FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Jessica Wietzke, Pastor

BIBLE STUDY starts this September!

Wednesdays at 6pm we’ll meet for prayer in Fellowship Hall; at 6:30 we’ll have our Bible Study

For this year's fall Bible Study, I thought we would pause our deep/intense study and instead focus on the times we are living in now. Sharla Fritz’ book, Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust. You can find it on Amazon, check Half Priced Books, and other sources. The price is at the most $14.99, and I’ve seen them for about half that at some websites. If you need help, please let me know. Otherwise, we expect this year that people buy their own book; however, if this is a hardship, please let us know and we can work something out.

Waiting can be agony. In our culture where almost everything is instant, we are accustomed to getting what we want now. So when our lives are put in a holding pattern, we squirm. But what if the waiting rooms of life are God’s best classrooms? What if the Holy Spirit changes us through the uncomfortable delays of life?

Waiting: A Bible Study on Patience, Hope, and Trust focuses on the lives of eight biblical women who waited and yearned and ached. The study highlights principles that make these times more bearable, and maybe more meaningful, even if it feels like God isn’t present or there’s nothing we can do. Learn how to surrender your worries to God, handle the daily-ness of waiting, and draw closer to Jesus. And even though this book is about women, of course all are welcome to attend. We will send out a zoom link as well, in case you aren’t comfortable coming into church.

- **9.16.20** Chapter 1 Sarah – When Waiting becomes a do-it-yourself project
- **9.23.20** Chapter 2 Hannah – When Waiting means letting go
- **9.30.20** Chapter 3 The Widow of Zarephath – When Waiting is on Your Daily to-do List
- **Tuesday 10.6.20** (Oct 7 will be Wednesday Warriors) Chapter 4 Esther – When Waiting doesn’t mean doing nothing
- **10.14.20** Chapter 5 Anna – When Waiting Brings Purpose to Your Story
- **10.21.20** Chapter 6 The Woman with the Issue of Blood – When waiting draws you to Jesus
- **10.28.20** Chapter 7 Martha – When Waiting writes a bigger story
- (none on Nov 4 because Jessica is on vacation & we have Wednesday Warriors)
- **11.11.20** Chapter 8 The 10 Virgins – When Waiting is all there is

Blessings, Pastor Jessica
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
3rd Nancy Kapfer
5th Brecklin Kruger
11th Grace Wager
12th Chris Sharp
15th Dana Grefe
17th Bob Heston
Chris Stockman
20th Jorie Smith-Kruger
21st Beth Johnston
22nd Grace Heston
Joan Rivers
23rd Ben Johnston
26th Claire Heston
29th Russ Miller
30th Mackenzie Derry

Happy Birthday

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
3rd Roger & Donna Stark
5th Bill & Connie Sharp
17th Carl & Linda Wong
19th Dana & Melodee Grefe

The church office is more or less adhering to our normal office hours of 10:00am to 2:00pm Tuesday through Friday, but it’s probably best to call ahead since our staff is trying to balance family and work like everyone else. That way too we can sanitize before and after, as well as ensuring we’ll have masks on before you’ll enter the building. Contact Pastor Jessica if you want to set up an appointment for Pastoral Care.

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Offering Counters
Sept. 6th TBD

Sept. 13th Phyllis Rosenberg & Bob Heston
Sept. 20th Keith Workman & Jacie Smith
Sept. 27th Gwyn Heston & Ellen Workman

Communion Servers
September 6th: Outdoor Service, no servers.

Ushers & Greeters
September 6th: Brent & Jacie Smith
September 13th: Brent & Jacie Smith
September 20th: Keith & Ellen Workman
September 27th: Bev Boyd & Gai Shileds

Blessing of the Animals
It’s that time of year again! We will be having our Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, September 20th @ 2:00pm (weather permitting). Join us with our Pastor on our church lawn! All creatures great and small are welcome!

Currently we are planning on having the Harvest Home Dinner on October 11, 2020. Unfortunately with Covid-19, it has been decide to only offer drive thru service. All help is greatly appreciated to make this event a success. Thank you in advance for your support.
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<td>6 Guest Speaker</td>
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<td>Worship on lawn: 9:15am</td>
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<td>Guest Vacation (through 6th)</td>
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<td>Worship: 9:15am</td>
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Welcome Back!
Back to School, Back to Worship in the Sanctuary!

We are so excited to be opening the Sanctuary for worship on September 13th at 9:15!!

We will be following CDC guidelines with social distancing and masks. We will be asking that every one enter and exit through the North entrance only.

Ushers and Greeters will be there to guide you to your seats and will usher you out after the service, so we maintain social distance. Hand sanitizer, masks and gloves will also be available.

We are asking all that are planning to attend to RSVP so we can prepare the sanctuary safely. If you could please respond to jaciesmith50@gmail.com by September 9, 2020 that would be awesome. You can also call the office and April will take down your RSVP. We are so excited to begin worship in our beautiful sanctuary again!!

*We will still offer online worship option for those who feel more comfortable worshiping from home.

First Presbyterian Church
410 SE 3rd St
Grimes, IA 50111

515.986.3720
office@grimes1stpres.org
http://grimesfirstpresbyterianchurch.org/

In-person worship starts this September!
We are so full of joy and thanksgiving to announce that in-person worship will begin in the sanctuary. We will do things a bit differently so we can safely get together starting Sunday, September 13th. And, of course, as with all church activities, these are subject to change due to the pandemic and other factors.

It will be a different way of coming together, with the health and safety of our members a priority. We are also looking to buy a Covid-Mister, which purifies the air and surroundings without hurting wood, or any surface. We would use this both before and after worship.

By your presence, you assume the chance or risk that you could contract Covid-19.

We would appreciate an RSVP, so we can plan our seating and socially distance our families. We will take attendance, since we need to trace everyone who was there on a Sunday or even during the week comes into the office. That way, if someone later develops symptoms and tests positive, we know who to call. And we ask you to please let us know if you test positive.

Churches provide spaces that can easily transmit the virus. Especially if we have so many members over 60, we want to do everything possible to mitigate the chances of spreading the virus. We also ask that children be accompanied by their parents if they need to use the rest room.

Pastor Jessica
The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Grimes, IA, met in Regular Session on 08/11/2020 at 6:30pm at Ellen Workman’s home. Rev. Jessica Wietzke opened with prayer and declared a quorum present. Here are some highlights.

**PASTOR’S REPORT:**
- It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the following vacation days for Pastor Jessica: Aug. 26 – Sept. 6 (3 days are con-ed days); Oct. 22nd;
- Nov. 2 – Nov. 8th; and Dec. 31st.
- Working with the youth to lead a worship service as well as getting options ready for Christian Education this fall.
- Providing pastoral care for those having procedures, surgeries, etc.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:**
**Building and Grounds:**
- Caps filled around concrete slab of entrance. Dirt added to low spots.
- Brent will check the roof for damage from the storm.
- Due to the loss of electricity for 48 hours, food was thrown out that was in the refrigerator and the freezer.

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE:**
- Ellen reported that she has been added to all the financial accounts, except for Edward Jones and she is scheduled to do that on August 12th.
- Ellen will be printing pledge receipts on Excel versus doing handwritten receipts which will still be distributed quarterly. She is tracking weekly and quarterly how the church is doing financially.
- Bob and Ben continue to work on the on-line payments.
- Meeting on August 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the shelter in the city park by the library.

**CHRISTIAN ED**
- Gwyn reported that they are looking at a virtual Sunday School for the children.
- Adult Sunday School will be addressed at a later date.
- It was the consensus of Session that Pastor Jessica do a Bible Study this fall on “hope” and at a later date return to the study of the entire Bible.

**NURETURE:**
- The Committee has been helping with Worship.
- Harvest Home: Scheduled for October 11th. Carl will meet with the Harvest Home Committee to discuss details and report back at the next Session Meeting.
- Blessing of the Animals: Will be held on September 20th at 2:00 p.m. on the east lawn. Jackie and Carl volunteered to head this project.

**WITNESS:**
- Witness will be meeting the first part of September.

**PERSONNEL & NOMINATING:**
- Will be meeting the end of September for a “check-in.”
- Brent and Gwyn have agreed to another one-year term on Session. Maegan Goodson agreed to becoming a Session member. The Nominating Committee is continuing to work on making calls for additional Session members.

Next Session meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 8th, 6:30pm
Encouraging Bible quotes to remember during this pandemic....

But when I am afraid,  
I will put my trust in you. 
~Psalm 56:3

Anxiety weighs down the heart,  
but a kind word cheers it up.  
~Proverbs 12:25

Are you ready to bake cookies or bars in September?

Our church will be donating desserts for the Central Iowa Shelter & Services on Saturday Sept 19.

Before Covid we would volunteer and serve lunch and provide desserts. They serve approximately 200 each day each meal. Please have your desserts to the church before Sept 18th. You can bring to church on Sept 13 or during coffee on Thursday Sept 17th.

If you have questions please let Robbin know. We will not be serving lunch the remainder of the year due to Covid – hopefully we can show support by adding to their meal desserts as they are not provided unless donated.

You can still drop off or send in donations through the mail if you are not comfortable coming to service to hand them in. Office hours are Tuesday - Friday from 9:00am - 2:00pm. Please call ahead if you plan on stopping by to ensure that we are here and not at a meeting, appointment, or running a church errand!

Mailed donations and pledges can be mailed to:

First Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 289  
Grimes, IA 50111

You can of course drop them off in our donation box if you come to in person service. We want to thank everyone so very much for all your pledges and donations that have continued to come in during this unusual that we have had to have services outside of the sanctuary. Your Support has been overwhelming wonderful and it is much appreciated.

Thank you,  
Ellen Workman  
Stewardship & Finance Chair
New member class

We are in process of scheduling an “Inquirer’s Class” for those considering God’s call to membership here. Together we’ll explore Basic Christianity, our church history, Presbyterian beliefs and organization, the purpose driven philosophy of ministry, and what it means to be a member of Grimes 1st Presbyterian Church. Attending the class simply means you are interested in exploring membership, not necessarily ready to commit to it. Contact Pastor Jessica if you are interested! The class may well meet by Zoom if participants are able to connect in this way.

Prayer requests to continue from the month of August...........

Prayers for Jacie’s neighbor, Vicki Langford, whose husband was found dead at home.
Prayers for family and friends who grieve this sudden loss.

Prayers for Janine’s sister-in-law, Kris, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Prayers for students moving into dorms for the coming weeks, especially Janine’s grandsons, was well as grandchildren of many church members.

Prayers for healing for Robbin’s cousin Charles who had a triple by-pass.

Prayers for Robbin’s friend, Renae, who has been hospitalized downtown for over a month after 2 back surgeries.

Prayers for Maegan’s brother-in-law, Mike, who is going through divorce with 2 teens ages 17 & 14.
Jacie’s cousin Erica has been diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer at the age of 22.

For farmers and crops damaged in the storm.

For a COVID-19 vaccine.

For Amber, who has started teaching 20 1st graders.

For those who have questions of faith and where God is.

Prayers for Bev Boyd’s 92 year old aunt, Marlys. She fell and fractured her arm. She is very active and has been living in her own home but will now spend some time in a nursing home until she can manage with her arm in a sling.

Pray for Sandy Urfer’s Father, Erwin, has been placed under hospice care. Prayer for this sacred time for the family.

Pray for Jerry Urfer’s friend, Gary, whose sister, father, and mother all have covid-19; his mother is in the hospital.

Pray for the family of Linda Wong’s high school friend, Jane, whose mother has passed away.

Prayers for Maegan Goodson’s friend, Tiffany, whose step-daughter, Lacey, is dying. Prayers for the drive from Colorado to Minnesota.

Prayers for Janel’s mother in law, Jean. She had knee replacement surgery. Prayers for a comfort and a fast recovery for her.

Prayers for Hailey Wengert Burton, off the coast of Texas. And also Cyndy’s daughter Kristen, husband Bo & daughter Emma, near New Orleans. Prayers as Hurricane Laura heads towards the coast. Prayers for protection & for those most vulnerable.
Hello September

Contact Information

First Presbyterian Church
410 SE Third Street
P.O. Box 289
Grimes, IA 50111

Phone: 515-986-3720
Email: office@grimes1stp.org

Find us on Facebook!
Search for ‘Grimes Presbyterian’

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.

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

Pastor - Jessica Wietzke
Email: pastor@grimes1stp.org

Office Manager - April Beck
Email: office@grimes1stp.org

Clerk of Session - Susan Ballard
Financial Sec. - Ellen Workman
Memorial - Susan Ballard
Custodian - Kyle Rosenberg
Organist - Colene Townsend
Pianist - Nancy Mitchell

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!