

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Jessica Wietzke, Pastor

Happy New Year from Grimes First Presbyterian Church!

On Sunday, January 8th, we'll recognize and lift up our Law Enforcement Officers, as well as fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel. Our Supreme Protector and the Source of our hope, strength, and courage reminds us of the duty of care in helping others in Luke 10:30-37. On Sunday, January 8th, we want to honor Rich DeJooode and Angie Ofstad with our prayers, recognition, quilt, cards, and more. We appreciate those who serve with integrity, courage, and justice in all times and places. We pray God will continue to protect and keep them and their families as they use wisdom when they must make split-second decisions, strength when they are weary, and compassion in their work. May they know our support and respect for the many sacrifices they make on our behalf.

Joshua 1:9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Also, we ask for your patience and prayers as we have fewer elders on our session for 2017, and we're in the process of figuring out how to best move forward. This is an opportunity to not always do what we've done in the past, while embracing and celebrating those events and relationships that are important and lasting.



Did you know. . .? Our Session committee structure will be 'under construction' during the start of 2017. And since the committee chairs head up our church activities and events, we'll be discussing how our church activities are fundamental to who we are as Christ's body; it's also an opportunity to see how we can work together more efficiently and effectively.

We would love to have as much input, feedback, and ownership of church activities in the coming year as we can get; however, with fewer elders on Session (we have just one new elder starting in 2017 rather than a desired three), we cannot do all the activities that we have in the past. We are also going to take more time praying and studying scripture together, as well as leading the church through the process of developing our mission, vision, and a road map to work towards what God is calling us to be and do.

We are blessed to have so many willing helping hands and hearts. If you would like to have a voice and share your understanding, please come to one or both meetings in the second week of January to brainstorm and discern where our focus will be this year.

Our first meeting will be **Sunday, January 8th at 10:45am** in the sanctuary.

The second meeting will be **Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30pm** in Fellowship Hall.

If you can't make either of these meetings and would like to share, please feel free to talk with our elders or Pastor Jessica. We value each and every church family member. Together we can do it!

Every challenge is an opportunity to make something better.

The best way to predict the future is to create it.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Lord hear our prayer...

May God take care of us, protect us, and bless us. If you have someone who needs lifted up in prayer, please call or email the church office. We have a **Prayer Line** available to our members and friends during the day and evening hours.



PRAYER LINE Phone: 515-986-3720 • Email: grimespres1@hotmail.com



PLEASE NOTE:
There will be no Sunday School on Jan. 1st; classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 8th.

Cross Connection

Cross Connection will not meet in January. We'll look forward to our time together on February 1st!

THANK YOU

To each of you who contributed a gift to the residents of Spurgeon Manor - THANK YOU! This year, we purchased gifts for people in the dementia wing. These gifts brighten the day for those people.

Also, our Christmas caroling was another success! The residents were singing along with us, and the smiles on their faces were a delight to watch. My gratitude to each of you who participated.

Gai Shields

**A new year is on the way,
 and the possibilities are endless.**



Dear Past: Thanks for all the lessons.

Dear Future: I am ready.



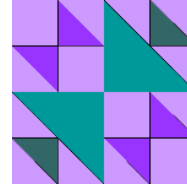
**Don't just dream about success;
 work for it.**



PW - Mark your calendars for the Quilting Day:

**Sunday, January 15th
 1:00 - 3:00pm**

Join us for an afternoon of quilting fun, organized by Joyce Hart.



2016-17 Women's Book Club

There's still time to join us for this year's Book Club journey. We're focusing on the 2016-17 Presbyterian Women's Bible Study: ***Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes.***

The study looks at the gospels, epistles, other faiths, and contemporary culture. The main idea behind the study is that each of us who reads the New Testament is an interpreter of the text; how we interpret depends in part on who we are. All women in the church are invited to participate. Mark the 3rd Tuesday of every month on your calendar (**Jan. 17th** this month).

PW will once again organize the **Silent Dessert Auction**, which will be held on February 12th following worship. January will likely be cold...always is...so curl up with your slippers, a blanket, your favorite cook-book or your recipe file, and pick out a yummy dessert or two that are sure to please a sweet tooth! The auction is right before Valentine's Day, and people will be looking for that 'special something' to give to their special someone - let it be dessert!

Monthly Rewind

Have you enjoyed the 'monthly rewinds' so far on the last Sunday of each month? We hope so, and we'll keep them going! If you have photos from events that have taken place in the last month - weddings, baptisms, church events, family functions, etc. - and you'd like to share, please email them to Janey.Altman@gmail.com, or text them to Jane Altman at 402-740-5198.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd	Darline Urfer	9th	Jenny Buckalew
3rd	Mildred Brown		Lyle Peitzman
5th	June Orlich	13th	Raymond Robb
	Gai Shields	15th	Marty Deitrick
6th	Sheila Balbiani		Brenda Peterson
8th	Vern Adams		Georgia Rolow
	Makenna Crosby	17th	Jason Young
		18th	Verla Stokely

JAN. ANNIVERSARIES

17th	Paul & Jenny Buckalew
28th	Jerry & Gai Shields

Thank You

Once again, I am very grateful for all the gifts, cards, hugs, and kindness that were graciously given this Advent/Christmas season.

Pastor Jessica

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS



Nursery

The nursery will be open Sunday mornings, with the speaker system 'on', so that parents can take their children (ages 4 and younger) there when needed. Please do not allow children to be unsupervised.



Ushers/Greeters

Jan	1st	Dana & Melodee Grefe
Jan	8th	Vern & Bev Adams
Jan	15th	Don & Mary Lou Friar
Jan	22nd	Bev Boyd & Cyndy Bolsenga
Jan	29th	Jim & Carol Calvert



Coffee Hosts

Jan	1st	Bill & Connie Sharp
Jan	8th	Young Family
Jan	15th	Don & Robbin McClelland
Jan	22nd	Klug Family
Jan	29th	Wong Family



Communion Servers

Sunday, January 1st:
Keith & Ellen Workman
Marilyn Whitmore



Offering Counters

Jan. 1st & 8th: Cyndy Bolsenga & Tom Wengert
Jan. 15th & 22nd: Melodee Grefe & Marilyn Whitmore
Jan. 29th & Feb. 5th: Robbin McClelland & Phyllis R.

Hold fast to your faith
Assemble weekly with your church family
Pray every day
Prepare your heart
Yield not to temptation.


Never give up!
Examine yourself spiritually
Work diligently for the Lord.

Yield your will to God's will
Enthusiastically live each day for the Lord
Add the Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5-7)
Read your Bible daily.

As we begin the new year, let's all have a Happy New Year and make the year for God.

January 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday Worship - 9:15am Fellowship - 10:15am <i>Congregational Mtg. following worship</i>	2	3	4	5 8:30am - PW Coffee (BK)	6 Church reserved 3:30-5:30pm (rehearsal)	7 Church reserved 12-5:30pm (wedding)
8 Law Enforcement Appreciation Sunday School - 8:30am Worship - 9:15am (<i>wear blue</i>) Fellowship - 10:15am High School SS - 10:30am <i>Church Events Discussion - 10:45am</i> 2pm - Worship @ Kennybrook	9	10 7:00pm - Session Meeting	11 6:30pm - Church Events Discussion	12	13	14
15 Sunday School - 8:30am Worship - 9:15am Fellowship - 10:15am High School SS - 10:30am 1-3pm - PW Quilting Day 3:30-5:30pm - Girl Scouts	16 6-9pm - Girl Scouts	17 6:30pm - Women's Book Club	18	19 8:30am - PW Coffee (BK)	20	21
22 Sunday School - 8:30am Worship - 9:15am Annual Mtg. following worship Fellowship - 10:15am High School SS - 10:30am	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Sunday School - 8:30am Worship - 9:15am Fellowship - 10:15am High School SS - 10:30am	30	31	 Weekly, Mon.-Fri., 9:30am to 1:30pm—Grimes Senior Meal Site is open. Please call 986-5747 a day in advance to reserve your lunch spot. Lunch served at 11:30am.			

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Grimes, IA, met in Regular Session on 12/14/16 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Rev. Jessica Wietzke opened with prayer and declared a quorum present. Here are some highlights...

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- The 2017 annual meeting has been set for January 22, 2017 following worship.
- Reminder - Year-end committee reports are due to Erin by Friday, Jan. 13th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship & Finance Committee:

- Presentation of the 2017 budget.

Nominating Committee:

- Kristy Klyn has agreed to serve as Elder for 3 years.

Building & Grounds Committee:

- Contracted snow removal with Luke's Lawn & Landscaping (same as last year).
- No ice melt on the new sidewalk this winter!
- Looking into a lock on the door between Pastor Jessica's office and Erin's office.

Christian Nurture Committee:

- Downing of the Browns will be Sat., Dec. 31st at 9:00am.

Communications Committee:

- We've received the proof of our pictorial directory. We have a few corrections to follow up on with Lifetouch.

Worship Committee:

- Jan. 9th is Nat'l Law Enforcement Appreciation Day; we'll recognize them during worship on Sun., Jan. 8th. Please wear blue in honor of law enforcement.
- New Elder Kristy Klyn will be ordained during worship on Jan. 8, 2017.

New Business & FYI:

- PW Quilting Day is Sun., Jan. 15th, 1-3pm.
- Looking into combining Session committees:
N - Nurture (CE & Growth); O - Operations (Nominating, B&G, Personnel, Finance, Memorial); W - Worship (Worship, Communications, Outreach, Tech).

Next meeting: Tues., January 10, 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall.



DEACON'S CORNER

May peace fill your world, may love fill your home; may this year of new days be filled with sweet blessings.

Happy New Year!

We ended our year on a bright note with 18 Christmas visits. It is a joy to deliver Christmas wishes to you.

We also made 2 home visits, 6 nursing home visits, 4 hospital visits, and 7 hospice visits.

We gave belated birthday wishes to Virginia Shiffer, and assisted Pastor Jessica with one home communion.

Two prayer quilts were delivered and received with appreciation.

Finally, we provided transportation on 2 occasions and helped with the Kennybrook service.

Your Deacons (L to R, below):

Bev, Gai, Phyllis, Robbin, Susan, Joyce, & Bill



Robert Frost said:

"You can't get too much winter in the winter."

Or can you?!?!

**2017 Annual Meeting:
Sunday, Jan. 22nd**

First Presbyterian Church
410 S.E. Third St.
P.O. Box 289
Grimes, IA 50111
Address Service Requested

First Presbyterian Church
410 SE Third Street
P.O. Box 289
Grimes, IA 50111
Phone: 515-986-3720
grimespres1@hotmail.com

Find us on Facebook!
Search for 'Grimes Presbyterian'

**We are a people of faith,
called by Christ to share
God's Good News in today's
active world.**



Contact Information

Please join us on Sundays

8:30am Sunday School (youth & adult)

9:15am Worship

(an unstaffed nursery is available)

10:15am – Fellowship/Coffee

In service to the congregation, we ask that compliments, complaints or concerns please be directed to the appropriate committee chairperson as a first step.

We are sincerely, Your Church Session

Pastor - Jessica Wietzke

Email: grimespres2@hotmail.com

Office Manager – Erin Schmitz

Email: grimespres1@hotmail.com

Clerk of Session – Jacie Smith

Email: jaciesmith50@gmail.com

Financial Sec. – Mary Lou Friar

Custodian – Kyle Rosenberg

Organist – Colene Townsend

Pianist – Nancy Mitchell

Keith Workman

Robbin McClelland

Jane Altman

Bev Boyd

Jacie Smith

Marilyn Whitmore

Kristy Klyn (as of 1/8/17)

*Our Session committee structure will be
'under construction' during the start of
2017 - stay tuned!*

www.grimesfirstpresbyterianchurch.org