

# March 2024 Presbits

## Grimes First Presbyterian Church

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*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

-Matthew 5:3

*Dear Community and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Grimes,*

Years ago, a church I was a part of did a small group study of a book called, *The Question of God*. It was written by a Harvard professor named Dr. Armand Nicoli Jr. and in it he compares C.S. Lewis's and Sigmund Freud's visions of the world. If I remember correctly, each chapter was a specific question about God and Dr. Nicoli would present Lewis's answer to the question and then Freud's answer to the question. Freud was an atheist. Lewis was a Christian.

Along with the book there was a video series. The producers had gathered a group of Christians and a group of atheists to talk about each question in the book. I don't remember if the book was any good, I'm not necessarily recommending it. But I vividly remember one of the video conversations. The question had to do with how do we live a moral life? Dr. Nicoli asked the group of atheists a question, "If there is no God, what basis does anyone have for moral behavior? Why should we treat people kindly if there is no overarching standard? Without God how do we determine what is good or bad?"

I remember one of the atheists in the discussion made the comment, "I think, for me, the overarching way of understanding morality is 'do unto others as you want them to do unto you.'" And Dr. Nicoli said to him, "you know where that saying comes from don't you? Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount." Even the atheist had to acknowledge that the best basis for behavior the world has ever seen - what has become known as the golden rule - comes from Jesus.

In my personal devotions this year, I am doing a long, slow study of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. Next year, I plan to do a sermon series on these incredible chapters. The Bible Project is doing a study of the Sermon this year and so I am using their material to help structure my study. In their opening podcast, they listed the profound impact Jesus' Sermon has had on the larger culture in just the past 100 years. People from Ghandi to Dietrich Bonhoeffer to Corrie ten Boom to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, to musicians like Bono from U2 and Bob Marley have all quoted or been inspired by this teaching of Jesus. Even people who have nothing to do with the Church are familiar with sayings like, "Do not judge lest you be judged, " or "You have heard that it was said 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,' but I say to you: Do not resist an evil person. But if someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also."

The way I like to describe the Sermon on the Mount is: "This is what it looks like to participate in God's kingdom here on earth right now." These are the values of Jesus' kingdom. This is the type of life you begin to live when Jesus grabs a hold of you. So, for most of the year, my newsletter articles will likely be reflections on the Sermon.

The Sermon begins with this unexpected list of people who are considered blessed - these are the people God is using in the world. Blessed are the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, the peacemakers and the persecuted. It is not a list of the movers and shakers of the world. I think that is the point. God is up to something different in the world. The ways of the world, the ways of power and influence, are not the ways of Jesus. And so Jesus uses different kinds of people. I believe he still does. I believe the people and values of the

Continue on page 2

sermon on the mount are the people and values the world still needs.

I'm looking forward to sharing with you what I discover over the next few months. If you don't have a regular devotional this year, feel free to follow along at the Bible Project. They have weekly readings, videos and a podcast that provides a great foundation.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Doug

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**The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Grimes met in regular session on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Doug Basler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer and a quorum was declared.**

**Here are some highlights. . .**

**Building & Grounds, Technology:**

Chair, Melodee Grefe

- Finishing the organization of the Christmas items.
- The west door closure was adjusted.
- Furnace room is still a work in progress.
- Working on getting bids for repairing the gutters around fellowship hall and the pastor's office.
- Looking at options for the paper towel holders in the building.
- Tree removal and trimming will take place in the spring.

**Christian Ed/Sunday School:**

Chair, Janel DeJoode

- The first Adult Sunday School was held on Jan. 28th with the topic being "The Beatitudes." The video wasn't shown this time.
- An All-Ages Vacation Bible School will be held on June 25-27, 2024. The committee has a list of VBS times and dates for other Grimes' churches.

**Finance, Stewardship, and Memorial:**

Chair: Cyndy Bolsenga

Cyndy and Janel met with our Edward Jones' Financial Advisor, Tim Short. Our investments are

holding steady, and our diversified stocks have come back 75 percent in 2023. Last year we paid Edward Jones \$2,441.73 (40 percent goes to Tim and 60 percent to Edward Jones). It was reported that the dividends in the Buildings and Grounds Fund will be reinvested and the cash will be placed in a Money Market account within the Buildings and Grounds Fund. If the Building and Grounds Committee needs to withdraw money from the account, please give Cyndy a two business-day notice.

- Janel reported she should have more time this month to complete the Barbara Friar Coyle donation transaction.
- The amount of \$263 was donated at the Super Bowl of Caring. We will hold off sending a check to the Grimes Storehouse until after the February 11th service, as there may be more money donated.
- The Financial Reports were placed on file for later review.

**Memorial:** (Susan Ballard)

- No report.

**Nominating Committee:**

(Chair, Ellen Workman)

- Ellen reported that she will set up a "brainstorming" meeting with the committee members to discuss whether to search actively year-round or quarterly for Session members.

**Nurture Committee, Mission & Evangelism:**

(Chair, Jane Altman)

- The Silent Auction will be held on February 11, 2024. One pew (from downstairs) will be donated from Buildings and Grounds. One-half of the proceeds will go to PW for the Women's Tea in May, and one-half will go to "Pay It Forward."
- March 3rd will be Bingo/Potluck.
- The Easter Breakfast will be at 8:00 – 8:45 a.m. on March 31st.
- On April 7th the craft will be decorating cans for flowers for the Calvert's friend who has been so generous in providing us with wildflowers for different events. Cans and vases will be collected from the congregation.

### **Nurture Committee cont....**

- The Coat Drive continues. In January, 32 coats were collected.
- AJ has been sponsoring the collection of shoes for Soles4Souls. To date 72 shoes and 150 pair of socks have been collected.
- Jane is considering the possibility of rather than having a Book Club, joining the Grimes Community Book Club at the Grimes Library.
- The Walking Club will begin again in April. At this time, there are 7-8 people interested in joining.
- The Garage Sale tables are set up in the basement. There will be a donation box for those interested in taking items now.
- Jane is wondering if following the Friday Fish Frys, people might be interested in getting together once a month for a movie or to go to a restaurant.

### **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Doug Basler

- Pastor Doug reported that he visited Don and Mary Lou Friar, and went with the Deacons to visit Ora Austin, Marie Ballard, and Donna Stark.
- Pastor Doug moderated the Annual Congregational Meeting at both churches.
- Following a discussion regarding Pastor Doug's Bible Study, it was noted that it is acceptable for people to use their favorite versions of the Bible.
- Ash Wednesday will be held at 6:00 p.m. on February 14th at the Union Park Church followed by a soup supper. Meet in the church parking lot at 5:00 p.m. to carpool.

### **Personnel Committee:** Chair Ellen Workman

- Ellen reported she has dates for the quarterly check-in meetings.

### **Worship Committee:**

Chair, Cathy Fosselman

### **Worship Attendance:**

January 2024: 127

Average January Attendance: 32

Communion: January 7, 2024 – 42 served

- The Committee met for the first 2024 Worship



Meeting on January 19th. Ash Wednesday through Easter was discussed. Duties of the Committee were discussed and assigned.

- Maundy Thursday will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Grimes Church with a light meal to follow. Session members will be responsible for the meal as follows: pasta w/sauce – Ellen and Cyndy; and bread and brownies – Melodee and Janel. A collection will be taken to cover costs.
- Following a discussion, it was decided to offer hydrangeas and tulips this year in memory or honor of loved ones. Ellen will contact Earl May in this regard. Flowers will not be delivered and placed until after Maundy Thursday.

### **Old Business:**

- Melodee will send out electronically sections of the Operations Manual to the appropriate Committee Chairs to be updated and returned to her.

### **New Business:**

- Roxanne presented information on leasing a new copier from Access Systems or MIT. We currently are leasing a copier from MMIT. Janel, Cyndy, and Roxanne will meet when more information is gathered to make the decision as to which copier to lease. Session members will then vote electronically for the leasing of the copier.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Feb. 18th in order to vote on Chris Stockman becoming an Elder. Contingent upon this vote, Chris would be installed on February 25, 2024.

The March Session Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

### **Session Members**

<b><u>Class of 2024</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2025</u></b>	<b><u>Class of 2026</u></b>
Jane Altman Melodee Grefe Ellen Workman	Janel DeJoode Cathy Fosselman	Cyndy Bolsenga
<b>Clerk Of Session:</b> Susan Ballard		





## Maundy Thursday Service Shared with Union Park Presbyterian Church

On Thursday, March 28th, we will have a Maundy Thursday service at 6:00pm. Union Park Presbyterian Church will join us for this communion service. Maundy is from the Latin word for "mandate" and is a reference to the "new commandment" Jesus gave during the Last Supper - "a new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34). Immediately following the service we will be serving a meal of pasta with two kinds of sauce, bread, brownie and a drink. We are planning enough food to serve 60 people.

To help offset the cost of supplies we are accepting monetary donations. If you would like to donate, please indicate on your check's memo line "Maundy Thursday". There will also be a box at the back of the sanctuary for cash donations.

Anyone interested in helping serve the meal, please reach out to Ellen Workman. We are excited to be hosting this joint service!

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On Friday, March 29 - **Good Friday Vigil** - the sanctuary will be open from 9:00am until 7:00pm for prayer. We will have a sign-up sheet and you are welcome to sign up for a half-hour time slot to be a part of the prayer vigil. There will be a station in the front of the sanctuary with readings, suggestions for prayer, candles. We wanted to leave the sanctuary open after 5:00pm for those who might need to work that day. You can come anytime during the day and stay as long as you like but if you think you'll come after 5:00pm please sign up so we know to leave the building open and have someone on the premises.

## DEACON'S CORNER

### Happy First Day of March

Welcome to March—when the snow season gradually gives way to the mud season! This month we begin Daylight Savings on March 10th. March 17th is St. Patrick's Day and on March 19th the first day of spring. We end this month celebrating Easter on March 31st. A busy month for sure!

We have made eight nursing home visits. It was our pleasure to introduce Pastor Doug to Ora Austin, Donna Stark and Marie Ballard. We also, made two hospital visits.

We helped served lunch at the Homeless Shelter.

We held a reception for Mary Lou and Don Friar. They are moving to be closer to their daughter. We will certainly miss them but they take our love and prayers with them.

May the early spring  
Awaken your soul and  
Remind you to  
Celebrate the season with the  
Hope and joy it brings.



The Deacons,  
Gai, Robbin, Bev, and Bill



### Spring Ahead



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed **Saturday, March 9th.**

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY  
*Birthday*

March 4	Denny Rosenberg
March 6	Marie Hutcheson
March 9	Aldo Forneris
March 9	Janine Jensen
March 13	A.J. Altman
March 20	Donna Stark
March 25	Nancy Simmons
March 30	Robbin McClelland



## MARCH VOLUNTEERS

### Ushers & Greeters

March 3	Leon & Jane Altman
March 10	Carl & Nancy Kapfer
March 17	Dana & Melodee Grefe
March 24	Lyle Peitzman & Sheila Balbiani
March 31	Doug Laverrenz & Matt Velelis



### Offering Counters

March 3	Gai Shields & Bev Boyd
March 10	Denny Rosenberg & Janel DeJoode
March 17	Brent Smith & Ellen Workman
March 24	Cathy Fosselman & Robbin McClelland
March 31	Janel DeJoode & Melodee Grefe



### Communion Servers

March 3	Ellen & Keith Workman
March 28	TBD



### Coffee Hosts

March 3	Bingo/Potluck
March 10	Chris Stockman & Beth Hauersperger
March 17	Deacons
March 24	Carl & Gaylene Lee
March 31	Easter Sunday



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

*Happy Anniversary*

March 1	Rich & Janel DeJoode
March 10	Brent & Jacie Smith
March 12	Jake & Stefanie Wager
March 25	Kyle & Yvonne Rosenberg

## *Upcoming Events*

**March 3 (Sunday):** Bingo/Potluck;  
Building & Grounds Team Meeting

**March 5 (Tuesday):**  
Session Meeting

**March 7 (Thursday):**  
Coffee Club, 9:00am

**March 10 (Sunday):**  
Daylight Savings begins

**March 13 (Wednesday):**  
Bible Study, 6:30pm

**March 14 & 15 (Thursday & Friday)**  
Office Manager Out of Office

**March 21 (Thursday):**  
Coffee Club, 9:00am; Serving the  
Homeless, 11:15am

**March 24 (Sunday):**  
Palm Sunday

**March 27 (Wednesday):**  
Bible Study, 6:30pm

**March 28 (Thursday):**  
Maundy Thursday Worship Service,  
6:00pm (light meal after service)

**March 31 (Sunday):**  
Easter Breakfast, 8:00am; Easter Sunday  
Service, 9:00am







## Serving at the Central Iowa Shelter and Services

We will be volunteering / serving at the Central Iowa Homeless Shelter on the following days in 2024.

- **Thursday, March 21st**
- Thursday, April 18th
- Thursday, May 16th
- Thursday, June 20th



Six volunteers are needed. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or contact Robbin McClelland if you would like to help serve! Additionally, we are taking donations of homemade desserts to take and serve. If you are able to make and donate a dessert, please have it at the church the day before. Thank you.



Serving the Homeless on February 15<sup>th</sup>  
Carl Lee, Bev Boyd, Roxanne Wicks, CISS Staff, Gaylene Lee,  
and Robbin McClelland



On Sunday, February 25th Chris Stockman was ordained as an Elder and installed as a member of Session.



## 3rd Annual Bingo/Potluck



We will start around 10:30am on **Sunday, March 3rd** - playing Bingo and eating along the way.

Here are a few of the facts:

**Potluck:** Please bring food items (main dish, desserts, side dishes, appetizers, etc.) when you come to church and place either in the refrigerator, freezer, or on a designated table. If you need to heat up - there will be time after church. We have extension cords available for crockpots. We will provide paper products and drinks.

**Prizes:** The more prizes we have - the more games we can play! We are asking everyone to bring small, unwrapped prizes for the PRIZE TABLE. Some prizes in the past have been candy, books, knick-knacks, homemade treats, lotion, toys, etc.

**Bingo Cards:** We have MANY Bingo cards for those that want to use ONE or MANY. However, if you want to bring your own - please do.

**Bingo Daubers:** We will use the leftover buttons (Craft Club) to cover the Bingo numbers on the cards. However, if you want to bring your own dauber or marker - please do.

**Bingo Caller:** AJ Altman will be announcing the numbers in his own special way. He will be using a Bingo Cage.

## Bible Study - God's Big Story

**When:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30pm



## Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas

Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas are available for purchase to decorate the sanctuary in preparation for Easter.



If you'd like to order any of these in honor or in memory of a loved one, please place your order no later than **Thursday, March 14th**.



Click here to fill out the [order form](#). Send your order form and payment to the church office or place it in the collection plate.

March 31st from 8:00-8:45am



Easter  
Breakfast



\*If you would like to help, please see Jane Altman



Once again we will be participating in the Hwy 141 Garage Sale that happens sometime in **August**.

We have several tables down in the basement for those items you want to donate. So don't forget to bring in your unwanted treasures during your spring cleaning.



Every year we are given vases of beautiful wild flowers to decorate our tables at our Annual Ice Cream Social and to sell at our Garage Sale. If you have extra vases that you are no longer using or empty and clean Family Size Soup or Spaghetti Cans - please donate to the April Craft Day. We will be decorating these for the couple that donates all the flowers. Donation Box is in our Fellowship Hall from now - April.





## Congrats to AJ Altman for making All-State in TV News



## Nurture Committee and Deacons 2024 Coat Mission

We will be collecting new or gently used coats, jackets, and cardigans (for all seasons and all sizes) for the next 12 months. There will be a box in the Fellowship Hall to contribute to our fund. We will hang them in the basement until we dispersed monthly through the Grimes Store House (Formerly Grimes Food Pantry and Clothing), DCG School System, Homeless Shelter, and various other needs. Thank you in advance for helping with our 2024 mission!

**February —52 coats collected!**



Thank you to Carl Lee and his helpers for putting up the coat racks in the basement.

## Celebrating Ash Wednesday with Union Park Presbyterian Church on February 14th





# Silent Auction

**SOLD**

**Thank you** to the generosity of our congregation. The **Silent Auction raised \$831.**  
Half of this will be for the Mother/Daughter Tea this Spring and the other half for "Pay It Forward"



**Silent Auction**



**Silent Auction**



**Silent Auction**









## Craft Club—February 4th

### Valentine Mints and Flower Snacks





## Don and Mary Lou Friar's going away Celebration!



February 16th—Elkhart



February 23rd—Granger



First Presbyterian Church  
410 S.E. Third St.  
Grimes, IA 50111

MARCH



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activities.



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FirstPresbyterianGrimes,  
GrimesFirst1

## Contact Information

### Please join us on Sundays

9:00am Worship

(an unstaffed nursery is available)

10:00am – Fellowship/Coffee

**Pastor** – Doug Basler

Email: [dbasler@gmail.com](mailto:dbasler@gmail.com)

**Office Manager** – Roxanne Wicks

Email:

[officegrimes1stpres@gmail.com](mailto:officegrimes1stpres@gmail.com)

**Clerk of Session** – Susan Ballard

**Financial Sec.** – Cyndy Bolsenga

**Custodian** – Kyle Rosenberg

**Organist** – Colene Townsend

[www.grimesfirstpresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.grimesfirstpresbyterianchurch.org)

**Join us for service every Sunday at 9:00 am!**  
**All Are Welcome!**

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*

### **Buildings & Grounds, Technology:**

Melodee Grefe

**Christian Ed:** Janel DeJoode

**Nominating:** Ellen Workman

**Nurture, Mission & Evangelism:**

Jane Altman

**Personnel:** Ellen Workman

**Stewardship, Finance, Memorial:**




Cyndy Bolsenga

**Worship:** Cathy Fosselman



# March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Worship - 9:00am B&G Mtg - 10:30am <b>Potluck &amp; Bingo</b> 	4	5 Session Mtg. 6:00pm	6	7 Coffee Club 9:00am	8	9
10 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am 	11	12 Handbell Practice 6:00pm 	13 Adult Bible Study 6:30pm 	14 Handbell Practice 6:00pm 	15	16
17 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am  <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</i>	18	19 	20	21 Coffee Club 9:00am Serving at Central Iowa Homeless Shelter 11:15am-1:00pm	22 Worship Team Mtg: 10:30am	23
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am 	25	26	27 Adult Bible Study 6:30pm 	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Maundy Thursday Worship Service 6:00pm 	29 <i>Good Friday</i> 	30
31 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Easter Breakfast 8:00am Worship 9:00am 						