



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

MAY 2023, VOLUME 71—ISSUE 5

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

We hold staff meetings weekly on Tuesdays. At that meeting, Tina Ramones leads us through the upcoming church calendar, making sure the whole staff is aware of all that is happening ministry-wise and building-wise. Three years ago in the early stages of Covid, that was a really fast part of the meeting. Largely the calendar sat empty. That is no longer the case! And almost every week as we finish the calendar reading, someone on staff proclaims, “Where is the year going?!?”

I’m feeling that way as I write this, realizing that we’re turning to May, which means wrapping up a lot of the program year. There are only a couple more youth group meetings. We’ll celebrate our graduates on May 21, the same day that some of our students will receive their diplomas from Spring Lake High School. The Sunday after is Pentecost, where we celebrate the start of the church following Jesus’ resurrection, but that’s also the kickoff to summer season in our beach town.

Summer is always a welcome change of pace and weather. Many of us take vacations. All of us will enjoy the long days, warm weather, and the glories of summer in Michigan. Around the church it means that we’re doing lots of things that are one-offs, easy to drop into when you’re around. That includes another Waterfront Worship service this July 16 (mark your calendar!). It includes the Youth Mission Trip to Pennsylvania. As your life adjusts to the relaxed summer schedule, I pray you’ll find ways to participate in the life of your church beyond worship.

Finally, I invite you to consider coming on a fall trip to serve our partners in Belize. I was last there in 2019. We had a youth team go in 2022 — after two years of delays. I’d love to rekindle our work there and to witness what God is doing in this partnership. I would love to share more information with you between services on May 14, so you can consider if this is something God is calling you to share in. This will be my fifth trip to Belize to serve with Koinonia over the past decade. I know that I always find my faith stirred and my worldview stretched in partnering internationally. I hope you’ll consider joining me!

In Christ,

Pastor Troy

Upcoming Events

- May 7** New Member Class
- May 7** That Beatles Thing
CAS Concert
- May 12** PW Hanging Basket Pick Up
- May 13** Scout Pancake Fundraiser
- May 14** PW Lifetime Membership Award
- May 18** Ferry Legacy Society
Program & Reception
- May 21** Graduation Sunday
- May 21** Jump into Summer Bash
for 4th-12th grades
- June 4** Rob Hlebinsky Organ Recital
- June 7** Silver Linings Presentation
- June 25** Sixth Annual Golf Scramble
- June 27** Picnic in the Park (Pottawattomie)
- July 16** Waterfront Worship

SAVE THE DATE!

for our
SILVER LININGS
presentation

**HOW TO LIVE WITH PURPOSE
IN YOUR RETIREMENT YEARS**

**Wednesday, June 7
6 p.m.
at FPGH**

Belize 2023

Mission Trip Informational Meeting
Sunday, May 14, at 10 a.m.

(possible mission trip date
October or November)

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

FPGH Cares:

Please let us know about births, baptisms, hospitalizations and prayer requests. Contact Karen Nienhouse at knienhouse@fpgh.org

Prayer Concerns:

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

Our Sympathy:

to Jane Shultz and family on the death of her husband, Jim, on March 31.

to Steve VanderWall on the passing of his cousin, Chris Westhoff, on April 7.

to Phyllis Carpenter on the death of her sister, Marilyn DeBruyn, on April 14.

to Cindy and Earle Bares and family on the passing of their son-in-law, Matthew Essenburg, on April 19.

Thank You:

"Thank you to our church family for your thoughts and prayers, cards, and food after the loss of my dad. We felt your love! Thank you for thinking of us during this time of transition."

- The Ledet Family

Thank You:

"Thank you for the prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy in the loss of my sister, Marilyn DeBruyn. They were appreciated very much."

- Phyllis Carpenter

Blood Drive June 2

The need is greater than ever.
The gratification is instant.

Give blood.



Our next blood drive:

Friday, June 2

12:00—5:45 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

redcrossblood.org

Food Pantry Collection

Each month the Mission Committee collects non-perishable food and household goods for the Salvation Army food pantry.

Here are some items that are requested this month:

- Pasta Sauce & noodles
- Canned peaches/pears/
fruit cocktail/applesauce
- Chunky-style soups/beef stew
- Canned baked beans
- Pancake mix & syrup

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



Thank you!

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

Submittals, suggestions or comments:
sbryant@fpgh.org or staff@fpgh.org
FPGH editorial staff reserves the right to accept
or decline, edit for length and content all
submitted material.

PW Hanging Flower Basket Pick Up

The Presbyterian Women send out a huge "thank you!" to congregation members for the great response to their hanging basket sale!



For those who placed an order, flowers may be picked up in the church parking lot on Friday, May 12, from 11-3. If you are unable to pick up your flowers at that time, please contact Sue Ochs at 231-750-3946 or 2123@aol.com.

All proceeds support the missions of the Presbyterian Women.



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

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

Dear Church Family,

I want to let you know about an upcoming event that I'm very excited about. On **Wednesday, June 7th at 6 pm in the church lounge, Jane Anderson of Mosaic Counseling will be giving a presentation called "Silver Linings."** At this event, Jane will explore how those of us in our retirement years, and those of us about to enter our retirement years, can still have God-given purpose in our church and in the community.

Jane is a licensed counselor and gave a presentation at our church last year about how to deal with anxiety resulting from the pandemic. Jane is an engaging speaker who is committed to helping people see how Jesus has given each of us unique gifts. Her Silver Linings presentation explores how our journey of growing older coincides with Moses's journey in faith. Like Moses, our lives are full of

unforeseen plot twists. We can't anticipate what life throws at us and while we can guess what the challenges of growing older will be like we don't truly know what to expect until we are in it. Jane's and my hope is that we are able to discern that while we have less energy as we age we still have much to offer to the church and the community. Please be on the lookout on when and how to RSVP for this event toward the end of May.

In order to prepare for this event it may be a good idea to read *Aging Faithfully* by Alice Fryling. I knew Alice when we lived in Wheaton, IL. Before she retired, Alice was a sought-after Christian author and speaker. In this book, Alice shares her and her husband Bob's story about their adjustment to retirement a few years ago. Both were very active in their church and in other ministries. Not only did they have to get used to the retirement lifestyle, but they also decided to move

across the country to help with their granddaughter who has special needs. So not only did they have to process through the drastic pivot of retirement, they also had to get to know a brand new community and grieve the community of 20 years that they left behind.

Alice is honest in *Aging Faithfully* about the challenges of getting older and losing one's purpose after retiring from full-time work. She is also honest, however, about how Jesus showed up for her and her husband in unexpected ways as they adjusted to life in retirement and as they were getting older in general. The Deacons are actually reading this book together and I think it will be great preparation for the Silver Linings event in June. I hope you can make it!

Grateful to be on this journey of faith alongside 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 held our annual meeting that included the Board of Deacons, celebrating their wonderful ministry.
- We approved receiving the distribution from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Omega Fund, which goes to facilities needs.
- We approved using Alpha Funds for a year of executive coaching for Pastor Kristine.
- We are in the process of reviewing the membership rolls.
- We discussed an opportunity to become a partner organization to a PC(USA) New Worshipping Community that is active in Grand Haven. No action has been taken as the Session continues its discernment.

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?

RSVP to: Kerri Roberts :
842-6760 or kr Roberts@fpg h.org.

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

Have you registered for the 6th annual FPGH Golf “Fun” Raiser? What are you waiting for? Not only is the golf scramble fun, but you also have the chance to win great prizes! This year we have 4 hole-in-one challenges with the possibility of winning a 3-year lease on a Jeep! There are also awesome raffle prizes, including a Broil King gas grill! Tickets may be purchased in the church and Joyful Noise offices, as well as from Golf Scramble committee members on Sunday mornings.



The registration fee includes lunch, snacks, beverages, and the awards dinner. 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. You may also come just for the dinner. 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 on Sunday, June 25!*

From the Earth Care Committee **RECYCLING UPDATE**

Good News! Our church has signed a new recycling contract with Republic Services. Under our previous arrangement we could only recycle paper and cardboard. With this new agreement we may now recycle additional materials such as glass, metals, plastic containers, and paper-based cartons. Collection is “all-in-one” meaning that all recyclables are placed in one bin with no sorting required. All of this has been accomplished at a slightly reduced cost from our original contract.



Along with the new recycling program, the church begun composting. Composting allows for the recycling of kitchen waste and other organic materials. This includes the compostable cups and plates the church has been temporarily using while the kitchen dishwasher has been inoperable.

As the church has been making these transitions, we thank the congregation for their patience and willingness to make the programs a success. We especially thank the church staff for their commitment and help in implementing these changes. Finally, the next time you see Joleigh, give her a special hug or hearty handshake!

As Presbyterians, one of our distinct beliefs is that we are given a special mandate as stewards to care for all God has created. FPGH can be especially pleased as we continue in fulfilling that principle.

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!



Pentecost Special Offering: Youth • Young Adults • Children at Risk

We are the church, together! **The PCUSA Pentecost Offering** helps nurture the faith of those who are the church of the future—children, youth, and young adults.

- 40% of this offering remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in our local community.
- 25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience. Funding trains and equips volunteers to engage in mission at 13 sites in the U.S. and around the world.
- 25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12-18. It helps fund a new endeavor called the Senior Project, provides partnership funding for the daily digital devotion at www.d365.org, and helps fund scholarships for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- 10% supports the “Educate a Child, Transform the World” national initiative affirmed at the 221st General Assembly to better the lives of millions of children.



With our gifts to the May 28 Pentecost Special Offering, we are helping build the youngest members of the body of Christ into the people God would have them become. Envelopes will be available in the pews and at the Clinton St. entrance. Or give online at specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/pentecost/

Do You Give Online? Help Us Go Green!

Every year, many packages of unused giving envelopes end up in the recycling bin. Unless you have told us that you are giving another way and no longer need envelopes, we still order them for you.

If you no longer use giving envelopes, please let us know so we can cut down on waste: staff@fpgh.org.

If you'd like to give electronically, you can contact your bank to set up automatic giving, or use one of these options:

- Give online through Realm or thru this link: onrealm.org/FPGH/-/give/now
- Text FPGH to 73256

There are cards in the pews that say “I gave online” that you can put in the offering plate on Sunday morning as your act of worship.

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

Program:

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:

616-842-6760, STAFF@FPGH.ORG

OR REGISTER ONLINE: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9h53h3>

For more information about the Ferry Legacy Society, click on the following link or copy and paste to your web browser: <https://fpgh.org/give-2/>
You may also contact Sue VandenBosch, Ferry Legacy Society Committee, at 616-607-7095.

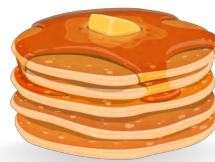
Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast



Saturday, May 13
8-11 a.m.
at

First Presbyterian Church

\$10 Adult/\$5 Child/\$25 Family



Treat yourself to breakfast and benefit the Cub Scouts Pack 3005 at the same time! Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee.

Upcoming Community Artist Series Events

That Beatles Thing

May 7, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

If you are a fan of the Fab Four, you will appreciate the sound of "That Beatles Thing!" This group of four friends have a lot of fun playing the music they love, and hope you will come out and share in the fun!

Founded in 2018, That Beatles Thing band members are James Murphy, primary vocals and guitar; Dale Wicks, vocals and lead guitar; Luke Lenhart, mandolin and guitar; and Fritz von Valtier, vocals, drums, and "thing shaker."



Take a trip back in time and join us for this concert featuring all of your favorite songs from John, Paul, George, and Ringo!

Organ Recital:

Rob Hlebinsky

June 4, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Rob Hlebinsky is an organist and arranger who has a passion for the pipe organ and Disney, with a repertoire that includes a variety of both traditional and non-traditional pieces. A majority of Rob's arranging work comes from live-action and animated blockbusters like *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Frozen*.



Rob currently serves as organist and handbell director here at First Presbyterian Church. He is also the accompanist for the Spring Lake choral department and music director for the school's theater program.

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



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 May

- May 7: Normal Youth Group
- May 14: Last Normal Youth Group
- May 21: Jump Into Summer Bash!

For questions feel free to reach out to Hannah Post at HPost@fpgh.org

Jump Into Summer Bash!

Sunday, May 21 5-6:30 pm



All 4th-12th graders and their families are invited to this year's "Jump Into Summer" bash!

This is our final youth group blowout before the start of summer. We will be playing outdoor games, enjoying ice cream, and eating ridiculous hot dogs from Mad Dogz Food Truck!

This is also the first event that our incoming 5th graders are invited to attend! We are so excited to celebrate the beginning of the summer season together!

In the event of rain: We will announce a rain delay date. Join us in praying for sunny warm weather that day!

2023 SUMMER MISSION TRIP

HARRISBURG, PA

7TH-12TH GRADERS

2023 Summer Mission Trip
July 16-21
Cost: \$150

Open to students going into 7th grade-graduated seniors.
Space is limited so sign-up ASAP!
[REGISTER HERE](#) or contact Hannah Post: HPost@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

May 2023

deliver to: (or current resident)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sixth Annual

GOLF SCRAMBLE "FUN" RAISER



Register
Today!

at Pigeon Creek Golf Course
Sunday, June 25, 2023

12:30 Registration & Box Lunch
1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start
6:00 p.m. Dinner, Awards, Prizes

Questions? Contact Alishia Terrill: 616-638-1783 or msugal@tds.net
Brochures and registration forms available at the church or download here:
<https://tinyurl.com/yck6c9ek>