



PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

JULY 2024, VOLUME 72—ISSUE 7

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

Dear Church Family,

Time is a funny thing. I was thrilled when I learned that our school district decided to move the first day of school to after Labor Day, which is when school used to start before we moved here. For this summer, I had all of these plans for day and weekend (minus Sundays of course) trips and was looking forward to more downtime with my family. That being said, it's a shock to my system that it's now July. What happened to June? I would like another June, please.

I don't think I'm alone in thinking I have more time than I have to make special experiences happen, regardless of the season. Every fall I vow to drive up north to see the beautiful autumn colors. Have I done that yet? Nope. Every winter I vow to try cross-country skiing at Pigeon Creek. Has that happened? Well, I did go sledding with my kids there once. I would love to finally take my kids for a day trip to Mackinac Island this summer. Given my track record, there's a good chance that won't happen.

Psalm 118:24 states: "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (NRSVUE) While I'm behind on my goals of creating fun experiences for myself and my family, this doesn't mean I can't be thankful for each day God gives us. We tend to think that we need to go away and experience a new place or activity to create core

memories for our children or perhaps even for ourselves. While that can of course happen, we can't fall into the trap of thinking that special memories are *only* possible during extraordinary experiences. Memories that last a lifetime can take place in the mundane and ordinary routines of our daily lives. Notice that Psalm 118:24 doesn't state that we are only to rejoice in the day the Lord has made when we're away on vacation or engaging in a special activity. Those days are definitely worth rejoicing, but not any more so than we do about ordinary days.

Please don't understand me as saying you shouldn't jump on the chance to get away and rest, as we all need that. What I am saying, however, is that each day, whether we're at home or traveling elsewhere, there is always something for which we can thank God. Each day is full of gifts from God and each day itself is a gift from God. Each day holds so many possibilities for lifelong memories. My hope and prayer for each of us this summer is that we will be more intentional with our gratitude for Jesus Christ and the many blessings he gives us each day and that we would see glimpses of God's goodness wherever we are and whatever it is we are doing. Not just in the slower pace of summer, but in every season.

Grateful for you,
Pastor Kristine

Upcoming Events

- July 10-17** Youth Belize Mission Trip
- July 10** Playground Meet-up at The Imagination Station
- July 10** Summer Organ Series Concert with Caron Farmer
- July 14** Summer Pick-Up Choir
- July 17** Summer Organ Series Concert with Audrey Gorman
- July 20** Summer of Sabbath Book Conversation
- July 21** Summer Pick-Up Choir
- July 24** Family Hike and Play at Coast Guard Park
- July 24** Youth Ice Cream Meet-Up
- July 25** Feast & Fiction Book Club
- July 28** New Member Class
- July 30** CG Parking Lot Fundraiser
- July 31** Summer Organ Series Concert with David Schout
- Aug 2 & 3** CG Parking Lot Fundraiser
- Aug. 3** FPGH Open as Cooling Station for CG Grand Parade
- Aug. 13** Hotdogs and Ice Cream on the Church Playground
- Aug. 14** Playground Meet-up at Tanglefoot Splashpad
- Aug. 24** Summer of Sabbath Book Conversation

Can You Help with Our Parade **COOLING** Station?

Use this link to sign up:
<https://tinyurl.com/yen3ykkt>

More information is available on page 4

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: knienhouse@fpgh.org

Prayer Concerns:

Mary & Ron Albrecht, Dick Christy, and Elsie Kraai.

Memorial Services:

On Wednesday, July 24, a memorial service will be held at FPGH for Henni Campbell at 11 a.m.

On Monday, August 5, a memorial service will be held at FPGH for Randy Enell at 11 a.m.

Our Sympathy:

to the friends and family of Roger Easton, who passed away on June 26, 2024.

to Marge Coffey on the passing of her brother, Ed, on June 26, 2024.

to Riley Jensen and family on the death of his wife, Pam Kidd, on July 2, 2024.

Thank You:

"We would like to thank our church family for all the prayers, support, and cards. Mark is still working at recovering. One day at a time. We are hoping to be back soon and feel truly blessed."

- Kris and Mark Kelley

Thank You:

"Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help distribute food and assist our neighbors in need on June 7. We had 35 individuals of all age groups show up to help make this a successful event—WOW! Thank you for helping us serve 159 households, with 93 children and 167 seniors."

-Mike Weller,
Mission Committee

New Members/ Inquirers Classes Sunday, July 28



Would you like to become a member of FPGH or do you want to know 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 class is Sunday, July 28 from 12:30-2:00 p.m. A light lunch will be provided.

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

Child care is available upon request. Attending the class does not commit you to membership.

Tidings article deadline for August 2024 issue: July 23, 2024

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.

Thursday Night Discussion Group: Feast and Fiction

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

For July they will be enjoying a potluck meal and a discussion of *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods.

The book for August is *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot, with dinner and discussion on August 22. Both events will take place in the church lounge at 6 p.m.

For more information, please contact Linda Gritter at lindagritter@gmail.com



Food Pantry Collection

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

Items that are especially needed this month are:

- Pancake mix & syrup
- Quaker Oats & Instant Oatmeal
- Pop-Tarts and Breakfast Bars
- Fruit Juice
- Dry milk and shelf-stable milk

Note: Cereal is not needed

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



Take the Plastic-Free Challenge!



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, lakes, oceans, and beautiful communities.

About Plastics:

1. Hundreds of microplastics in the form of air pollution particles are invisible to the eye and can slip into lungs, blood, and lodge in organs. Scientists have found the compound BPA, a type of plastic, in 90% of Americans tested.
2. 80% of debris floating in our oceans is plastic. Every minute a garbage truck worth of plastic pollution ends up in the ocean.
3. It takes over double the amount of water to produce a plastic water bottle as the amount of water contained in the bottle.
4. One million water bottles are purchased every minute and less than 10% of them are recycled.
5. Many states have banned single use plastic bags and some have banned single use bottles.
6. In 2017, 26.8 million tons of plastic pollution was dumped into landfills. Landfills across the U.S. are filling up and running low on additional space.
7. If everyone switched to reusable bottles or cartons, we would save enough energy to power New York City for a month.
8. It takes 450 years for a single plastic bottle to decompose.
9. March 2022, 170 countries agreed to develop a global treaty to end plastic pollution– expected from production to waste management to be finalized by the end of 2024.
10. Plastic production will increase by 40% in the next 10 years. If we don't do anything about the plastic in our waters, oceans will carry more plastic than fish (by weight) by 2050.



The good news is, anyone can get involved to help reduce plastic waste. You can start out small, or really challenge yourself! For more information and solutions, go to plasticfreejuly.org

Pentecost Offering Thank you for your Generosity!

Thank you for your support of the 2024 Pentecost Offering supporting youth ministries of the Presbyterian Church.

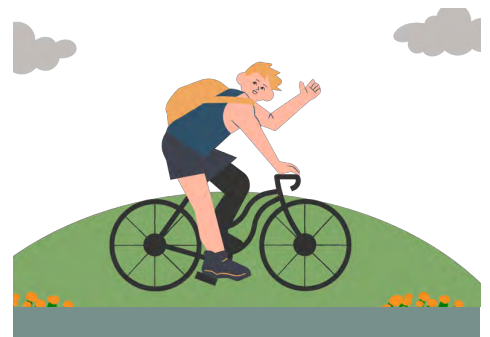
As 40% of gifts given were designated to stay local, \$1,140 was given to the youth of FPGH to use in their mission work at Koinonia Ministries in Orange Walk, Belize. Thank you for allowing them to share extra blessings and the love of Jesus with others.

Win a Prize in the Eco-Summer Challenge!

The Earth Care Team is again sponsoring an “Eco-Summer” Challenge, starting in June and continuing through September.

If you carpool, walk, bike, or scooter to church any day of the week, complete an “Eco Summer” slip each time and deposit it in the jar in the Gathering Area. On the last Sunday of the month, one name will be drawn from the jar to win a prize! The winner will receive a \$25 Dune Dollar gift certificate that can be spent at multiple places in the Grand Haven area.

We are celebrating Eco-Summer, but being eco-friendly is for all seasons! Let's develop new habits that are good for the earth.



Congratulations!

to Ann Anys,
winner of the hanging
patio lounge chair raffle
as part of the 2024
Golf Scramble “Fun” Raiser!



A Summer of Sabbath

Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest by Ruth Haley Barton is on Pastor Troy's "to-do" list while on sabbatical. We are invited to join in as a congregation by reading a chapter a week until we are all together again in September.



The Faith Formation Committee will be hosting a time of conversation about the book on the following Saturdays: June 22, July 20, and August 24, from 9-10 a.m. in the church lounge. We'll provide a treat, and you may bring your morning beverage of choice.

Embracing Rhythms of Work and Rest is available in hardcover, audio, and Kindle; and locally at the Bookman as well as on Amazon.

Come and be a part of the discussion!

FPGH Open During Coast Guard Grand Parade as Cooling Center

We will once again be opening the church doors as a "cooling center" during the Coast Guard Grand Parade on Saturday, August 3.

The church will be open from 10:30 a.m. until approximately 2:30 p.m. for anyone wishing to cool off, get a drink of water, or use the restrooms.

The community and guests are always so grateful for our hospitality during this event.

If you are able to help staff the church during part of the parade, we would like to have 3 people available at all times. The job is easy—be welcoming, direct people to the bathrooms, refill the water container if necessary, and keep the place tidy. In return, you get to meet some awesome people, get a great, air-conditioned view of the Grand Parade from the church lounge, and a parking spot in the church lot! To sign up, use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yen3ykkt>

So if you are out enjoying the Coast Guard activities and parade, feel free to stop in, use the bathrooms, and cool off!



The Upper Room Devotionals

The Upper Room is a daily devotional booklet published in more than 30 languages and 100 countries around the world. The daily meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others interested in sharing their faith experiences through writing. The meditations are stories of real people working to live faithfully with the Bible as their touchstone. Every day, readers of *The Upper Room* around the world read the same story in many different languages and pray the same prayer together.

The Upper Room daily devotionals are published every two months and are available in in the church office and in the book rack in the Gathering Area.

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 14 & 21** 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

Pray for Our Summer Mission Trip Team

This summer, members of our youth group and their chaperones are heading to Koinonia Ministries in Orange Walk, Belize. Please keep these young people in your prayers for safe and amazing, life-impacting experiences.

Youth Group Mission Trip
July 10-17

Karen Abraham	Lizzy Skodack
Randy Abraham	Ava Ransford
Pastor Kristine	Sarah Ver Duin
Hannah Post	Jackson Bosch
Kim McDonough	Timothy Olson
Todd Olson	Connor McDonough
Lydia Recor	Ryan Braak
Naomi Force	

Children's Ministries Summer Events

Playdate on the Playground

Wednesday, July 10, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Imagination Station, Grand Haven

Kids and caregivers - come and join Miss Laura for fun, friends and fellowship at the Imagination Station! Pack your own juice or water and Miss Laura will bring a snack to share.



Family Hike

Wednesday, July 24, 6:00 p.m.

Coast Guard Park, Ferrysburg

Kids and their caregivers are invited to pack a sack supper and join us at the playground pavilion at Coast Guard Park. We'll begin by eating together and then take a short hike together. Miss Laura will bring a post-hike treat to share. We look forward to being in God's creation with you

Youth Ministries

Join Us for Fun Summer Events!

Dairy Creme Meet-Up

Wednesday, July 24

12-2 p.m.

Students in 5th thru 12th grade can come visit Hannah and Jodie at Dairy Creme and they will buy them some ice cream! The two will be at Dairy Creme from 12-2 pm and students can stop by anytime in that time frame. *(Dairy Crème is located in the old museum building at the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium).*



Coast Guard
Parking Lot Fundraiser

July 30, August 2 & 3

Each year, we have a parking lot fundraiser to raise money for our youth to make our retreat and mission trip experiences more affordable. We need a ton of help from our students and their families in order to make this fundraiser happen! Please consider signing up for a 2-hour time slot by following this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/3u5m6kbn>

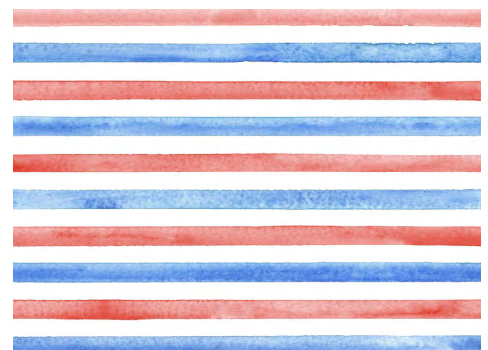
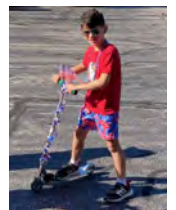


Joyful Noise

Walk with Joyful
Noise in the Coast
Guard Kid's Parade!

It's never too early to start planning, especially when it comes to the Coast Guard parades!

On Saturday, July 27, meet us in the FPGH Clinton Street parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to decorate your strollers, bikes, scooters or wagons! Then we will join the parade at 10:30. You are invited to bring candy to pass out if you would like, but it is not required.



JULY

10-17: Youth Mission Trip to Belize

24: Dairy Crème Meet-Up

30, Aug. 2 & 3: Parking Lot Fundraiser



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 2024

deliver to: (or current resident)

[Empty dashed box for address information]

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, Church Custodian
- Sally Bryant, Communications Coordinator
- Laura Burns, Children's Ministries Director
- Todd Olson, Church Administrator
- Marc Felt, Gathering Band Leader
- Rob Hlebinsky, Organist
- Jodie LaVercombe, 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

All Are Welcome!