



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

SEPTEMBER 2022, VOLUME 70—ISSUE 9

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

September is always an exciting and busy month around the church. Summer travels are done. We hold our annual all-church picnic. Classes resume. Youth Group kicks off. Circles are back. The Geneva Choir and the Carillon Ringers resume their joyous music. It's a fun time of year.

Fall is also the season of Homecoming. Our high schools, colleges, and universities all hold homecoming activities to encourage alumni to "come home" and spend time with old friends in their old stomping grounds.

Our theme for September will be Homecoming as well. So, consider this your invitation to "come home" to your church. If you've been away for awhile, perhaps you miss the sights, smells, and sounds of life together. Even more, perhaps you miss the deep faith and friendship connections we have as a church family.



My mind has very much been on the connections we can make and the connections we're missing. Session has begun conversations about how we can do a better job of encouraging a return to church and also about how we can get out into the community to be with people outside of our walls. I even preached on this topic on August 21. (You can find the sermon at fpgh.org.) There are many ideas floating around, and we'll get going on some of them. The most effective one I see is this:

Reach out to someone you're missing from the church. Let them know you miss them, and make a plan to do something together. Then, make a plan to come back to worship together when possible. After thirty months of life altered by the pandemic, it's a daunting challenge to be the kind of congregation we'd like to be when we simply aren't connected the way we used to be. So, please, reach out. Let's find our way back into community. It's the season for us to come home!

Looking forward to being with you soon!

In Christ,
Pastor Troy

Upcoming Events

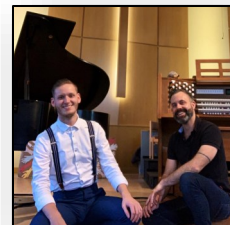
- Sept. 7** Geneva Choir & Carillon Ringers Practice Starts
- Sept. 11** One Combined Worship Service & All-Church Picnic
- Sept. 18** Faith Formation Fall Kick Off
- Sept. 23** PW Mum Sale
- Sept. 25** Dual Art Piano/Organ C.A.S. Concert
- Sept. 28** Family Communion Class

2022/23 Season

FPGH Community Artist & Speaker Series Returns!

**Dual-Art Piano/Organ Duo
Sunday, September 25, 4 p.m.**

Dual-Art, a collaboration between Tyler Kivel on the piano and Nicholas Schmelter on the organ, has performed at significant venues and among major concert series in the United States and Canada. The ensemble has realized creative new orchestrations of selections by Anderson, Debussy, Grainger, Lutoslawski, Poulenc, Saint-Saëns, and Shostakovich. Among its goals, the duo aims to bring music to diverse demographics and rural communities.



The next concert in the series is the Spooktacular Organ Concert on Sunday, October 30, at 4 p.m.

All of the C.A.S. events are free and open to the public.

It's time for the annual Presbyterian Women

Fall Mum Sale

Friday, September 23
beginning at 10:30 a.m.

**8" pots of beautiful mum plants in a variety of
colors will be sold for \$8.00 each!**

All proceeds go to the missions of the Presbyterian Women

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, Dan Scanlan, and
Marilyn VanderVeen

Our Sympathy:

to Meghan, John, Jack and Henry
Heritage on the death of Meghan's
grandfather, Earl Reece, on July 12.

to Jim and Deborah VanderWeele
on the death of Jim's mother,
Gloria, on August 5.

to Mary Bicknell on the death of
her husband, Ralph, on August 17.

to Rob, Kathie, Julia, & Kaitilin
Schwartz on the death of Rob's
mother, Phyllis, on August 19.

to Mike, Leah, Hannah, & Hailey
Johnson on the death of Mike's
father, Edward, on August 19.

to Lisa and Makenna Hurley on the
death of husband and father, Jeff
Hurley, on August 31.

Tidings article deadline for October 2022 issue: September 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.

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 Love in Action Food Pantry.

Special requests are for:

- Canned beef stew & ravioli
- Canned pears and mandarins
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Kleenex
- Feminine hygiene products

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



Thank you!

How's Your Blood Pressure?

Find out at the blood pressure clinic which is resuming on the 3rd Sunday of the month between worship services. No appointment needed!

Join a Choir!

Carillon Ringers

Starts Wednesday, Sept. 7
at 6:15 p.m.
Contact Rob:
rhlebins@gmail.com

Geneva Choir

Starts Wednesday, Sept. 7
at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
Contact Maryanne:
mbeery@fpgh.org



Who Wants to Play Cribbage?

Cribbage is one of the best card games ever, and it's a great game to teach your kids! In addition to mental math, they will learn strategy, forward planning, and develop critical thinking skills. And it's fun, too—just ask David!



The Cribbage group meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month in the church lounge. For more information, contact Sue Vanden-Bosch at s.vandenbosch@att.net.



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!

Sept. 7 Suzanne Cooper
315 Thompson Ave. #6
West St. Paul, MN 55117

Sept. 19 Sandy Beute
1410 S. Ferry, F-10
Grand Haven, MI 49417

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

Update from the Session

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

Highlights:

- We held an extended conversation about how to get the congregation connected again after all of the COVID disruptions. This conversation is ongoing.
- We approved a special offering to support school fees for children in Orange Walk, Belize.
- We approved selecting a date for a 2023 Waterfront Worship Service.
- We approved contracting with Dr. Matt Bruce as our Theologian-in-Residence.
- We approved receiving four new members.
- We approved the hiring of Joleigh Braman as the church's Custodian.

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

Special Offering for Students in Orange Walk, Belize

Our special offering for the students of Orange Walk, Belize will remain open until September 9. If you would like to donate (in any amount) to help pay for school tuition, you may add it to the Sunday offering plate (mark it "Belize"), bring it in to the church office, or use the QR code below to give online. *Thank you!*



From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

Dear Church Family,

The Children's Ministry Committee had a great idea of sending back-to-school packages including the introduction of a "faith stamp." A faith stamp is something tangible that our kids can touch before they head out the door each day to remind them that God is with them wherever they go. Some families have chosen to put a sticker above the doorknob, others have put up chalkboards with prayer requests and others have put up signs. I love this idea and it has me thinking that even we as adults could use a faith stamp to start our day.

For the same reason we light a candle at the beginning of every worship service, we could use a visual and something tangible to remind us of Christ's presence with us as we head out the door each day. For many of us starting the school

year marks the beginning of a "New Year" even though it's not a new calendar year. I realize that many of us don't have kids to usher out the door or that those days are long behind you.

I'd encourage you, however, to use this time to begin a new season so to speak by creating your own faith stamp in your home. Is there something you can put on your door, or along the wall that you can touch to remind you of the fact that Christ is with you as you begin your day? It could be something you already have. Perhaps a picture? A small figurine of some sort? A rock?

Ephesians 2:8 says this: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Whatever your faith stamp is I'd like us all to remember that faith itself is

a gift from God. *We can't even believe in Jesus Christ without the help of Jesus Christ himself.* Isn't it encouraging to know that Jesus empowers us in everything even when it comes to believing in him? In Jesus Christ, we have everything we need—including the faith to believe in him. When push comes to shove it's easier to say these words, but another to live this out. This is where a faith stamp could be a small step in a big direction. Let's start with something small we can touch before we head out the door to remind us of the larger truth that Christ is not just with us, but helps us to see and experience his presence in our lives each day.

Grateful to be on this journey of faith with you,

Pastor Kristine

Volunteer Opportunities

PAGE 4

Volunteer for Hand2Hand!

Volunteers are needed to help pack and deliver for the Hand2Hand program for the 2022/23 school year.



The time commitment is about one hour once a month from September through May. Our packing teams meet during the day (usually early Thursday afternoon but can be flexible) to put 10-15 food items in bags that are delivered to Mary A. White and Lakeshore Middle Schools for kids who need extra food support on the weekends. Bags are delivered at 2 p.m. on Thursdays. Some of our current volunteers are snowbirds so don't let that stop you from volunteering!

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact:
Chris Bussell: 846-0487
(cmb1771@gmail.com);
Lisa Tobin: 402-9870
(lktgh99@gmail.com); or
the church office (staff@fpgh.org)

Sound Booth Tech Volunteers Wanted!

Do you enjoy the worship services in person and online? Then we need your help!

We are looking for people to assist in the Sound Booth on Sunday mornings. Volunteers will help with cameras, screens, and audio. Training is available, and getting started is easy. Contact the office (staff@fpgh.org) if you're interested.



Feeding America Food Truck

Your giving has allowed the Mission Committee to sponsor a Feeding America Food Truck on Friday, September 9.



We are looking for helpers to be "hands to serve" in distributing the food to those in our community experiencing food insecurity. The truck will be in the St. Pat's parking lot at Fulton and US-31, and help is needed from 9:30-11 a.m. If you are able to help or have questions, please text or email Mike Weller: 626-402-6109 or mcweller@chartermi.net.

Kids Hope

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

Kids Hope USA mentors 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.

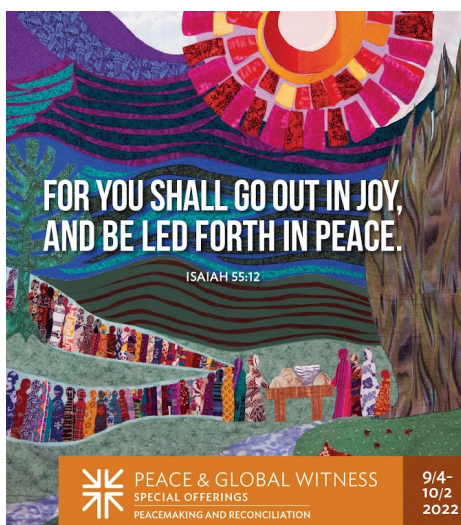
If you are interested in being a mentor for one student for one hour a week next school year or if you just want more information, please reach out to Jill Osborne at 616-402-0711 or josborne2318@gmail.com. Thank you!

In Our Church

Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

Each Sunday morning we are sent out and challenged to take the peace of Christ into our world. We are called to take decisive and bold action, one person, one situation, one step at a time. Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace into the community—25% of the gifts received will stay right here to build God's house alongside Hope Project in Muskegon which supports the healing of girls and women who have survived sex trafficking. Twenty-five percent of the gifts will support regional efforts in our presbytery, and 50% will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of education and partnership with active peacemakers around the world.

This special offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 2. Envelopes for this special offering will be in the pews and at the Clinton Street entrance, or text PCUSAPEACE to 41444 to give.





Our Vision

We are called to celebrate God's grace as a Christ-centered community of acceptance, growing in faith and living as Christ's hands to serve.

Our Mission

As members of First Presbyterian Church, we will:

- Provide relevant and engaging worship services.
- Provide high quality educational opportunities for all.
- Provide initiatives that support people's lives in positive ways in an accepting Christ-centered church culture.
- Serve people locally, regionally and globally through support of sustainable ministries.

Faith Formation

PAGE 5

Fall Faith Formation Offerings

Sunday morning adult education classes between worship services at 10 a.m.

Most offerings start on Sunday September 18

• Wired Word

Each lesson is based on the foundations of Christian faith and includes Bible verses, biblical commentary, discussion questions and reference materials that relate to a topic in the news that week.

Contact: Karen Abraham
Meets in Rooms 16/17

• How to Read the Bible First Topic: "How to Read the New Testament Letters"

Several weeks will be spent discussing letters written by the Apostles Paul, Peter, and John. Attention will be given to the classical Christian virtues of faith, hope, and love.

Contact: Matt Bruce
Meets in the Rec. Room

• Hope in our Lives of Gratitude

This is not a class, but rather open discussions of how we can find and live with the promise of Hope today. We will have different discussion leaders each week sharing their beliefs and search for life's positives which sustain us.

All opinions are welcome, and we will use the insights of these famous authors for guidance: Mother Teresa, H. Nouwen, P. Yancey, The Bible, and N. Mandela. Join our discussions and share your thoughts about today's possibilities of Hope.

Contact: Paul McNergney
Meets in Room 5

Weekly Discussion Books and Groups

Mondays

Monday Afternoon Book Study:

Holy Envy, by Barbara Brown Taylor
1-2:30 p.m. in the Lounge
Contact: Winnie McNergney

Tuesdays

Tuesday Afternoon Book Study:

The Once & Future Coming of Christ, by Fleming Rutledge.
This Advent study is planned to start in October.

Contacts: Carmen Jeisy and Winnie McNergney

Tuesday Evening Men's Group

7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room and on Zoom
Contact: Lee Brink or Frank Steinhauer

Thursdays

Breakfast Discussion Group

7 a.m. at Russ' Restaurant
This group takes a look at and discusses the scripture for the upcoming Sunday worship service.

Thursday Night Discussion Group

7 p.m., Rooms 16-17
Contact: Linda Gritter

Various Times

Small Study groups

Contact: Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

Weekday PW Circles

Contact: Dorothy Miller

Please contact the church office with questions:
616-842-6760 or staff@fpgh.org



Something for Everyone!

Q: Do you know how many volunteers it takes for our church to run smoothly on Sunday mornings?

A: A LOT!!

For 2 weeks beginning September 18, we will have sign ups after worship for things like ushering, greeting, being a lay reader, baking cookies, musicians for the Gathering Band, and more!

Bring your pen and get ready to sign up!

Journey to Iona, Scotland

A pilgrimage is a journey, often into an unknown or foreign place, where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about their self, others, nature, or a higher good, through the experience. It can lead to a personal transformation, after which the pilgrim returns to their daily life. - Wikipedia

Are you interested in traveling with a small group of church members on a pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland? We are currently planning a trip for the Fall of 2023. If you have interest or questions about what, where and when, please contact Maryanne Beery: mbeery@fpgh.org

Iona is a tiny island off the south-west coast of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. It is only 1.5 miles wide by 3 miles long, with a population of around 170 permanent residents. Iona has a long and illustrious history and is well known as being 'The Cradle of Christianity' in Scotland.



Staffing Updates

Youth Director

We are still searching for a Director of Youth and Young Adults, so the Session has made plans for how we'll handle the next few months of ministry. First of all, Pastor Kristine, along with the Youth Committee and our wonderful Youth Volunteers, are going to handle Youth Ministry this fall. The congregation needs to be aware that this ministry is going to occupy upwards of half of Pastor Kristine's time, so we have made plans to help cover areas of ministry that she won't be able to give as much attention to.

Pastoral Care

Karen Nienhouse, our Congregational Care Assistant, will be the primary point of contact for prayer and care needs. Pastor Troy will be the primary pastoral caregiver during this time, with Pastor Kristine focusing her caregiving on youth and their families. Don't hesitate to reach out for prayer or care! We're here for you.

Faith Formation

The Session has contracted with Dr. Matt Bruce to manage the Faith Formation program of the church during this time. We're calling the position the Theologian-in-Residence. The church already knows Matt's teaching capabilities well, and we're looking forward to how he will not only manage the current growth opportunities but also develop plans towards a more robust program in the months to come.

Custodian

After eighteen months of assessing whether contracting for our cleaning and maintenance needs was best for the church, upon recommendation from the Personnel and Trustees Committees, the Session has hired Joleigh Braman to be our church's custodian. She began her work in mid-August, and we are excited to see how she helps brighten our building. Please welcome Joleigh when you see her.

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
Tina Ramones, Administrative Assistant
Kerri Roberts, Office Assistant
Sally Segers, Joyful Noise Director
Melissa VerHage, Worship Coordinator & Event Host

From the Racial Justice Committee

Enjoy the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta Week!

St. John's Episcopal Church welcomes the First Presbyterian Church to participate in the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta which runs from September 16 through September 24 here in Grand Haven. St. John's is inviting us to sign up as volunteers during the Fiesta week. This is a wonderful opportunity to support and celebrate the diversity in our own community! There are many ways in which we can help. If interested and to sign up as a volunteer please go to: tcpuentes.org/fiesta/volunteers.

Hope to see you there!

Carol Wilhelm,
Racial Justice Committee

What is Hispanic Heritage Month?

We celebrate the Dutch culture with the Holland Tulip Festival and the Danes with a Danish Festival in Greenville. The Germans, Irish, Finnish, and many others are also celebrated by local communities. It's done by countries but not native languages. We celebrate each one of these cultures in a different way because each one is unique. We enjoy the food, music, literature, and other contributions each has made to our American culture.

The word Hispanic originally described people speaking Spanish as a native language. Twenty countries have Spanish as their official or main language. They all share a form of Spanish and some the same religion. These 20 nations each have a distinct culture. In our

community those of Mexican origin are the biggest group.

Hispanic Month is not one specific month, but goes from September 15 to October 15. It started under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan 1988. It became a law in 1988.

Members of the Racial Justice Committee encourage you to attend the Hispanic Festival activities and celebrate the diversity that exists in our own community from September 16-October 24.

Michael Weller,
Racial Justice Committee

Refugee Resettlement Project Update

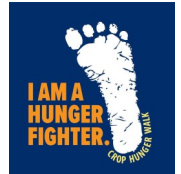
Greetings FPGH! No refugee family match yet for us. We will continue to wait to hear from the sponsoring organization as to when a family is being placed in Grand Haven. So, while we wait for a match, let's continue to pray for refugee families displaced/resettling, organizations doing the work to find new homes for refugees, the timing for our partnership with a family, and a loving heart to serve where we are called in our homes, church, and community. It is so good partnering with you.

- Michelle, Andy, and Tamara
(RRP co-leaders)

NOTE: We are looking for your help! One of our leaders needs to step away from leading this effort, and so we are looking for someone who could help lead. A person with skills in organization, communication, and compassion would do very well in this. Let the office know if you're interested.

CROP Walk for Hunger

The 2022 CROP Walk for Hunger and the FPGH team need you! You can make a difference in local and global hunger by supporting the 48th annual Tri-Cities fundraising walk.



When:

Sunday, October 2
Send-off service at 1:45
Walk begins at 2:00 p.m.

Where:

St. Mary's Catholic Church
406 E. Savidge Street, Spring Lake

What:

Donate to the First Pres team at the CROP Walk table in the Gathering Area beginning Sunday, September 11. Or pick up an envelope to collect your own donations and sign up to be part of the First Pres. team. You may also donate online to the First Pres. team at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/grandhavenmi>

There is a dollar for dollar match for each walker raising \$50 or more.

Help show our love and caring to neighbors around the block and around the world.



One combined worship service at 10 a.m. in the church building

Picnic at Pottawatomie
immediately following the service

Family Communion Class

Wednesday, September 28

Pizza 5:30 p.m.

Communion at 6:00 p.m.

You and your family are invited to the Lord's Table to discover together HOW and WHY we celebrate Communion--- in a fun, hands-on, interactive way. Hosted by Pastor Kristine and Laura Burns.



This event will be memorable and meaningful for all ages!

RSVP to Laura Burns: lburns@fpgh.org

Youth Group Meals

Sunday night youth group for 5th-12th grade friends is ready to kick off! One of our meaningful and most anticipated traditions is sharing a meal together. We have enjoyed many wonderful meals prepared by many of you over the past few years and we thank you so much for these gifts.

Once again, we are requesting your assistance to help make our Sunday evenings a success. Two Sign Up Genius online forms have been generated to help manage volunteer scheduling; one is for meals and one is for dish-washing. We anticipate a need to feed around 40 people, and meals should be dropped off at 5:45 p.m. for our meal at 6 p.m. The dishes crew will need to be available around 6:15 p.m. to begin collecting and cleaning dishes. Both groups of volunteers are encouraged to be a part of our meal and fellowship if you are comfortable in our space. If you need help signing up or have any questions, please contact Heather Force (616-402-0826).

To sign up for meals: <https://tinyurl.com/ms5up49m>

To sign up for clean up: <https://tinyurl.com/5b8picyd>

YOUTH CALENDAR SEPTEMBER

Youth Kick-Off Party

Sunday, September 15th, 6-8 pm,
Grand Haven State Park

All 5th-12th graders and their families are invited for a time of dinner and games together as we kick off the new school year! If your student plans to swim they'll need to have a parent present. Please RSVP to Pastor Kristine at kristineab@fpgh.org.

Hope to see you there!

First Youth Group

September 25th, 5:30-7 pm

We're excited to welcome back all of our youth! Please note the change in time. As always dinner will be served and students are encouraged to bring a friend!

For questions feel free to reach out to Pastor Kristine at kristineab@fpgh.org.

YOUTH GROUP
KICK-OFF
PARTY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
6-8 P.M.

GRAND HAVEN STATE PARK

RSVP TO PASTOR KRISTINE: KRISTINEAB@FPGH.ORG



**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

September 2022

deliver to: (or current resident)



**All Are
Welcome!**

all church PICNIC

Sunday, September 11

- 10 a.m. combined worship service at church
- Picnic at Pottawattomie Park immediately following worship

To help with food planning, please RSVP to the church office or follow this link to sign up with Realm: <https://tinyurl.com/>

