At my apartment complex, they’re expanding to make room for another apartment block. Lines are being laid, and the concrete road is now poured. One day, I noted that someone had left a mark on the wet cement as they were walking along. In my learnings during this time in our lives dealing with upheaval and pandemic, I especially this month think of our young people. Young people who’ve graduated and may still be looking for a job. I think of those in elementary who are waiting to hear how they will start school. What footprint will you make?

One of my favorite quotes comes from E.B. White (who wrote Charlotte’s Web), “Every morning I awake torn between a desire to save the world and an inclination to savor it. This makes it hard to plan the day. But if we forget to savor the world, what possible reason do we have for saving it? In a way, the savoring must come first.” We adults are often pretty serious and intense and need to lighten up. When I see you laugh, joke around, enjoy your friends, and have fun, you teach me to savor the world at the same time as I seek to save it. Never lose your sense of wonder and joy. Keep learning. Keep searching. Love life. Enjoy every minute.

You may think this odd, but I hope that you can embrace adversity when it comes. May you choose to gain wisdom through the struggle, for life is a constant process of growth, stretching, death, and rebirth. What will help you move through the difficult times is a supportive network of family and friends and the knowledge that God journeys with you and loves you no matter what. Doors that close can open up new worlds that help us to grow stronger and more confident. It was Ralph Waldo Emerson who pointed out, “When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.” Remember the God who poked holes through the dark with the light. Remember God loves you not because you are good but because God is good. What footprint will you make?

We will still bless our young people as they start another school year; however, we won’t bring backpacks this year – just bring yourselves and we’ll bless you all during this hard and exciting time. We will lift our prayers up on Sunday, August 23rd, during our outdoor worship service.

For the month of August, Session has voted to remain outdoors for our Sunday morning Worship Service. If we have inclement weather, we will cancel worship service. We will let you know about an hour before worship starts at 8:15am, through e-mail, facebook, or a phone call. We will also as a Session vote on a month of worship services, knowing we can’t anticipate everything that could or will happen.

Blessings, Pastor Jessica
AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

5th Cyndy Bolsenga
14th Susan Ballard
19th Shane DeJoode
20th Ellen Workman
     Chris Starnes
22nd Jane Altman
30th Ron Rosenberg

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

6th Joe & Arielle Flynn
7th Russ & Donna Miller
22nd Don & Joyce Hart

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Ushers & Greeters
TBD

Communion Servers
TBD

Offering Counters
TBD

Here’s a fun summer Sudoku puzzle for the adults! Find some shade, grab a cool drink and relax in the air conditioning with this fun puzzle!

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 7 2 1 5
 5 9 2
3 2 8
5 3 2
1 5 9 3
3 6 7
8 7 5
6 5 4
5 4 8
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# August 2020

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*On Mondays, Pastor Jessica works from home. Please feel free to still send emails if you need to reach her. The physical office is not open on Mondays.*
The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Grimes, IA, met in Regular Session on 07/14/2020 at 6:30pm at Pastor Jessica’s home. Rev. Jessica Wietzke opened with prayer and declared a quorum present. Here are some highlights...

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**
- Building and Grounds:
  - Brent reported that the air conditioning unit was inspected on June 5th. He also stated that the fire extinguishers were inspected and two had to be replaced due to being expired.

**Technology:**

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE:**
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed for Ellen Workman to serve as Financial Secretary.

**Christian Ed/Sunday School/Youth**
- Gwyn Heston has agreed to serve another year.

**WITNESS COMMITTEE:**
- Jackie Smith will chair the Witness/Worship Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**
- The Harvest Home Committee will meet to discussion options which are to either offer takeaway meals or cancel. The Fall Pie Sale has been canceled due to COVID-19.

Next Session meeting: Tuesday, August 11th, 6:30pm

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**DEACON’S CORNER**

August is like the Sunday of Summer. As the summer days are drifting by, remember summer is when laziness finds Respectability!

We have lost two dear women: Jenny Buckalew and Carolyn Workman. We extend our love and sympathy to their families. We will miss them.

We delivered food and muffins on two different days to Don Friar. He is recovering from a fall, we stood outside to visit and appreciate Pastor Jessica going with us.

Standing outside we visited Yolanda Clayton to say good-bye. She will be living with her daughter and family. We send books with her and huge reminder, to keep in touch.

We continue with our phone calls and cards. Seeing some progress with the virus we are hopeful we can begin visits with restrictions soon.

If a person first gives himself to the Lord, all other giving is easy.

August Blessings,
The Deacons,
Susan, Phyllis, Gai, Robbin, Bev, and Bill

United is the first word in our Country’s name. It is time we start living up to it. But that takes more than you or me. It takes WE!!
Think about these Ten Commandments!!!

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

2. So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.

3. Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

4. All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.

5. Old friends are gold! New friends are diamond! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!

6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"

7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.

8. A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"

9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.
Another way for our community to worship together is here! We have included in this newsletter (and going forward) our Worship Watchtower, which includes a prayer, scripture, and devotional to go with the sermon on Sunday. We hope this will include more people in our community to worship together.

We have had a great time coming together again outdoors for Fellowship time and then outdoor worship! We are practicing safe social distancing and are so happy to be able to come together again! Please join us each Sunday at 9:15am for outdoor worship on the lawn. We ask that each member use his or her own discretion as to what is best and most safe for each individual need. We will also continue to offer online worship at 9:15am as well for those that feel it is safest to still worship from the safety and comfort of their own home. Have a wonderful August everyone!
Prayers for Denny Rosenberg’s friend, Jim. He had LVAD (Left Ventricle Assist Device) surgery. It will help pump blood through the body. It is a 6 to 8 hour surgery. His wife was able to spend a couple of hours with him two days this week. She said he is in good spirits. He will continue to be on the heart transplant list. Please keep Jim in your prayers along with his family and medical staff.

Prayers for Aldo Forneris’ granddaughter Jessica and her husband. She was 4 months pregnant and they lost the baby. Prayers for comfort, peace and healing.

Prayers of healing and comfort for the Kapfer’s daughter, Rebekah. She has fractured her foot.

Joy and Thanksgiving that the Kapfer's son & his wife are expecting a baby again.

Joy and Thanksgiving for Virginia and Braxton. They adopted a puppy, Franklin, who likes to join Virginia when she jogs.

Prayers for the Crow's grand daughter, Mindy. She is having a bone marrow transplant at Mayo.

Prayers also needed for the Crow's daughter in law. She had knee replacement surgery.
Prayers for healing, comfort and peace for the Crow's grand daughter, their daughter in law and the Crow family.

On July 3rd, Jenny Buckalew passed away. She will be dearly missed. Prayers for her family, That God may comfort them, lift them up, and give them peace. Jenny’s

On July 8th, Carolyn Workman passed away. Prayers for her sons, Keith (and wife Ellen) and Kevin (wife Diane), that God's loving mercy will surround them and sustain them.

Prayers for Linda Wong’s mom, who suffered a stroke and will move from Omaha at the end of the month to a care facility in Red Oak, where her sister-in-law works.

Prayers for navigating travel and the pandemic for families with visitors from out-of-state.

Praise God for the response of your generosity in our offering plates these summer months.

Praise God for our first in-person, outdoor worship service! It was amazing to see over 30 people there!

Prayers for those looking for jobs.

Prayers for those waiting for surgery and other treatments.

Prayers for those in need of healing and restoration.

Ellen Workman’s dad, Earl, will undergo a heart procedure on Wednesday. Prayers for good results and that the procedure goes well

Prayer request from Maegan Goodson. Her neighbor Joanna will undergo back and neck surgery. Prayers for healing, health and speedy recovery.

Continued prayers for Jerry Crow. He had a fall and had to spend a day in the hospital. He is now at home and on the mend. Prayers for comfort and healing.

Prayers for Colene Townsend please.
Contact Information

Please join us on Sundays
9:15am Worship
(an unstaffed nursery is available)
10:15am – Fellowship/Coffee

Pastor - Jessica Wietzke
Email: pastor@grimes1stpres.org

Office Manager – April Beck
Email: office@grimes1stpres.org

Clerk of Session – Susan Ballard

Financial Sec. – Ellen Workman
Memorial - Susan Ballard
Custodian – Kyle Rosenberg
Organist – Colene Townsend
Pianist – Nancy Mitchel

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

Nurture: Carl Wong (chair)
(Christian Nurture, Missions & Evangelism)

Christian Ed: Gwyn Heston (chair)
Operations: Brent Smith (chair)
Buildings & Grounds, Technology, Memorial

Witness: Jacie Smith (chair),
(Worship, Communication)

Personnel & Nominating: Ellen Workman (chair)
Stewardship & Finance: Ellen Workman (chair)

www.grimesfirstpresbyterianchurch.org

Join us for service every Sunday at 9:15 am!
All Are Welcome!