in their wills, trusts or other types of planned gifts to ensure the vitality of our church, its mission and ministries long into the future.



[Click here](#) for more information or go to the church website at fpgh.org, click on GIVE on the home page, then select Ferry Legacy Society/Planned Giving.

Share Your Harvest!

The "Harvest Table" is open! Our gardens should really start producing in July, and you are welcome to bring in your extra produce, herb, or flower harvest to share.

This is a great opportunity to get fresh foods and to also share your abundance. Anyone is welcome to contribute and to take from the table, but please bring your own paper or other reusable (not plastic) bags to carry your free produce home.



Thank you,
from the Earth Care Team.

Summer Faith Formation

The Faith Formation Committee is providing you three opportunities to take part in this summer to enable you to continue to grow in Christ.

- *How the Bible Actually Works* is offered on Sunday mornings between the worship services (10-11 a.m.) Each class starts with a short 10-minute video by Peter Enns, 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 meets in the Rec. Room on the lower level. For questions and details, contact Bob Day (dayrc33@yahoo.com).

- Another opportunity for growth is a Wednesday evening class called "Faithfully Navigating Politics," and is based on the "Pantsuit Politics" podcasts. Participants will discuss the week's prior episode of the podcast (found on Apple Podcasts or anywhere you listen to podcasts). This isn't a time to convince people to take a stand or vote a certain way, but it is a discussion about how our faith in Christ helps us to understand and engage in politics.



Class meets in the lounge on Wednesdays in July at 7 p.m.

- The third summer opportunity involves the Thursday Night Discussion Group. The group is taking a break from their usual theological books and is reading some fiction this summer. You are invited to join them in reading "Stand a Little Out of my Sun" by Angelyn Christy Voss.

On Thursday, July 21 the group will meet at the Gritter residence for Greek-American food at 6 p.m., followed by discussion of the book. Please contact Linda Gritter at lindagritter@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP.

Plastic Free July

Join millions of people reducing their plastic waste.

Plastic Free July® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution – so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?



In addition to the global challenge, we will be offering a different type of challenge each week!

Take the Plastic Free July Global Challenge by following this link: plasticfreejuly.org. Look for weekly tips and see our sign up table in the Gathering Area between services starting July 3rd.

Tidings article deadline for August 2022 issue: July 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.

Lunch-in-the-Park Get Together

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:

July 6: Coast Guard Park

July 20: Mill Point Park

August 10: Hemlock Crossing

August 24: William Ferry Park

Flat Jesus Returns!

Have you seen him? Flat Jesus is in town!

Even though you can pick up your own Flat Jesus at the Children's Ministries desk, people of all ages are encouraged to participate in this activity! 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 **#fpghflatjesus** or send them to Laura at lburns@fpgh.org. Also, be on the lookout for our FPGH Giant Flat Jesus. God is everywhere!

Did You Know...

You can now watch our worship services live (and recorded) on Facebook AND



Find us by searching:
First Presbyterian Church,
Grand Haven

All of our recorded worship services may also be watched from the sermons and bulletins page on our website (fpgh.org).

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 Racial Justice Committee International Day of Friendship

The United Nations designated July 30 as the International Day of Friendship in 2011 with the intent of building communities and helping them move toward world peace. This special day promotes building bridges and dialogue among people of various cultures, countries and ideologies.



Friendship includes promoting a commitment to understanding of diversity and inclusion. Even in our differences we can find common ground. Physical appearances, differences of opinions, political views, tastes and more are not reasons to separate people. Relationships are bigger than that.

We live in tough times: miscommunications, mistreatment, lack of trust, discrimination and cultural discord. We in the church are charged to focus on bridging understanding, reconciliation and consensus building. Again, we have more in common than we realize. We should all be able to exist together in some harmonious form.

(Paraphrased from "nationtoday.com")



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!

Meet Our Mission Co-Workers Sunday, July 17

On Sunday, July 17, our PC(USA) mission co-workers from the Philippines will be visiting First Presbyterian Church. Since 2016, Cathy Chang and Juan Lopez have helped global partners address issues of migration and human trafficking from their home base in Manila. They focus their vision on people whose dreams have been denied and proclaim Christ's good news as they also confront issues such as food insecurity, health care, education, and climate change.



Cathy and Juan will be speaking in the lounge between worship services. Come and hear how the support of our congregation is helping to do mission in the world.

Beach Clean Up Tuesday, July 5



Keeping our beaches clean starts with you! Adopt-a-Beach cleanups are a fun, free, easy way to give back to your community and keep plastic pollution out of our Great Lakes.

On the morning of July 5, from 10-noon, a group from FPGH is meeting at the Grand Haven City Beach to help clean up the holiday aftermath. If you would like to join in the fun, you may register here: [City Beach Clean Up \(https://tinyurl.com/mtxwezfy\)](https://tinyurl.com/mtxwezfy). Don't forget to bring gloves, sunscreen, a hat, and some water.

Children's Ministries

Check Out Our Lego Faith Builders Creations!

This summer we have been listening to stories from the Bible and retelling them with Legos! Can you guess what stories we heard?



Youth Ministries

Annual Fundraiser: Youth & Family Volunteers Needed

It's time to sign up to help collect donations at our annual parking lot fundraiser the week of Coast Guard. This year we will be collecting donations in the evening of August 2, and all day on August 5 & 6.

Click the link below to learn more about why its so important to participate in these fundraisers and to sign up for a slot: [PARKING](https://tinyurl.com/2p8kjsct) (<https://tinyurl.com/2p8kjsct>)

Youth Coast Guard Parking Lot Fundraiser



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.

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





**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

July 2022

deliver to: (or current resident)

Please join us
for a waterfront worship service on
Sunday, July 10, at 11 a.m.
at the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium!



Waterfront

WORSHIP

7.10.22

11 AM



After the service, you are invited to enjoy a *Sundae on Sunday!*
Bring your neighbors, friends, and family! All are welcome.