



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

JULY 2023, VOLUME 71—ISSUE 7

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Rev. Dr. Troy Hauser Brydon

I was under the mistaken impression that things slowed down in the summer. Evidently, I was wrong. It's hard to believe I'm already writing about July when it feels like summer has hardly even started!

July is an exciting month for the church, especially because we're going to have our third straight Waterfront Worship service at the Lynne Sherwood stadium in downtown Grand Haven. This year's edition will be on July 16th. (Don't worry. The loud boats are the next weekend!) After three years of doing this service, I think we're hitting our stride.

What can you do to be ready for it? First, plan to be there. Make sure you have sunscreen and a nice hat too. Perhaps you'll want a bag chair too. Second, plan to bring others with you. We had over 700 in attendance last year, which is double what we have on a typical Sunday in our pews. Invitation is a key to this. Third, make sure you're friendly to those you meet. Some will be there just for that outdoor worship experience. Others will be there because they're looking for a great church. We're a great church, so they're in the right spot! Be welcoming! Fourth, pray for great weather — and a slight breeze. This only works if the weather cooperates.



This service is one of the unique parts of being a church in Grand Haven. It's something we enjoy but do not take lightly. I really hope you can make it.

Summer also brings lots of kids to Christian summer camp. Did you know that we have a program that underwrites a significant portion of the cost of going to a faith-based summer camp? The program extends to many churches beyond ours, and I'm pleased to report that we've been able to support more campers this year than ever before. While the application window for financial support for 2023 is now closed, I hope you'll keep this in mind for 2024.

For now, include these campers in your prayers. I know many of us — myself included! — found my faith challenged and deepened through Christian summer camp. A piece of that was the prayers that supported us while there. This is a praying church, so pray for your campers.

I know summer brings lots of comings and goings. While you're in town, I hope you'll worship with us. We're here every Sunday! See you soon.

In Christ,

Pastor Troy

Upcoming Events

- July 8** Knapweed Removal at Rosy Mound Natural Area
- July 11** Y.F. Picnic on the Playground
- July 16** Waterfront Worship
- July 16-21** Youth Group Mission Trip
- July 16-31** Scouts Philmont Trek
- July 19** Y.F. Splash Pad Play Date
- July 20** 5th/6th Photo Scavenger Hunt
- July 20** Feast & Fiction
- July 23** QPR Training
- July 30** New Member Class

Pray for Youth on Summer Adventures!

This summer, our youth group is heading to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for a mission trip, and Scout Troop 246 is embarking on a 12-day trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Please keep these young people in your prayers for safe and amazing, life-impacting experiences.

Scouts Philmont Trek July 16-July 31

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Barbara Berko | John Parylak |
| Canaan Berko | Steven Roelandt |
| Carson Berko | Melanie Ver Duin |
| Ethan Ness | Peter Ver Duin |
| JJ Parylak | |

Youth Group Mission Trip July 16-21

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Matt Bruce | Phoebe Bruce |
| Jess Hauser-Brydon | Sam Hauser-Brydon |
| Patrick Duell | Elliot Hauser-Brydon |
| Hannah Post | Ava Ransford |
| David Barber | Lauren Ransford |
| Jackson Bosch | Lizzy Skodack |
| Jenna Bosch | Sarah Ver Duin |
| Ryan Braak | |

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, Dick Christy, Frank Miller and Trudy Timmer

Please Note:

A memorial service for Lisa Hurley will be held here at the church on Saturday, July 29, at noon.

Thank You:

"Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help distribute food and assist our neighbors in need on June 9. The Mission Committee sponsors Feeding America food trucks twice a year, and volunteers will be needed again in September. Your gifts are what make this outreach possible. Thank you!"

-Mike Weller,
Mission Committee

Tidings article deadline for August 2023 issue: July 23, 2023

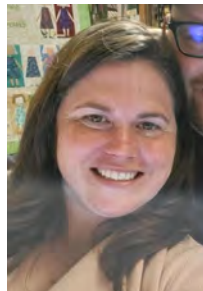
Submittals, suggestions or comments:
sbryant@fpgh.org or staff@fpgh.org
FPGH editorial staff reserves the right to accept
or decline, edit for length and content all
submitted material.

Meet Amanda Miles

You may have already met Amanda, who along with her husband Jeff and daughter Madilyn, joined the church last year.

We are excited to now have Amanda join the church staff as our new 5th & 6th Grade Ministry Coordinator. We asked Amanda write a little bit about herself:

Hi! My name is Amanda Miles, and I am the new 5th/6th Grade Ministry Coordinator. I was able to meet some of you in person at the initial youth summer kick-off event. However, I wanted to share my communication information and a little bit about me.



My husband, Jeff, and daughter, Madilyn, and I live in West Olive and have been attending First Presbyterian since January 2022. We love hanging out with family and friends, games, good food, and good laughs. I like to read, craft, and garden as well. I recently borrowed a guitar but am still learning to play! We will see how that goes. I can't wait to connect more and learn about you, your interests, and faith story.

My email is amiles@fpgh.org and my phone number is 231-750-5491. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I may not have an immediate answer, but I can find one or lead you to someone who can.

If you have a student in 5th or 6th grade, Amanda will be contacting you to set up an ice-cream visit this summer to get to know you and your student better!

Welcome Amanda, we're glad you are here!

Belize Mission Trip

The adult mission trip to Belize is taking shape and looks like it will happen the week of November 2-8. Spots are still available, so if you are interested in going, contact Pastor Troy at: TroyHB@fpgh.org or 616-842-6760.

Belize 2023

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, in order of greatest need:

- Canned fruit/applesauce
- Pancake mix & syrup
- Peanut butter
- Ketchup
- Granola bars & crackers
- Chunky-style soups
- Shampoo/conditioner

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



Thank you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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!

July 24 Joyce Black
201 Dewitt Lane, Apt. 311
Spring Lake, MI 49456

From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

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Dear Church Family,

Happy July! I hope and pray you have (or had depending on when you're reading this) a safe 4th of July. Growing up, I remember waking up on every 4th of July to my Dad blasting the song "Proud to be an American." It was both endearing and annoying. Since both of my parents were immigrants, the 4th of July was more than just a day to enjoy BBQs, pool parties, and firework displays, although we usually did participate in all of the above. For them, it was a day to celebrate the new life they were able to build in the United States that was not possible in the Philippines. At the time of my parent's immigration, the Philippines was under the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. Under his authoritative rule, anyone who spoke against his tyranny conveniently disappeared. This

included politicians and journalists in addition to many others. I am thankful for my parent's brave decision to leave everything they knew behind, including some family, to build a new and better life for themselves, my sister, and me.

As a Christian, I am thankful most of all for the freedom we have in Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we know we are deeply loved and when we rest in Christ's love we are truly free—but free from what? Free from whatever tells us we aren't worthy of love, value, and respect. When we don't feel loved, valued, or respected our tendency is to do whatever it takes, even if it is at the expense of the well-being of others or ourselves, to prove that we are indeed worthy of those things. Our sinful nature convinces us that we need to fight others or put others down for our own survival and well-being. Jesus

tells us, however, that we are all equally worthy, valued, and loved in God's sight. In Jesus, we are all free from trying to prove to others that we are worthy of love, because Jesus has already proclaimed that we are by what he accomplished on the cross.

My hope for all of us on this 4th of July is that we would reflect on the true freedom that is only found in Jesus Christ. When we do we are freed from the lie that we aren't worthy of love and therefore must fight to prove that we are. This frees us up to truly see and serve others as God sees us all. Our perspective shifts from preserving not just our own well-being, but the well-being of others. We are thus truly free to love and serve others in Jesus Christ.

Grateful for you,

Pastor Kristine

In Our Church

New Member/ Inquirers Class

Sunday, July 30

Would you like to become a member of FPGH or do you just want to find out more about the beliefs and traditions of the Presbyterian Church? You are invited to attend our upcoming New Member class!

Classes are held quarterly, and the next one is Sunday, July 30, from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

To reserve your spot, contact Kerri Roberts at 616-842-6760 or kroberts@fpgh.org

Attending the class does not commit you to membership.

Update from the Session

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

Highlights:

- The Session continued its visioning time from its May meeting.
- We approved the use of Alpha Funds to hire a videographer who will create several video shorts that highlight the ministries of the church.
- We approved the use of Alpha Funds to support a refresh of Fellowship Hall, which will create a more inviting space for our youth.

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

Free QPR Training July 23

We are trying to address the feelings of hopelessness that can happen in the



Tri-Cities Community. Those feelings sometimes lead to the devastating consequence of suicide. Fortunately, there is a training available through Mosaic Counseling that will equip us to help.

The church will hold this free training - QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) - on Sunday, July 23rd, between services. If you would like to sign up, call the church office (616-842-6760). Please join us for this important training session.

Project Ripple Effect 2023

Project Ripple Effect is back after a 4-year hiatus, and we need your help in identifying worthy organizations that may need just that little bit of extra financial help. In 2019, your FPGH mission committee distributed one-time-only distributions for 12 out of the 21 organization requests and ranged from \$250 to \$1,000. The total distribution was \$5,000.

Some examples from the 2019 requests included funding for tutors, scholarships, funds to build handicap carts, and funds for a clothing closet, just to name a few. This year we want to do even more and have committed up to \$10,000 to worthy causes that you help identify.

The committee will be accepting Project Ripple Effect 2.0 application forms until September 15, at which point all the projects will be reviewed by various members of the mission committee. While not all projects may be funded, the amount of available funds has grown. Forms and directions are available in the office or on the table just inside the Clinton Door entrance (you may also [download one here](#)). Completed forms should be returned to the office as early as possible. Requests of up to \$1,000 are being considered. Please help us to help others.

Your Mission Committee



A Perspective on the Earth Care Team

by Bill and Carol Bedford

This is a perspective on the dedication of the Earth Care Team (ECT) from church members, Bill and Carol Bedford, who upon rejoining the church after living in the Chicago area for 10 years, were asked to join the ECT. After attending several meetings, Bill was very impressed with the dedication of the members: Sara Shambarger, Bob Day, Sally Dunn, Ginger Aubrey, Dave Gritter, Michele Smith, Brock Hesselsweet, and Eric Snyder.

Carol is on the team to help our congregation and our community become aware of ways we need to work toward protecting God's environment. She, with the help of church member Aaron Portenga, enlisted the help of the Grand Haven High School GREEN group, which Aaron advises at school, to participate in local Earth Day activities. The GREEN group

designed and distributed digital posters to publicize the movie "Microplastic Madness" shown at the church and at both the Loutit and Spring Lake Libraries. In the movie, 5th grade students learn action is an essential part of caring for Planet Earth.

The ECT's efforts at the April 29th Earth Day activities—marching in the parade which promoted recycling and electric vehicles and staffing the FPGH booth designed by Michelle Smith at Central Park Center—are just a small part of the activities and efforts that go on throughout the year. Ginger Aubrey's efforts as coordinator of the Earth Day Lakeshore planning were rewarded with exceptional participation in the march and at the fair. There were over 30 booths. The pastors, staff and congregation participate in the large and small daily activities that will help diminish harmful pollution and global warming. We now have energy saving lighting; reusable or compostable plates and utensils at

church functions; a start toward composting and recycling; and a change in the church landscaping.



This is all part of the multi-page, daunting, 142-step procedural outline of steps the Presbyterian Hunger Program requires from the congregation each year to be a certified "Earth Care Congregation." We hope the FPGH congregation will continue to make every effort they can individually and as part of groups to support the ECT, because as we all know: "Knowledge is power and can lead to action."

Help Knock Out Spotted Knapweed Rosy Mound Natural Area July 8

All are invited to join Ottawa County Parks in removing an invasive species AND have some fun!

We will be removing Spotted Knapweed at the entrance to the Rosy Mound Natural Area on Saturday, July 8, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Families and older folk are welcome - the area is accessible. A county educator will be on site to start us off, and all you will need are gloves and clippers. For those wishing to carpool, the church van will be available for group transport.

A sign-up sheet is available in the church Gathering Area, or you may contact Sally Dunn to let her know you'll help (616-850-0057).



Win a Prize in the Eco-Sunday Challenge!

The Earth Care Team is sponsoring "ECO-Sunday" again this summer!

For the third year in a row, we are encouraging you to **ride your bike, walk, or carpool** to church each Sunday this summer. (We now have two bike racks at the Clinton Street church entrance). Each time you use one of these methods to get to church on Sunday (or anytime during the week) you may enter your name in a drawing for the chance to win a \$25 Dune Dollars gift certificate. To enter your name in the contest, visit the station that is set up in the Gathering Area.



Sign the Plastic-Free
July Pledge in the
church Gathering Area

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
Todd Olson, Interim Church Administrator
Marc Felt, Gathering Band Leader
Rob Hlebinsky, Organist
Amanda Miles, 5th & 6th Grade Ministries Coordinator
Karen Nienhouse, Congregational Care Ministries
Hannah Post, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries
Tina Ramones, Administrative Assistant
Kerri Roberts, Office Assistant
Sally Segers, Joyful Noise Director

Plastic Free July is Back!

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?

Sign the pledge starting July 2 and get a free gift of a set of bamboo eating utensils.

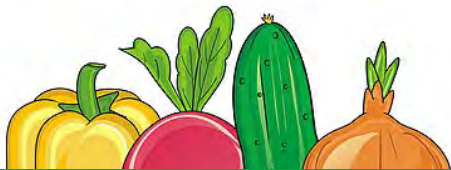


For more information on Plastic Free July, follow this link: <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

The Harvest Table is Back!

The "Harvest Table" is open for sharing every Sunday during the growing and harvest season!

Bring your excess garden produce to share on the Harvest Table. All items are free for the taking—you do not need to bring something in order to take something. Please bring your own paper or other reusable bags to carry your goodies home. The Harvest Table is sponsored by the Earth Care Team.



Q: What do you get when you cross a four-leaf clover with poison ivy
A: A rash of good luck.
Q: What's small, red, and whispers?
A: A hoarse radish.

Do You Know the Health Benefits of Singing?

1. Reduces stress
2. Improves mood
3. Lowers blood pressure
4. Improves breathing
5. Boosts immune system
6. Improves sense of rhythm
7. Promotes communal bonding
8. Provides comfort
9. Motivates
10. Empowers
11. Promotes well-being



Summer Pick-Up Choir is back!

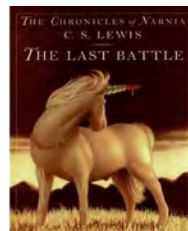
It's easier than going to the gym and cheaper than a therapist!

Join the voices of our Geneva Choir on **Sundays, July 23 & 30** at 8 a.m. (in the sanctuary) for rehearsal, and then sing for worship at 9 a.m. All are welcome!

Questions? Contact Maryanne: mbeery@fpgh.org

Feast and Fiction

The Thursday Night Discussion Group is taking a break from their usual theological books and are reading some fiction this summer.



Please join them in reading *The Last Battle* by C.S. Lewis. Then on Thursday, July 20, they will meet at 6 p.m. on at the Gritter residence for a potluck supper and discussion about the book.

Please contact Linda Gritter at lindagritter@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP.

Summer Piano Music from Rob Hlebinsky

This summer I've decided to do something a little different for Sunday morning preludes. I've been missing regularly working on piano music, and since the summer is when I have some extra time to practice, I thought I would dust off some of my old repertoire and maybe even learn a couple new pieces. This also gives me a chance to do pieces that are significantly longer than my usual preludes, so you just might want to get to church extra early. I'll continue to play postludes on the organ so that you can have the best of both worlds.



I hope you enjoy the musical offerings this summer.

-Rob Hlebinsky

Waterfront Worship 2023!

We will be holding a worship service on July 16 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!"

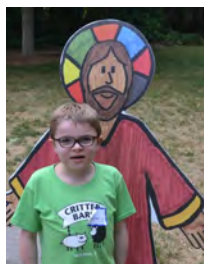
Note: remember to take your hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen!

Children's & Youth Ministries

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Flat Jesus and YOU!

Flat Jesus is a fun way to remember that God is everywhere! You can pick up a Flat Jesus at the Children's Ministries Desk. Color your Flat Jesus and then take photos with him throughout your summer--home and away. Post your pictures with [#fpghflatjesus](https://twitter.com/fpghflatjesus)



or send them to Miss Laura at lburns@fpgh.org. Also, be on the lookout for our FPGH Giant Flat Jesus at church and around town.

Young Families Picnic on the Playground

Wednesday, July 11
6-7 p.m.
On the Church Playground

We are thrilled to provide this time for young families to meet and greet one another and play on our awesome new church playground!

We'll be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs. We also have a fun rock painting project in store! Please plan to join us, and feel free to invite a friend.



To help us with planning, please RVSP to Laura Burns (lburns@fpgh.org)

Mark Your Calendars for More Summer Events!

Splash Pad Playdate
Wednesday, July 19
10:30 a.m.

Zeeland Splash Pad Park
(on S. Elm between E. Main and E. Cherry in Zeeland)



Ice Cream Walk
Thursday, August 10
10:30 a.m.
at Chinook Pier Park



Youth Ministries

Summertime Madness!

We have had a great start to the summer! There have been so many opportunities to connect with each other and it has made us so excited for the rest of the summer!

Please pray for our students and adult leaders who are going on the mission trip this month. We will be in Harrisburg, PA from July 16-21. Pray that we have a good and safe trip and that we all encounter God in some amazing ways!



5th and 6th graders are invited to join our new 5th/6th Coordinator, Amanda, for a Faith Photo Scavenger Hunt in downtown Grand Haven on July 20 from 6-7 p.m! This will be a great opportunity for fun and community for our 5th and 6th graders! Drop off and pick up will be at Dairy Creme.

Coming up in August, we have our annual Coast Guard Parking Lot Fundraiser. This fundraiser helps us reduce the cost we ask from families to attend overnight trips. Students and families can sign up for a parking lot shift now:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4faf28a3fb6-coast?useFullSite=true#/>



YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

All students (and their friends!) in 5th-12th grade are invited to join us for Youth Group events. For questions feel free to reach out to Hannah Post at HPost@fpgh.org

JULY

16: Waterfront Worship, 11 a.m.

16-21: Youth Mission Trip

20: 5th/6th Grade Photo Scavenger Hunt 6-7 p.m.—Meet at Dairy Creme (at the waterfront train depot building)





**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 2023

deliver to: (or current resident)

Please join us
for a waterfront worship service on
SUNDAY, JULY 16, AT 11 A.M.
at the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium!



Waterfront

WORSHIP

7.16.23

11 AM



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