



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

APRIL 2023, VOLUME 71—ISSUE 4

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

I tend to be a level-headed, clear-thinking person. I am not really a feeler, but I have to admit that the church is all of a sudden feeling like we're back. I can even name when that feeling started - Wednesday, March 22nd. That evening the chapel filled with worshippers looking for the peace at the Taizé service. The lounge filled with more folks sharing a soup dinner. Then the chapel filled again with YogaFaith. At the same time the Carillon Ringers were rehearsing downstairs, and the Cub Scout Pack was hanging out in Fellowship Hall. The evening was capped with the Geneva Choir rehearsing in the sanctuary. What a joy it is to see the building humming again and the parking lot full.

Now that we've wrapped our series on Revelation, our attention goes straight to Holy Week. This Sunday brings Palm Sunday, where we follow Jesus entering Jerusalem in a strange kind of triumph. On Monday through Wednesday, you could follow the steps of Jesus through reading these texts: Monday — Jesus clears the Temple (Matthew 21:12-22); Tuesday — Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 21:23-24:51); and Wednesday — Holy Wednesday (John 11). (Note that the Bible doesn't record what Jesus did on Wednesday, so after a couple of tiring days, perhaps he rested before the turmoil of his final days.)

On Maundy Thursday (April 6) we'll gather for worship at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. That service will include hand washing and communion. The service ends with the stripping of the sanctuary, a sad cliffhanger that sets the scene for the next service. At noon on Good Friday, we'll gather again in the sanctuary. It's a sad service. It reminds me a lot of a funeral. With Jesus in the tomb on Saturday, we rest and reflect on how empty life is apart from Jesus. In a world willing to kill Jesus, we need a Savior!

But, then, it's Easter Sunday! Christ is risen, and nothing will ever be the same! We have three services on Easter. 7:00 a.m. is our sunrise service, where we flower the cross. 9:00 is our traditional service with lots of brass. 11:00 is our Gathering service. After three straight disrupted Easters, I am hopeful that this year will be wonderful and filled with our congregation and visitors. So, come! And bring others with you. Let's celebrate the resurrection together.



Of course, we know that church is more than Easter. We'll be here every Sunday, so keep coming. Two weeks after Easter, we'll highlight our congregation's Earth Care efforts and focus on how God calls us to take care of the creation. (Speaking of that, have you noticed the improved, LED lighting throughout the building?) May brings many other celebrations - communion, Mother's Day, Graduation Sunday, and Pentecost.

In Christ,

Pastor Troy

Upcoming Events

- Apr. 2** Palm Sunday
- Apr. 6** Maundy Thursday Worship
- Apr. 7** Good Friday Worship
- Apr. 9** Easter Sunday Worship Services
7 a.m. Flowering of the Cross
9 a.m. Traditional
11 a.m. Contemporary
- Apr. 16** Handel's *Messiah*, at St. John's Episcopal Church
- Apr. 19** PW Hanging Basket Orders Due
- May 7** New Member Class
- May 12** PW Hanging Basket Pick Up
- May 13** Scout Pancake Fundraiser
- May 21** Graduation Sunday
- June 25** Sixth Annual Golf Scramble

Holy Week Schedule

- Maundy Thursday Worship**
April 6, 7 p.m.
- Good Friday Men's Breakfast**
April 7, 7 a.m.
Spring Lake Presbyterian Church
- Good Friday Worship**
April 7, noon
- Easter Worship**
7 a.m. Flowering of the Cross
9 a.m. Traditional
11 a.m. Contemporary

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:

Mary & Ron Albrecht, Joyce Black,
Larry Braak, Dick Christy, &
Frank Miller

Our Sympathy:

to Bill and Beth Maschewske and
family on the passing of their nephew,
Kody Herman, on February 15.

to the family and friends of Betty
Bytwerk, who passed away on
March 6.

to Carrie, Shawn, Brody, and
Duke Ledet on the passing of
Carrie's father, Chuck Sikkenga,
on March 26.

to the family and friends of
Char Soule, who passed away
on March 26.

Thank You:

"The people of First Presbyterian
Church have been so kind and so
supportive to both John and myself
especially when I was in ICU. I have
a stack of cards from you that
measures over 6 inches when I pile
them up. On my darkest days I
always had new cards to open and
your thoughtfulness gave me such
hope. Thank you so much. I am
blessed to be back in the land of
the living."

- Karen Heinritz

Thank You:

"Dear Church Family,
I have an upcoming surgery in
April. Thank you so much for your
kindness, cards, flowers, and
especially your prayers. I really
appreciate it. Thanks again."

Mary Switzer

PW Hanging Flower Basket Sale

Fuchsia, Begonia,
Geranium, or
Impatiens—which
is your favorite?

The Presbyterian
Women are once again selling beau-
tiful hanging baskets just in time for
Mother's Day!



Order forms are available at church
or may be [downloaded here](#). Orders
are due by April 19, and pick up is
Friday, May 12, from 11-3 (if you
can't make this time, let us know
and we will make arrangements).

Baskets are \$20 each and all
proceeds support the missions of
the Presbyterian Women.

Food Pantry Collection

Each month the Mission Committee
collects non-perishable food and
household goods (like laundry
soap and toilet paper) for the
Salvation Army food pantry.

Here are some items that are
requested this month:

- Canned fruits, beans, and soups
- Breakfast foods
- Paper towels & toilet paper
- Jelly
- Pasta sauce

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



Men's Sunrise Good Friday Breakfast at Spring Lake Pres.

**Friday April 7
7 a.m.**

The men of Spring Lake Presbyterian
Church have invited the men of FPGH
to a Good Friday Breakfast. Plan on
starting this holy day with reflection for
the soul and nourishment for the body!
The coffee will be hot and the food
plentiful—invite your dad, brother, son,
neighbor, or friend!

Spring Lake Pres is located at 760
E. Savidge Street in Spring Lake.



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!

- | | |
|---------|--|
| April 9 | Ann Satter
1450 S. Ferry, Apt. 122
Grand Haven, MI 49417 |
| May 18 | Pat Austin
17041 Lloyd's Bayou Dr.
Apt. S
Spring Lake, MI 49456 |
| May 19 | Jeanne Wynne-Parry
1410 S. Ferry, G-10
Grand Haven, MI 49417 |
| May 28 | Sue McClellan
1450 S. Ferry, Apt. 228
Grand Haven, MI 49417 |
| May 29 | Betty Whalen
17046 Lloyd's Bayou Dr.
Apt. 414
Spring Lake, MI 49456 |

**Tidings article deadline for
May 2023 issue: April 23, 2023**

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.

Dear Church Family,

I thought about writing about Easter, but I wanted to instead focus on Holy Week. If you are like me and didn't grow up in the church or you grew up in a church that was not highly liturgical you most likely aren't familiar with the church calendar, Lent or Holy Week. For various reasons, many churches have put aside these traditions.

Holy Week is the last week in the season of Lent. Just as Advent prepares us for the coming of Jesus, Lent is a season of preparing ourselves for how Jesus' resurrection changed everything.

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter when we remember Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem and that he is one step closer to the cross.

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Holy Week when we

remember Christ's command to love and serve others in the same way he did. It's also the day we remember Jesus's command to participate in Communion, where we are spiritually nourished and empowered by the spiritual presence of Jesus' body and blood. Maundy is the Latin word for "mandate," or command.

Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus' death on the cross. It's akin to having a funeral service for Jesus, but also knowing he will be raised back to life. If you're like me and you'd rather jump to the happy "ending" of Jesus' resurrection I'd encourage you to spend time in Good Friday. Focusing on Jesus' suffering is hard, but it also reminds us of just how deep and powerful God's love is for us and the world. Good Friday invites us to spend time in Christ's death so that we will know more fully on Easter Sunday that death never has the final say.

So if you're on the fence about attending any of the Holy Week services, I'd encourage you to jump off and commit to attending the **Maundy Thursday service on April 6th at 7 pm and our Good Friday Service on April 8th at noon.** Both will be in the sanctuary.

As always, if you know of someone who would like to learn more about Holy Week, invite them along with you to these services. Looking forward to rejoicing in Jesus' resurrection with you!

Grateful for you,

Pastor Kristine

From the Session

Update from the Session

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

Highlights:

- We approved submitting the Clergy Renewal Grant Program proposal for Pastor Troy's sabbatical in the summer of 2024. The announcement of the grant recipients comes at the end of the summer.
- We approved receiving the distributions from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation for our Mission Fund and the Hall Music Fund.
- We initiated a review of the membership rolls.
- We heard a report from our elder commissioners about the March presbytery meeting.

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

In Our Church

You are Invited

to our

New Member Class

Sunday, May 7

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 kr Roberts@fpg h.org.

It's Time to Register for the 6th Annual **FPGH Golf Scramble “Fun” Raiser!**

It's April, which means that golf season is just around the corner! It's also a sign that it's time to register for the 6th annual FPGH Golf “Fun” Raiser, which helps generate funds for the outdoor play spaces used by Joyful Noise and the children of FPGH.



Not only is the golf scramble fun, but you also have the chance to win prizes! This year we have 4 hole-in-one challenges with the possibility of winning a 3-year lease on a Jeep! The registration fee includes lunch, snacks, beverages, and the awards dinner. Take advantage of early bird pricing and register before May 1. To register, [download a registration form](#) and submit it with your payment. You may also pick up a registration form in the church or Joyful Noise office.

If you are not a golfer, you can still participate by volunteering in a variety of ways, or by sponsoring a hole in honor of or in memory of a loved one. For more information, contact Alishia Terrill: 616-638-1783 or msugal@tds.net.

Join us for a fun afternoon of golf in support of Joyful Noise!

From the Earth Care Team *Microplastic Madness*

Our church will be celebrating Earth Day on April 23 in worship and with a display in the Gathering Area. In addition, our Earth Care Team is sponsoring a program that same afternoon at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will be hosting a movie call *Microplastic Madness*. It is about fifth graders in New York City that take action to stop plastic pollution in their school. If you'd like to see the trailer, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0jih1fUqZU>.

In conjunction with the community's Earth Day Lakeshore Celebration committee, the movie will also be shown at the Loutit Library on Monday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m., and the Spring Lake District Library on Wednesday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you will find time to see it—it has won several awards and you will be inspired by these 11 year-olds who have taken the lead in stopping plastic pollution.



Our committee is also co-sponsoring the community's Earth Day Lakeshore Celebration on Saturday, April 29. There will be a parade/march at 12:30 with electric vehicles, a horse-drawn carriage, walkers, bikes, Harbor Transit and non-fossil-fuel burning methods of transportation. Everyone is welcome to join us in the parade which starts in the courthouse parking lot and goes west on Washington to Harbor Ave. and then east on Columbus to the Central Park Place (Community Center) for the Earth Day Fair. The Fair opens at 1:00 and will have booths with all kinds of information about the environment. Our church is sponsoring a booth with information on how other churches can become Earth Care congregations. We hope you will be able to join us for the movie, the parade, and the fair.

It's Easy to Give!

Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Your joyful and enthusiastic support helps our ministries continue!



Here are some giving options other than the Sunday offering plate:

- Mail a check or put it in the deposit box at the Clinton Street entrance
- Give online through Realm or thru this link: onrealm.org/FPGH/-/give/now
- Text FPGH to 73256

Thank you for your generosity!

PC(USA) Special Offering One Great Hour of Sharing

Responding to disasters, feeding the hungry, helping people build up their own livelihoods—these are all ways that your gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** will change lives, change communities—and change the world. The offering provides relief in over 130 countries in three different ways:

- Gifts to the offering are helping rebuild apartments and houses destroyed by earthquakes and civil war through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%)**. It has provided essential support to refugees through emergency supplies for those journeying to new lands as well as to congregations receiving refugees into their communities.
- Your gifts also help alpaca farmers in Peru whose livelihoods are threatened by the poisoning of their water source. Environmental degradation and climate change are primary threats to the world's hungry and vulnerable, and the **Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%)** is part of that response.
- Through the **Self-Development of People (32%)** program resources are used to enable people to better their lives in the face of injustice and oppression. <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

One Great Hour of Sharing is received during Lent and asks us to be repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in through ministries of justice, compassion, and joy. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



Text OGHS to 91999 to give online. Special envelopes will be in the pews and at the Clinton Street entranceway through April 9.

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

SAVE THE DATE!

All are invited to attend a program and reception presented by the Ferry Legacy Society of First Presbyterian Church.

Honoring Members and friends providing for the church in their wills and estate plans and welcoming everyone interested in joining the Ferry Legacy Society

Thursday, May 18, from 4 to 6 p.m.
Trillium Event Center
17246 Van Wagoner Road
Spring Lake

4:00 p.m. Welcome
4:15 p.m. Program—Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon
4:35 p.m. Reception—wine, beer, & hors d'oeuvres

PLEASE RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MAY 12:
616-812-6760, STAFF@FPGH.ORG
OR REGISTER ONLINE: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9h53h3>

Thank you!

Acts 2:42

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for attending our Lenten Taize services! We had a full chapel all four weeks, and it felt so right being back together in that intimate worship space. My appreciation goes out to those members who provided delicious soups and bread for our meals following worship. Yum! I hope sitting around the dinner table deepened your friendships and introduced you to someone new.

Thank you!

Maryanne Beery

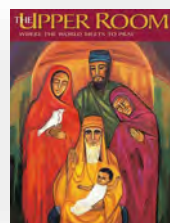
The Deacons of FPGH

The Deacons' service to the church includes visiting homebound church members to provide fellowship and communion, delivering sanctuary flowers, meal train management and monthly meetings.

Deacon expenses include the monthly publication Upper Room, World Vision child sponsorship, and the Heritage luncheon. About 25 Upper Rooms and cards are mailed to members each month.

The Deacon's budget is separate from the Operating Budget in that it consists of donations that are separate from what people tithe and pledge. Any monies designated to the Deacon fund have to be noted in the check memo, or if giving electronically that it's specifically for the Deacon budget. Please consider the First Presbyterian Deacons in your church offering.

Warmly,
Cathy Rusco, Deacon Treasurer



Cookie Bakers Wanted!

Do you love the Sunday morning cookies? So do we, and we are always looking for more people to add to our Sunday cookie baker schedule!

Bakers are asked to bring a few dozen cookies approximately 4 times per year (or when you can!).

Contact Kerri Roberts (kroberts@fpgh.org) if you would like to be added to the schedule.



Spaghetti Dinner Wrap Up

The first Spaghetti Dinner since the start of the pandemic is officially in the books! What a great way to lead into spring break and the last few weeks of youth programming for this school year!

This summer we are traveling to Harrisburg, PA, to serve with Youth Works. Although we are not sure which organizations we will be serving while we are there, we raised this money while thinking and praying for organizations that serve the Harrisburg community and the surrounding regions. The money we raised from the dinner will be going to one of those organizations. At the dinner, we also got to hear from one of our 11th grade students, Ava Ransford, about her past mission trip experiences and why youth missions have been an important part of her faith journey.

Our youth program is so grateful for all of the amazing people who made this event happen. To the Youth Committee, the parents and other adult volunteers, to the people who attended and supported the dinner, and, of course, to the wonderful students who showed up, worked hard, and served well, THANK YOU! This event could not have happened without all of your hard work and dedication to our youth program!



YOUTH GROUP

All students (and their friends!) in 5th-12th grade are invited to join us for Youth Group on Sunday nights.

A typical schedule looks like this:

- 5:30—game
- 5:50—dinner
- 6:20—worship
- 6:30—Bible-based discussion (5th & 6th grades with Tommy, all others with Hannah)
- 6:45-7:15—small group discussions

What's Happening in April

Apr. 2 & 9: No Youth Group (Spring Break)

Apr. 16: Normal Youth Group

Apr. 23: Normal Youth Group

Apr. 30: Normal Youth Group

For questions feel free to reach out to Hannah Post at

HPost@fpg.org

Messiah

Bring your score and sing with us!

April 16, 2023 - 4PM

Diane Penning, soprano

Kelly Ortquist, alto

Jon Lovegrove, tenor

John Scheid, bass

St. John Consort

Combined choirs of St. John's and

First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven



Freewill offering accepted. Call (616) 842-6260 or email music@sjegh.com

St. John's Episcopal Church • 524 Washington • Grand Haven, Michigan



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

April 2023

deliver to: (or current resident)



He is
Risen!

You are warmly invited to
join us for

Easter Worship Services:

- 7 a.m. Sunrise Service
- 9 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship

All are welcome!