

First Presbyterian Church of Grimes

Pastor: Rev. Jessica Wietzke

WE ARE A PEOPLE OF FAITH
CALLED BY CHRIST
TO SHARE
GOD'S GOOD NEWS
IN TODAY'S
ACTIVE WORLD.



410 SE Third St.
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www.grimesfirstpresbyterianchurch.org

Melodee Grefe
December 5th



Mission & Evangelism Committee is taking donations of hats, gloves and socks for children and adults. Please place your donations on the Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. These will be distributed to local shelters. Thank you!



Please join us on
December 10 at 9:15 a.m.
for the **Youth Christmas Program.**
Enjoy our youth as they share
songs of praise and share their
talents during our worship service.
A special guest will be making
an appearance after the program in
fellowship hall with special treats.

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

We Are Sincerely, Your Church Session

Nurture: Kristy Klyn, Bev Boyd

(Christian Ed, Christian Nurture, Missions & Evangelism)

Operations: Keith Workman, Robbin McClelland

(Building & Grounds, Financial, Technology/Office Support, Communication, Memorial):

Witness: Jacie Smith, Marilyn Whitmore, Jane Altman

(Worship, Technology/Sanctuary Support, Nominating)

Regular Schedule of Session Committee Meetings:

- **Operations - December 3rd, 10:30am**
- **Witness - December 17th, 10:30am**
- **Nurture - December 17th, 10:30am**

Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

9:15am Service

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Please sign the attendance pads found in the hymnal rack and pass it to those sitting near you. You're invited to join us for friendship and refreshments in Fellowship Hall following Worship. Children are welcome in our worship service; however, a nursery is available for parents with young children under the age of 5 years. There is a speaker in the nursery so you don't miss out on worship.

Around Your Church & Community This Week

Today: 8:30am Sunday School
 9:15am Worship
 10:15am Fellowship Time
 10:30am Operations Meeting
 11:30-5:00 Fellowship Hall Reserved

Monday: 6:00pm Girls Scouts

Tuesday: 6:00pm Brownies

Wednesday: 6:00pm Cross Connection / Children's Practice for Program

Thursday: 8:30am PW Coffee @ Burger King

Weekly, Mon-Fri, 9:30am to 1:30pm—Grimes Senior Meal Site is open

Worship Attendance & Giving	Date	Attendance	Pledges	Other Gifts
	11/19	54	\$485.00	\$963.85
	11/26	62	\$490.00	\$493.03

(Figures represent offerings for the regular church budget).

Church office hours: Monday-Friday 9am-2pm

Pastor: Jessica Wietzke (pastor@grimes1stpres.org)

Church Office Manager: April Beck (office@grimes1stpres.org)

Sewing the Lord with Gladness

Today: Sunday, December 3rd, 2017:

Pastor ~ Rev. Jessica Wietzke
 Organist ~ Colene Townsend
 Pianist ~ Nancy Mitchell

Advent Candle Lighters ~ The Wong Family
 Communion Servers ~ Bev Boyd, Tom Wengert, Linda Wong, Kristy Klyn
 Ushers & Greeters ~ Vern & Bev Adams
 Offering Counters ~ Yalanda Clayton & Denny Rosenberg
 Coffee Hosts ~ Chuck & Jenny Emblen

Serving next Sunday, December 10th, 2017:

Pastor ~ Rev. Jessica Wietzke
 Organist ~ Colene Townsend
 Pianist ~ Nancy Mitchell

Advent Candle Lighters ~ The Heston Family
 Ushers & Greeters ~ Carl & Gaylene Lee
 Offering Counters ~ Yalanda Clayton & Denny Rosenberg
 Coffee Hosts ~ Leon & Jane Altman



Session Members		
<u>Class of 2017</u>	<u>Class of 2018</u>	<u>Class of 2019</u>
Bev Boyd	Robbin McClelland	Kristy Klyn
Jane Altman	Marilyn Whitmore	
Jacie Smith	Keith Workman	
Clerk of Session: Jacie Smith		

Deacons
Susan Ballard
Bev Boyd
Robbin McClelland
Phyllis Rosenberg
Gai Shields
Bill Sharp

Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love.
 -- Mother Teresa (now St. Teresa of Calcutta)

We gather to worship God

THE WELCOME, GREETING, & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are you visiting us? We're glad you're here! Please sign your name and address on the attendance pad as it is passed down your pew.

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

*Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* #135



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When Jesus spoke, crowds hung on his every word, waiting with great anticipation to hear what wisdom would come next.

People: May we live each Advent day filled with this same expectation.

Leader: May we wait and watch, expecting God's presence.

People: May we wait and watch, expecting God's surprises.

Leader: May we wait and watch, expecting God's hope.

All: May we wait and watch, expecting Christ's return.

*OPENING HYMN *O Come O Come, Emmanuel* 133 (vv1-2)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Come just as you are. Come to meet Jesus. As Mary and Joseph welcomed strangers and a host of heavenly guests to the stable, so God welcomes us with open arms. Give yourself over to the counsel of God as you confess your failings and shortcomings.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us. You gave us your light to dispel darkness. You gave us your Good News, that we may be filled with joy and hope. We confess we have not always welcomed your light or trusted Good News to be good. Our eyes and ears have grown accustomed to the fighting and hostilities, the unrest and crises, the struggles and pains in our world. We have come to expect that little can change. Forgive us for expecting so little. Remind us of how your love and grace can transform people, nations, and circumstances. Renew our hope and strengthen our faith. In the name of the Christ-child we pray, Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God's love was revealed to us in this way:

People: God sent his only Son into the world,

Leader: so that we might live through him.

All: Believe this good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*GLORIA PATRI - *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

"What Child Is This?" was written by William Chatterton Dix, in 1865 called "The Manger Throne". At this time, Dix worked as an insurance company manager and had been struck by a severe illness that resulted in him being bedridden and suffering from severe depression. His near-death experience brought about a spiritual renewal in him while he was recovering. During this time, he read the Bible comprehensively and was inspired to author hymns like "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!" and "As with Gladness Men of Old." This led him to write several hymns, including lyrics to this carol that was subsequently set to the tune of "Greensleeves", a traditional English folk song. The song centers on the Shepherds' visit of Jesus (another source cites the Magi/Wisemen), thinking of what they thought as they met Christ. The tune, Greensleeves, is a traditional English ballad first published in 1580 as "A new Northerne Ditty of the Lady Greene Sleeves." Its popularity is attested to by the fact that Shakespeare mentions it in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. The song (poem and tune) was only first published six years later in 1871, when it featured in *Christmas Carols Old and New*, a respected and influential collection of carols that was published in the United Kingdom.

Cross Connection this Wednesday, Dec. 6th @ 6:00pm: We'll practice for the Children's Christmas Program. The program will be performed during regular worship on Sunday, Dec. 10th.

Sunday, December 17th, 4:00pm:

Nurture Committee is sponsoring an afternoon of Christmas Caroling on December 17. We plan to meet at the church at 4 p.m. and share our music with Spurgeon Manor and Kennybrook Village. We will return to the church for treats.



Current **Grimes Food Pantry** needs:

We continue to need several items to restock the shelves: Pork-n-Beans, Chili Beans, Large Cans of Soup, Instant Pudding, Grape Jelly, Boxed Potatoes, Spaghetti, Corn Muffin Mix, Toilet Paper, Shampoo, Toothbrushes, and Toothpaste. In October the Grimes Community Food Pantry served 41 families which included 87 adults and 60 children for total of 147 individuals. Monetary Donations are appreciated at all times. The Grimes Community Food Pantry is a 501c3 tax deductible charity for all deductions. We thank you for your continued support of this community ministry! Donations may be made online at:

www.grimesumc.com/local/food-pantry.

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: As this season of “sparkle and bright” unfolds before us, the glimmering promises of hope lie like boxed jewels awaiting an adoring light, may we hold fast to hope’s patient possibilities.

People: **May we lift them high that they might catch the light of our dreams and shine bright in our broken world.**

Leader: And may we instill hope’s challenge in the hearts of our children that they, too, will live it into meaning—pouring their lives, as we do ours, into making it real—for themselves, for each other, for the world.

All: **May Hope light the world this Christmas. As we light this first Advent Candle of Hope, let us sing two verses from the hymn “What Child is This?”**

*What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.*

*Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
the cross he bore for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

SCRIPTURE READING

NT: **NT:** **Luke 2:8-18** (page 58; large print - page: 71)

VIDEO *Shepherds: Awake!* *CVLI#504043952*

SERMON

CALL FOR THE OFFERING (Bernard of Clairvaux who lived from 1090-1153)

“You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.” May we respond to this greatest of offering with our own offerings of our times, talents, and tithes.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN *What Child is This?* #150(vv.1-2)

***DOXOLOGY-** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, God of grace, for the way you have shown your love to us in Jesus Christ. As the birth of Jesus brought light and hope into our world, we pray that these offerings and the gifts of our lives increase your light in this world and bring hope to those for whom hope has faded. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

(We use the words ‘debts’ and ‘debtors’ in The Lord’s Prayer)

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Communion Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #133(vv. 3-5)

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Leader: All are invited to the Lord’s Table:

People: **the young and the old,**

Leader: the rich and the poor,

People: **the lowest and the least;**

Leader: sinners and saints together in communion.

People: **Come find your place here**

Leader: where there are no strangers or foreigners,

People: **only brothers and sisters in the sight of God.**

Leader: Let us pray

Distribution of the Elements

(Please take the bread and cup as it comes to you; when all are served, we will partake together.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: God with us, thank you for this meal in this season of hope,

People: **and for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.**

Leader: God of hope, fill us with your Spirit today, as we are nourished to be your body for the world,

People: **that we might have the wisdom to understand the mystery of this Table,**

Leader: and the depth and height and breadth and length of your love for us.

People: **Through this meal, strengthen us to be followers of Jesus, a community of peace in a broken world.**

Leader: With the angels in heaven we join in singing your praises:

All: **Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN** *Joy To The World* #146

*CHARGE & BLESSING

Leader: Our Creator and Redeemer did not plant the seed of this earth as if by chance

People: **It was your hand that placed it here**

Leader: Your plan to grow it here

People: **You did not populate this earth**

Leader: With a people made in your image purely by chance

People: **It was your hand that placed us here**

Leader: Your breath that keeps us here

People: **You did not come as a tiny child**

Leader: To walk this earth as if by chance

People: **It was your Love that brought you here**

Leader: Your Grace that saved us here

ALL: **And your Son who sends us out into the world to share this love.**