



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

OCTOBER 2022, VOLUME 70—ISSUE 10

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

Music is a major part of the life of the church, and music is a major part of my life. For the next two months, we're going to have a sermon series titled "Songs of the Faith." Each week we'll focus on a different hymn or song. We'll look into biblical connections. We'll learn about the song's background. We'll see why singing—in any style—is essential to the life of the Christian community.

Music is also something that we all have lots of opinions about, right? Personally, I love a wide variety of styles of music, but I just can't get on board with popular country music. I just don't like it. At all. But I love rock and classical and roots and even some rap. Music is a gift from God, and I am so grateful to have it in my life while I'm worshiping or working out or cooking.

We are blessed to worship in two distinct styles. Our early service is traditional, which means we use the hymnal, wear robes, and recite written liturgy. Within that we sing from many traditions. We have the old standard hymns that many grew up singing. We have newer hymns that fit the framework of hymnody with new words and tunes. We sing spirituals. Just like I don't love country, I know not every one loves all the songs we sing. That's OK. It's part of being a community that is stretching itself to love each other and to learn the faith more deeply. We'll sing the old familiar hymns, and we'll try some new things to see how God can speak through those too. (Remember, even "Amazing Grace" was once a new song!)

We sing with a band in the Gathering Service. Many of those songs are new, having been written in the last decade, but sometimes we play hymns with the band. We believe that God speaks in and through the songs, regardless of their style.

To keep us walking together as a community, we'll share these songs between the two services. A couple of times some of the band will lead a song in the traditional service. We may fire up the organ in the Gathering service. Music can be fun and exciting, so I'm really looking forward to this series. And I hope you are too. I hope you'll come and engage with the songs of the faith.

In Christ,
Pastor Troy



Upcoming Events

- Oct. 2** World Communion Sunday
CROP Walk
- Oct. 4** Making Black America, Ep. 1
- Oct. 11** Making Black America, Ep. 2
- Oct. 12** YogaFaith Resumes
- Oct. 15** Colossian Forum
- Oct. 18** Making Black America, Ep. 3
- Oct. 25** Making Black America, Ep. 4
- Oct. 30** Pledge Sunday
- Oct. 30** Spooktacular
C.A.S. Organ Concert
- Nov. 6** All-Saints Sunday
- Nov. 10** Making Black America
Discussion and Dessert

YOGAFAITH™

Whole body worship—Yoga
through a Biblical Lens

Every 2nd & 4th Wed. of the month
(beginning Oct. 12)

7:00-7:45 p.m.

In the chapel

All are welcome (and it's free!)

Bring a yoga mat & water

"Songs of the Faith" Schedule

October 2 - *How Great Thou Art*

October 9 - *Cornerstone*

October 16 - *Speak, O Lord*

October 23 - *Be Thou My Vision*

October 30 - *Take My Life*

November 6 - *Let us Break Bread
Together*

November 13 -
*I Saw the Light/
I'll Fly Away*

November 20 -
In Christ Alone



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:

Ron Albrecht, Larry Braak,
Frank Miller, Alishia Terrill,
and Marilyn VanderVeen

Our Sympathy:

to Nichole and Bill Brink on the
passing of Nichole's father, Don
Boucher, on September 8.

to the family and friends of Connie
VanSchelven, who passed away on
September 15.

to Becky and Frank Steinhauer on
the death of Becky's brother, Brian
Braddock, on September 20.

to Ray Harz on the death of his
wife, Sandy Harz, on September 22.

to Bill Fickes on the death of his
wife, Barb Fickes, on September 22.

Thank You:

John and I are overwhelmed by the
prayers, cards, calls, visits, offers
of food and offers of anything we
need from the people of First
Presbyterian. You will never know
how much your support has aided
us in healing from our accident.
We are forever grateful and so
fortunate to receive your kindness.
You exemplify the love of Christ in
our lives. Thank you.

- John and Karen Heinritz

Eco-Sunday Challenge Prize Winners Announced!

The Earth Care Team sponsored the Eco-Sunday Challenge this year from June through September. We are very pleased to announce that we had over 100 people in our congregation participate by either riding a bike, walking, or car-pooling to church this summer. We want to thank everyone who took part! At the end of each month, a participant's name was drawn for a prize. Here are our winners:

- June: Juno Allen won a \$50 gift certificate to the Momentum Center for carpooling to church.
- July: Lillian VerDuin won a \$50 Dune Dollars gift certificate for walking to church.
- August: Mike VerDuin won a new helmet from Rock 'n' Road for walking to church.
- September: Quinn Miller won a new bicycle pump from Rock 'n' Road for riding her bike to church.

We also want to thank our generous prize donors: Rock 'n' Road Cycle, David Gritter, Sally Dunn, and Bob Day.

Because of the surge of people riding bikes to church (including during the week), the Trustees have agreed to purchase another bike rack. Thank you, Trustees!



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.

Special requests this month are for:

- Canned meats
- Personal hygiene products such as deodorant, toothpaste, lotion
- Paper products such as toilet paper, Kleenex, Saran Wrap and aluminum foil

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

Thank you!



Harvest Table

Thank you to everyone who has shared produce, plants, and flowers!

The Harvest Table's last day will be Sunday, October 16.

Bring your late produce, tubers, and bulbs to share for fall planting!



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

Oct. 9 Jean Mesler
17283 Rosy Mound Ln.
Apt. 202
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Tidings article deadline for November 2022 issue: October 23, 2022

Submittals, suggestions or comments:
sbryant@fpgh.org or staff@fpgh.org

From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

PAGE 3

Dear Church Family,

Pastor Troy and I are part of a Pastors' Prayer Group that meets monthly. It's a very life-giving group to be a part of. We not only pray for one another's ministries, but for one another and our families as well.

Recently we talked extensively about our sadness over the division within our congregations, which is reflective of the divisions within our nation. Out of those conversations came the vision to bring in a speaker from the Colossian Forum, a ministry that seeks to equip people to have difficult conversations with those with whom they disagree in a Christ-like way. We agreed that this would be a great opportunity for all of us to learn how to have difficult conversations nobody wants to have, but that need to happen in order to bridge the divide that currently exists.

We also agreed that it would be a powerful ecumenical witness to have various churches across denominational lines support this

event. The churches who have committed to sponsoring the forum are FPGH, Covenant Life, Church of the Nazarene, All Shores Wesleyan, Watermark, and St John's Episcopal. It sounds like the beginning of a good joke: "A Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Nazarene, and Wesleyan walk into a bar..."

I'm very excited for Rev. Kevin Douglas from the Colossian Forum to be with us on Saturday, October 15th from 9-noon. This is a free event and will be held at Watermark Church.* The forum is open to the entire community. It's also a great event to invite a friend or neighbor who is also struggling with how to have respectful conversations with those who hold different views. The Colossian Forum began by helping churches have hard conversations within their own congregations about hot-button issues such as abortion or women in leadership. Since 2016, however, their ministry has expanded to learning how to have difficult con-

versations in general and their ministry has been praised nationally.

To learn more about the Colossian Forum please check out their website at <https://colossianforum.org/>. You can also RSVP to this event via the QR code below or you by sending me an email (KristineAB@fpg.org).

I hope you will consider attending this event as we all could benefit from new tools in how to have difficult conversations with those with whom we disagree while remaining faithful to Jesus Christ and one another.

Grateful for you!
Pastor Kristine

*Watermark Church is located at 13060 US-31, Grand Haven



From the Mission Committee

Mosaic Counseling A local mission supported by FPGH

Thank you so much to First Presbyterian Church for the continued support of Mosaic Counseling! Mosaic continues to be the mental health safety net for Ottawa County. This year we were able to help so many people in crisis that had been turned away from other agencies or put on waitlists.

We are relaunching our School Outreach Program in 29 schools, where we offer FREE therapy. On the **first day of school** many students asked how soon they could begin seeing their Mosaic therapist. These are students that would not receive therapy if it were not for Mosaic and when you look at the statistics below, it is vital that teens receive support.

According to the recently released Ottawa County Youth Assessment Survey:

- 30% of our teens felt depressed
- 20% seriously thought about suicide
- 13% made a plan to attempt suicide
- 8% attempted suicide
- LGBTQ teens are nearly four times more likely to think about suicide.

Mosaic is a place that is inclusive. We want ANYONE in need of mental health services to feel comfortable calling

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

us. We lost some funding this year because we are inclusive. We always have a need for funding, especially now, during this mental health crisis.

Mosaic Counseling is VERY appreciative of all of the support from First Presbyterian Church. For more detail on how we are at work in the community, we encourage you to watch our new “full-length” video: <https://mosaiccounseling.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/You-Will-Be-Found-FINAL.mp4>

A fun way to support Mosaic is our “Evening at Tiffany’s” fundraiser that will happen this year at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum on November 3. There will also be an ONLINE silent auction (we are also accepting donations for the auction). Visit mosaiccounseling.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

¡Gracias por tu generosidad! (Thank You For Your Generosity!)

Through our special offering to benefit students in Orange Walk, Belize, we were able to raise \$6,002! This translates to about 120 students participating in Koinonia Ministries who won’t have to worry about how to pay their annual \$50 tuition in order to attend elementary and high school! Many families cannot afford this tuition, but thanks to your generosity these families will have peace of mind. Thank you for once again being “Christ’s hands and feet” in the world.

Thank you also to Keegan McMaster, who organized this offering after returning from the Youth Belize Mission Trip.

In Christ,

The 2022 Belize Mission Team: Keegan McMaster, Alexis Stark, Karen, Randy, and Ari Abraham, Todd and Timothy Olson, Heather and Naomi Force, Brian and Jackson Bosch, and Pastor Kristine



From the Generosity Committee

Are you 70 1/2 or older?

Do you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?

Are you aware of the potential tax benefits of donating to First Pres using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

A QCD is a direct transfer from your IRA to a qualified charity like First Presbyterian Church. QCDs are popular ways of giving because of the possible tax benefits:

- The donation enables donors to meet required minimum distributions (RMDs) up to \$100,000 annually.
- The donation is not included in the donor’s adjusted gross income, helping to avoid higher Medicare premiums, increased taxes on Social Security income, and the loss of deductions or exemptions.
- QCDs don’t require that you itemize, so donors who use the standard deduction may receive a tax benefit.

Find out if you could benefit. Please contact the office at First Pres and your tax advisor to better understand the details of QCDs.

From Pastor Ed Perez of Koinonia Ministries

Blessings my beloved FPGH family, hope that you are doing well.

I want to express my most sincere gratitude to you, for your generosity in providing funds to assist students with their school tuitions—Muchas gracias!

Attached is a file on how many students will be assisted and how they will assisted, when funds arrive. Students in both of our churches, here in Orange Walk Town and in San Pedro Columbia in Punta Gorda will receive tuition assistance.

Once again thank you very much for your prayers and partnership towards Kingdom work.

Yours in service,
Ed Perez



[Click here for a full list of students assisted by this offering](#)

Generosity 2023



Generosity Season

October is always the month we focus on generosity. It's an opportunity for us to look back with gratitude and to look forward with hope. After three disrupted years, this pledging season is very important. As we step forward in faith to a more normal way of being the church, we really need to know what resources we will have for ministry in 2023.

Our theme this season is "Count Me In!" It's an opportunity for all of us to say "yes" to the church. It's also a chance for us to express why we are a part of this church. To share our reasons for being a part of First Pres, we hope you'll participate in our campaign. Early this month you'll receive the 2023 Ministry Action Plan along with a pledge card. You can fill it out by hand or do so at our website - <https://fpgh.org/estimate-of-giving-for-2022/>



On Sunday mornings, members of our Generosity Committee will be in the Gathering Area. We'd love for you to write a reason why you're a part of this church and have your picture taken with your reason. Examples could be "I love the music" or "to share the gospel" or "our mission program." We'll hang these pictures in the Gathering Area and share them online so we can celebrate the great cloud of witnesses that make up this church.

Ministry happens because you choose to commit to it. That commitment comes in how you share your life—your time, your talents, and money too. With your commitment, together we can be the kind of church God is calling us to be. We hope you'll join in our campaign—with excitement!

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
Dr. Matt Bruce, Theologian-in-Residence
Joleigh Braman, Custodian
Sally Bryant, Communications Coordinator
Laura Burns, Children's Ministries Director
Kristi Deur, Church Administrator
Marc Felt, Gathering Band Leader
Rob Hlebinsky, Organist
Tommy Langejans, 5th & 6th Grade Ministries Coordinator
Karen Nienhouse, Congregational Care Ministries
Hannah Post, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries
Tina Ramones, Financial Administrator & IT Specialist
Kerri Roberts, Office Assistant
Sally Segers, Joyful Noise Director
Melissa VerHage, Worship Coordinator & Event Host

From the Racial Justice Committee

PAGE 6

Making Black America: Through the Grapevine

A New Four-Part Documentary Series from Henry Louis Gates, Jr. — Series Host, Writer and Executive Producer
Airing Tuesdays, October 4-25, on PBS at 9 p.m. EDT

Over the course of four weekly episodes, the PBS series will take viewers into an extraordinary world that showcases Black people's ability to collectively prosper, defy White supremacy and define Blackness in ways that transformed America. The documentary surveys slavery, freedom and the contours of the bond between North and South; continues with Reconstruction and life under Jim Crow rule; and demonstrates the ongoing effort to organize and achieve goals first set during slavery. **Making Black America** celebrates the places and institutions that were built by and for Black people with hope and love and sustained by joy.

Tuesday, October 4, 9 p.m. - "Building Black America"

Exploring how free Black people in the North and South built towns, established schools and held conventions, creating networks to address the political, economic and social needs of the Black community.



Tuesday, October 11, 9 p.m. - "The Work of the Imagination"



How Black Americans created a community that sustained and empowered them. From Historic Black Colleges and Universities to Black businesses and the Harlem Renaissance to political organizations, Black life flourished.

Tuesday, October 18, 9 p.m. - "A Growing Resistance"

To survive economic disaster, the Black community relied on informal economies, grassroots organizations behind the color line and cultural innovations to sustain themselves and dismantle the oppressive realities of Jim Crow rule.



Tuesday, October 25, 9 p.m. - "Life Beyond the Veil"



How Black political and cultural movements, including Black Power and Black Twitter, provide a safe space to debate, organize and celebrate.

For more information and to view trailers, click here:
pbs.org/makingblackamerica

Sue VandenBosch
Racial Justice Committee

Save the Date!

After you watch the **Making Black America** Docuseries at home, let's get together and discuss what we've learned.

When:

Thursday, November 10
7 to 8:30 p.m.



Where:

Church Lounge



What:

Fellowship, Cookies &
Ice Cream and
Conversation about the
Making Black America
Docuseries



Joyful Noise

Save Your D&W Receipts!

Since 2018, Joyful Noise has earned \$2,000 from the Spartan Nash "Direct Your Dollars" program.

"Direct Your Dollars" is a receipt-based program, which means you can help raise money simply by shopping at D&W and saving your receipts. Once \$150,000 in receipts has been collected, we can turn those slips of paper into a \$1,000 check for Joyful Noise! We are only \$30,000 worth of receipts away from receiving our next \$1,000 reward!

You may bring receipts directly to the Joyful Noise office, or drop them off in the church office. *(Note: to get credit, we need the whole receipt).*

Thank you!

Youth & Children's Ministries

PAGE 7



YOUTH CALENDAR OCTOBER



Meet Hannah Post,
Our New Director of
Youth & Young Adult Ministries!



When the search committee met Hannah we knew she was special. A few words to describe Hannah: Thoughtful, honest, authentic, articulate, fun, and of course loves Jesus and youth. Hannah officially starts on October 1st. She comes to us with a ton of youth ministry experience, she's a Hope College grad and a longtime counselor and chaplain at Camp Geneva. We trusted that God would lead the right person to First Pres in due time and God certainly did with Hannah! We're excited for you to get to know her!



Sincerely,

The Search Team: Andy Becker, Courtney Ransford, Josh VerHage, Leslie VerDuin, Jackson Bosch, and Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce.

October 2, 9, & 16
Youth Group
5:30-7 p.m.

For all 5th-12th graders. As always dinner will be served and students are encouraged to bring a friend!

October 23
No Youth Group

October 30
Youth Group Halloween Party!
5:30-7 p.m.

Hope to see you there!



For questions feel free to reach out to Hannah Post at HPost@fpgh.org or Pastor Kristine at kristineab@fpgh.org.

Y5-5th Grade Children's Choir

We are hoping all of our children in Young Fives through 5th grade will take part in our new Children's Choir!

Each week your child will be encouraged to learn and participate using the tools of melody, rhythm, and creative movement. As we sing and play, we'll be engaging multiple learning styles, and we will eventually bring our music into worship. Building musical skills and community among our members is so important, and consistent participation from our children will certainly make this possible.

Practices are in the choir room from 10:15 a.m.-10:45 a.m. on the following Sundays :

- **October 2, 16, 30**
- **November 13, 20**

We will sing in worship on:

- **Sunday, December 4** at both services (9 & 11 a.m.)
- **Sunday, December 18 at 4 p.m.** at the CAS concert.

Questions? Contact Maryanne Beery: mbeery@fpgh.org





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

October 2022

deliver to: (or current resident)

Spooktacular Organ Concert

Sunday, October 30, 4:00 p.m.

Dress up in your Halloween best and join us for an afternoon of spooky and fun organ music!

FPGH organist Rob Hlebinsky and musical artists from West Michigan participate in a frighteningly delightful program of organ music that is sure to entertain kids and parents alike. Classical, popular and Broadway hits will be featured.

Join us in the church lounge after the concert for light refreshments and a chance to meet the musicians.

Be sure to put these upcoming Community Artist Series events on your calendar:

- November 13, 4 pm: Mental Health Panel Discussion
A moderated discussion about mental health services available in West Michigan
- December 11, 4 pm: Shoreline Community Orchestra
"Sounds of the Season" Concert
- December 18, 4 pm: Geneva Choir & Friends



All of the Community Artist events are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome.