



# PRESBYTERIAN *Tidings*

AUGUST 2024, VOLUME 72—ISSUE 7

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GRAND HAVEN, MI

## From Rev. Kristine Aragon Bruce

**“Follow me and be my disciple”**

—Jesus, Matthew 9:9



Dear Church Family,

I'm so excited for our all-church initiative this fall! We are continuing on in our sermon series: “The Three Bs: Becoming, Belonging and Believing.” This summer we've focused on what “Becoming in Christ” looks like and we'll continue on in this series with “Being with Jesus” starting on September 8.

After a lot of prayer, discernment and conversation, your pastors and program staff realized that many of us don't feel comfortable navigating the Bible on our own. This is totally understandable as the Bible is hard to understand! Plus, we were meant to read scripture together. This is why your pastors and staff have put together a reading plan of the Gospels and we hope you'll find at least one other person as your reading buddy.

Beginning Sunday, **August 25**, free journals with a reading plan will be available. Reading plans are to be used Monday-Friday and include a short reading beginning with the Gospel of Matthew and working our way on through Mark, Luke, and John. The reading plan begins on **September 9**. We hope

you will participate as we grow in faith together! Additionally, we offer suggestions for study Bibles and articles and videos about the Gospels that are more in-depth. We also hope that you engage in this reading plan with another person or with a small group. These folks don't have to be First Pres members either. They just have to be people who are as serious and committed as you are to read through the Gospels.

There will be times when you miss a day or even a week of the readings. Don't worry! That's happened to me too. In fact, it happened to me this summer as some of us on staff read through the Gospels together. And we did it in just six weeks! I didn't let my perfectionist self get the best of me (honestly, this involved a lot of prayer) and picked up my reading for that day even when I had missed a week's worth of readings. We aren't aiming for perfection here, church fam, but we are hoping for the intentionality of digging deeper into God's Word together. All so we get to know Jesus better and are more aware of his presence with us and in the world every day!

Grateful for you,

Pastor Kristine



## Upcoming Events

- Aug 2 & 3** CG Parking Lot Fundraiser
- Aug. 3** FPGH Open as Cooling Station for CG Grand Parade
- Aug. 7** 5th/6th Grade Hike at Hemlock Crossing
- Aug. 9** Red Cross Blood Drive
- Aug. 13** Hotdogs and Ice Cream on the Church Playground
- Aug. 14** Playground Meet-up at Tanglefoot Splashpad
- Aug. 14** Youth Beach Night
- Aug. 22** Feast & Fiction Dinner & Discussion
- Aug. 24** Summer of Sabbath Book Conversation
- Aug. 25** Blessing of the Backpacks
- Aug. 25** Youth Tie-Dye Event



## Church & Pastor Contact Information

**Pastor Troy Hauser Brydon:**

616-604-2617,

church: 616-842-6760 x1005,  
email: TroyHB@fpgh.org

**On Sabbatical until Sept. 8**

**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, Elsie Kraai, and Darell Moreland.

### Memorial Services:

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

### Our Sympathy:

to Sue and Dan Qualls on the death of Sue's mother, Patricia Layton, on July 10.

to Steve VanderWall on the passing of his brother, Tom, on July 14.

to Craig and Kelly Seaver and family on the death of Craig's mother, Sharon Seaver, on July 14.

to the friends and family of Carol Groening, who passed away on July 22.

### Thank You:

"Dear Church Family, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks for all the calls, cards, and messages I received as I celebrated my 104th birthday on July 4. I feel

blessed to be surrounded by such a caring community."

- Virginia Weenink

## Blood Drive August 9

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

**Give blood.**



Our next blood drive:

**Friday, August 9**

**12:00—5:45 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Schedule your donation at:**

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

*All donors who give blood in August are eligible to receive a \$20 Amazon.com gift card by e-mail.*

## 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.

The book for August is *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot,

with dinner and discussion on August 22 in the church lounge at 6 p.m.

For more information, please contact Linda Gritter at [lindagritter@gmail.com](mailto: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.



## Thank You!

... to everyone who supported the 2024 7th Annual Golf Scramble Fundraiser!

With your support, we were able to raise **over \$8,500** to benefit the Joyful Noise Christian Childcare outdoor play spaces!



**Tidings article deadline for  
September 2024 issue: August 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.

## Tina Ramones, FPGH Administrative Assistant, Announces Retirement

After 22 years of faithfully serving First Presbyterian Church, Tina Ramones has announced her retirement effective September 29th. We are excited for Tina, but will dearly miss her warm smile, willingness to help anyone and everyone, and her immense knowledge of the church and its operations. She has served our church faithfully and she will be dearly missed. Please stop by the office before her retirement to wish her well and join us on Sunday, September 29th, between services for a cake reception to officially thank her for her many years of support of our congregation.

Her departure leaves an opening in our staff for a full-time administrative assistant/bookkeeper. If you know anyone who might be interested in this role, please have them contact Todd Olson at [tolson@fpg.org](mailto:tolson@fpg.org).



## 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 the church office and in the book rack in the Gathering Area.

## Win a Prize in the Eco-Summer Challenge!

The Earth Care Team is again sponsoring an "Eco-Summer" Challenge, continuing through the end of 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 basket in the Gathering Area. On the last Sunday of the month, one name will be drawn 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.



## Hand2Hand



hand2hand

As the new school year approaches, the Hand2Hand program is preparing to serve Mary A. White Elementary and Lakeshore Middle schools again by providing extra food support for the weekends and school holidays for the students in need. This has been a ministry of our church for more than 15 years and is largely funded by donations from individual church members, as well as from the Mission Committee, Presbyterian Women, and some community organizations. On average, we serve over 70 students in these two schools. Neighboring schools in the area are supported by other churches and organizations.

It takes many volunteers to plan, order, pick up, pack and deliver 10-12 nutritious food items per student each week. We are so very thankful for all the support that the congregation and staff have provided for this ministry. As we set up the packing and delivery schedule for the coming school year, we welcome additional volunteers who would like to help (usually on Wednesday or Thursday morning or early afternoon each week). We also welcome financial gifts of any size to support the H2H program.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer with this program, contact Chris Bussell: 616-846-0487 ([cmb1771@gmail.com](mailto:cmb1771@gmail.com)), Lisa Tobin: 616-402-9870 ([lktgh99@gmail.com](mailto:lktgh99@gmail.com)) or the church office ([staff@fpg.org](mailto:staff@fpg.org)). For financial donations, please write a check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate the Hand2Hand fund on the memo line. The Hand2Hand committee thanks you for the support that you give to this important ministry of the church.

A Hand2Hand backpack typically includes 3 breakfast items, 4 snack items, and 3-4 lunch or dinner items, often with a recipe card.





## 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 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!

## Food & Fellowship

Do you enjoy good food and engaging conversation? Would you like a chance to meet some new members of First Pres or get to know some familiar faces? If so, Food & Fellowship is for you!



F&F is a series of four casual meals from October to June, with eight people in attendance. Everyone hosts a meal during the year, and brings a dish to pass to the other three meals.

Ask questions and/or sign up at the F&F table in the Gathering Area.

## Love in Action Free Clinic Women's Health Event

*A Special Day to Care for Women in the Community*



**Saturday, October 19**  
**326 N. Ferry, Grand Haven**

Are you or do you know a woman who is uninsured or underinsured? Come to the Women's Health Event on Saturday, October 19, at the LIA Free Clinic for the following care:

- Gynecology Exams & Testing
  - Breast Exams
- Mammogram Referrals
- Hormone Information
  - Treats & More!

Each person scheduled will receive a Meijer/Walmart gift card!

Call and ask for Emalee—space is limited!  
616-846-2701

## Kids Hope



As you may or may not know, First Pres has a partnership with Griffin

Elementary School in which we support them with mentors through the Kids Hope Program.

All kids need support in various ways, and all kids face challenges. But some hurdles and life situations are bigger than others, and sometimes kids need a little extra support to build resilience and hope. Kids Hope USA mentors from our church (supported by behind-the-scenes prayer partners) spend one hour per week talking, reading, playing, and listening to a child at Griffin Elementary. Research shows that by helping a child feel loved and valued, the child can better learn, grow, and succeed. If you think you might be interested in working with one student in the fall or in being a prayer partner for a mentor/child, please contact Jill Osborne at 616-402-0711 or [josborne2318@gmail.com](mailto:josborne2318@gmail.com) for more information.

Thanks for prayerfully considering this opportunity to serve as God's hands and feet.

## 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.

# Children's Ministries

## Children's Ministries Summer Events

**Family Picnic on the Church Playground**  
**Tuesday, August 13,**  
**5:30- 7:00 p.m. (Come When You Can!)**



All young families are invited to join us for games, fun, and hot dogs from the Mad Dogz food truck! To help with planning, please RSVP using [this link](#), or email Miss Laura at [LBurns@fpg.org](mailto:LBurns@fpg.org)



**Splash Pad Playdate**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 10:30 a.m.**  
**Tanglefoot Splash Pad, Spring Lake**

Come ready to play in the water! Bring your own juice or water to drink, and Miss Laura will bring a treat to share.

Tanglefoot is located at 312 W. Exchange Street in Spring Lake.

# Youth Ministries

## Youth Ministries Update

The Belize team had an incredible time serving alongside our friends at Koinonia Ministries in Orange Walk in July! We spent the week painting and getting to know the people who spent time around Koinonia when we were there! It was such an amazing week and we are so excited to share more about our time in Belize in worship on August 11.

There are quite a few youth events coming up this month including a hike for the 5th/6th graders and a beach night for our 7th-12th graders. We hope that our students will come out for these events!



Sunday, August 11  
During the 9 & 11 a.m.  
Worship Services

We invite you to come hear about our experiences and see a slideshow from the July Youth Mission Trip to Koinonia Ministries in Orange Walk, Belize!



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](http://fpgh.org)

**August 2024**

*deliver to: (or current resident)*

# Blessing of the Backpacks

**Sunday, August 25**

at both the 9 & 11 a.m. worship services

All students, teachers, and school staff  
are invited to bring their backpacks  
or briefcases for a special blessing  
to start the new school year!