

April 2024 Presbits

Grimes First Presbyterian Church

“You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world.”

-Jesus in Matthew 5:13-14

Dear Community and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Grimes,

How would you answer the question: Who has the good life? What types of characteristics would you include? Ideas that come to my mind are: Healthy. Happy. Socially connected. Financially stable. Content. Having purpose. Close relationships. Freedom to exercise our gifts and talents. It would also be a lot of fun to play second base for the Cubs for a season or two.

There is nothing wrong with any of those things. It actually does sound like a fairly good life. But my list is a little different than Jesus' list. In Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is talking to a large gathering of people. And they aren't all healthy, although Jesus heals some of them. And they aren't socially connected or living in a stable situation. At the time, the Roman Empire was in control and they were at the mercy of whatever Caesar decided. They didn't have much power - politically or financially. They wouldn't necessarily be the people you would choose to start a revolution.

In Matthew 5:3-12, Jesus tells us who he thinks is living the good life. Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are those who mourn. Blessed are the meek. Tim Mackie, of the Bible Project suggests that the best translation of the word “blessed” in modern American English is “The good life.” Jesus is saying the good life belongs to the poor in spirit. The good life belongs to those who mourn. The good life belongs to the meek (or those without power). The first three beatitudes don't sound very good. Neither does the last beatitude (the good life belongs to those who are persecuted, Matthew 5:10). And maybe none of them are all that great — the merciful are usually taken advantage of; peacemakers, by definition, are in the midst of turmoil; hungering and thirsting for righteousness means you don't have it. Why does Jesus say they have the good life?

The reason Jesus says this ragtag group of people has the good life is not necessarily because of their present state - poor, grieving, powerless - but because of what Jesus gives them. Jesus says they will have the kingdom of heaven. And comfort. They will inherit the earth. And they will be filled and receive mercy. And they will be called the children of God.

I think the reason that Jesus highlights these characteristics is because the good life Jesus offers only makes sense to those who know they don't have it already. It is not because those who are financially secure or healthy or powerful (in worldly terms) aren't invited into God's kingdom, but because it is more difficult for those who are in positions of relative comfort to realize they are needy in the first place. And the gospel, by definition, is only for the needy. Jesus does for us what we can't do for ourselves. If we weren't in need, Jesus wouldn't be necessary.

Every once in a while, I'll hear someone say that they were taught that "God helps those who help themselves." And I hate to burst their bubble but that is the exact opposite of what the good news of Jesus is all about - the gospel is that God helps those who cannot help themselves. That is what salvation means - if we could save ourselves we wouldn't need help. But we can't save ourselves and so God gives us Jesus. The hurting and the broken and the mourning and those without power are the ones most likely to realize they need help. And so Jesus says they have the good life.

What is even more radical is what Jesus says next. This ragtag collection of people, the broken and the hurting and the poor in spirit, are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We will look at what it means to be salt and light in a future article. But let me try and summarize it. These are the people that are going to bring goodness and hope to the world. These people without power or influence or resources are going to be the people God uses to preserve and enlighten the world.

Jesus is inviting us to trust that the ways of the world are different from the ways of God's kingdom. And the powerful in God's kingdom often look foolish in the eyes of the world.

Lord Jesus, give us eyes to see.

Pastor Doug



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Grimes met in regular session on Tuesday, March 5, 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

- Carl Lee and helpers hung the coats that have been collected along the East wall of the basement.
- The refrigerator and freezer have been moved to the middle room in Fellowship Hall.
- Dana is going to try to repair the gutters instead of getting bids at this time.
- Batteries in Fellowship Hall smoke detectors will be replaced soon.
- Brent hopes to have the brush for the floor machine by Friday.
- The West door needs to be adjusted more.

Christian Ed/Sunday School:

Chair, Janel DeJoode

- Adult Sunday School—Janel is going to have Adult Sunday School after worship the last two Sundays in March. It will be more of a discussion of the day instead of a long study.

- VBS –We are planning multi-generational VBS for July 9, 10, 11. The time will be 6-8 PM. The possible theme is "Faith in the Wilderness". We will be serving a light meal followed by Bible story, small group discussion, crafts, and games.
- The Wednesday night Bible Study will be held through June with a summer break in July and August. We will begin again in September.
- Pastor Doug has an idea for Children's church during sermon. He will purchase the curriculum. After it arrives, we will plan a training session, recruit volunteers, and do background checks. We will have Children's church when young children are in attendance at worship.

Finance, Stewardship, and Memorial:

Chair: Cyndy Bolsenga

- The Barbara Coyle estate IRA money has been received in the amount of \$3707.83. The committee recommended the money be transferred to the Money Market in the General Fund to earn some interest—last month interest was 4.9%. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to move the money to the General Fund Money Market.
- The committee recommended moving \$15,000 out of the checking account to the general fund account to earn some interest. A motion was

made, seconded and passed to move \$15,000 to the General Fund Money Market.

- The new copier is in place, seems to work well, and costs less. The old machine will be picked up soon.
- The safe deposit box fee is due in May. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to close the safe deposit box at the bank and place the item(s) in our fire proof filing cabinets.

Memorial: (Susan Ballard)

- No report.

Nominating Committee:

(Chair, Ellen Workman)

- Next meeting March 15th at 11:00. Gai Shields, Robbin McClelland, Connie Sharp, Pastor Doug Basler, and Ellen Workman are the members of the committee. It was discussed that we would like candidates to commit to a three-year term or fill the term of the person they might be replacing.

Nurture Committee, Mission & Evangelism:

(Chair, Jane Altman)

- Bingo/Potluck—Everyone had fun, enjoyed the great food, and played lots of Bingo.
- Easter Breakfast-We will have Easter breakfast on Sunday, March 31st from 8 AM to 8:45 AM. Jane has everything ready to go: pancakes, sausage, egg casseroles, and drink. They will decorate sometime the week before. Planning to have cookies after worship for anyone who wishes to stay.
- Upcoming Activities--TBD
- "Pay It Forward" Requests. All requests for these funds should be given to the Nurture Chairperson. The Nurture Chairperson will bring the requests to Session for approval. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to provide \$100 worth of prizes for the Grimes Community Center Bingo games. Robbin McClelland will purchase and turn in the receipts to Jane, the Nurture Chairperson.
- The number of coats collected by the end of February was 52. The committee is talking about scheduling a time to pick up a coat. More information to come regarding dates and times.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Doug Basler

- Pastor Doug attended the February 10th Des Moines Presbytery meeting. One topic was a policy with regard to adding a social media/internet plan for the Presbytery. Each church should adopt their own policy or adopt the policy the Presbytery adopted. Pastor Doug will send us the Presbytery policy.
- Pastor Doug is thinking about holding a Men's Breakfast at the church once a quarter on a Saturday morning.
- Pastor Doug would like to have a gathering of the Session members to talk about vision and the church's future and our hopes and dreams for the church. It would be a brainstorming time for the Session first and then we would include others in the discussion. Pastor Doug will send some dates that might work in April. Melodee offered her home for the meeting place.

Personnel Committee: Chair Ellen Workman

- The personnel committee touched base with Pastor Doug and Office Manager Roxanne.

Worship Committee:

Chair, Cathy Fosselman

Worship Attendance:

February 2024: 185

Average January Attendance: 46

Communion: February 4th – 44 served

- The committee met on Friday, February 23rd and discussed the following:
- Ellen Workman has contacted Earl May regarding Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas. The orders need to be in by Thursday, March 14 and will be delivered Friday, March 29.
- Robbin McClelland will contact Boesen the Florist regarding Palm leaves.
- Maundy Thursday was discussed. A sign-up sheet will be put out for the congregation to help monetarily or with the dinner and clean up. Ellen Workman has had lots of offers to help.
- Cyndy Bolsenga, Brent Smith, Ellen Workman, Marlene Youde will work on preparing two pasta options. They will look into offering a gluten free option.

DEACON'S CORNER



Hello April,

April is a promise that MAY is bound to keep!

As we enjoy the sunny Spring days and watch “Mother Nature” create her wonders we give thanks for this delightful season.

Common Sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.

Three hospital visits were made along with four home visits and three nursing home visits. Lap blankets were taken to Spurgeon Manor and we delivered cookies to Calvin Manor's for their St. Patrick's day party. We helped once again with serving lunch at the Homeless Shelter. Easter cards along with phone calls were made letting our people know we are thinking of them.

Wishing you joyful April days.

The Deacons,
Gai, Robbin, Bev, and Bill

*A gust of bird-song,
A patter of dew,
A cloud and a rainbow's warning.
Suddenly sunshine and
perfect blue—
An April day in the morning.*

Harriet Spofford



- Paper supplies that are in the kitchen will be used. Items needed will be purchased.
- Jane and Leon Altman will work on providing drinks which will be iced tea and water.
- Janel DeJooode and Melodee Grefe will work on garlic bread and bars. Chris Stockman will provide a pan of bars.
- A plan for the nursery needs to be discussed and put into place for when children are at Sunday's services. (See Children's Church under Christian Education).
- We will have the Sanctuary open on Good Friday for those who would like to come in for prayer or reflection during the time in which Christ was crucified. There will be a sign-up sheet so that we can have someone at the church.
- We went over some new songs for Sunday mornings on the video screen.
- The next worship meeting will be March 22nd at noon. (Time may change.)
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to have The Ambassadors for a Sunday Worship Service in August, inviting Union Park to join us. A free will offering will be taken and the church will subsidize the offering to a make a total of \$300.
- Discussion followed regarding a concert by Matt and Ericka Corban, friends of Pastor Doug, who will be in town, April 19, 20, & 21. Pastor Doug will check with them regarding a concert on Friday or Saturday night. They may also help with worship on Sunday morning. Free will offering would be collected. The concert would start at 6:30 PM or 7:00 PM. Union Park held this concert last year.
- Discussion was held regarding Worship music. No plans in place at this time.

Old Business:

- Manual of operations –will be discussed at a later date.

New Business:

- Chris Stockman will serve through December 2026.

The April Session Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY
Birthday

April 9	Pam Rosenberg
April 12	Isaac Basler
April 18	Connie Sharp
April 29	Jay Basler



APRIL VOLUNTEERS

Ushers & Greeters

April 7	Gai Shields & Denny Rosenberg
April 14	Bruce & Marlene Youde
April 21	Carl & Gaylene Lee
April 28	Rich & Janel DeJoode



Offering Counters

April 7	Bev Boyd & Janel DeJoode
April 14	Ellen Workman & Melodee Grefe
April 21	Robbin McClelland & Cathy Fosselman
April 28	Dana Grefe & Brent Smith



Communion Servers

April 7	Gai Shields & Robbin McClelland
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Coffee Hosts

April 7	
April 14	
April 21	Dana & Melodee Grefe
April 28	Bruce & Marlene Youde



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary

April 5	Keith & Pam Rosenberg
April 8	Carl & Gaylene Lee
April 10	Don & Mary Lou Friar



Upcoming Events

April 2 (Tuesday):

Session Meeting, 6:00pm

April 4 (Thursday):

Coffee Club, 9:00am

April 7 (Sunday): Craft Club; Building & Grounds Team Meeting

April 8 (Monday):

Steffenson Funeral & Luncheon, 10:30am

April 10 (Wednesday):

Bible Study, 6:30pm

April 14 (Sunday):

Dale Harrell's Celebration of Life, 2:00-4:00pm

April 18 (Thursday):

Coffee Club, 9:00am; Serving the Homeless, 11:15am

April 19 (Friday):

Matt & Ericka Corban Concert

April 23-26 (Tuesday - Friday)

Pastor Office Manager Out of Office

April 24 (Wednesday):

Bible Study, 6:30pm



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, 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 March 21st—
Pastor Doug Basler, Cyndy Bolsenga,
Gaylene Lee, Gai Shields and Bev Boyd

Craft Club April 7th

Join us! We will be decorating cans, jars and vases. Afterwards we will give them to the couple that donates all the wild flowers every year 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.



Irish Deacons serving during Fellowship.

(Did they dance a jig for you?)



One Way Lane Concert April 19th at 7:00pm

Pastor Doug and Katie have friends from Washington touring the country and playing music. Mattaniah and Ericka Corban are musicians from Washington and will be here for a concert on April 19th at 7:00pm at First Presbyterian Church of Grimes (a free will offering will be taken). Ericka was a contestant on Season 12 of The Voice on NBC. They recently put out a new album called Calm under their Band Name: One Way Lane. Please join us for an evening of wonderful music and bring family and friends. You can preview their music on Youtube - search for One Way Lane Calm Album or Ericka Corban Youtube Channel. Mattaniah and Ericka will also help lead our hymns on Sunday April 21st.





The Nurture Committee and all their helpers are preparing for the Annual Garage Sale in August.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- Donate items from now till July by placing them on a table or on the floor in the basement.
- Bring in any unwanted moving or sturdy boxes.
- Shop yourself—there is a Freewill Donation Box at the end of the first table.
- If you have any questions, please contact Carl Lee or Roxanne.



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 and distribute them monthly to the Grimes Store House (Formerly Grimes Food Pantry and Clothing), DCG School System, Homeless Shelter, and various others. Thank you in advance for helping with our 2024 mission!

72 coats collected!



Bible Study - God's Big Story

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



Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2024

July 9-11

VBS for Everyone!

Faith in the Wilderness

What: VBS for Everyone! We believe that the church is most healthy when all generations are learning together and from one another. Therefore, instead of VBS just for kids we have VBS for everyone. For three nights (July 9-11) we will gather for dinner, a Bible story and discussion time, crafts, games and singing. And everyone is welcome - all ages from new-born to 110 are invited to join! (if you're over 110, we'll let you come too)

Theme: Faith in the Wilderness: Trusting God in Confusing Times. Do you ever feel like life is really complicated? Are you not sure where you're going or how you got to be where you are? Or that things are moving way too fast...or way too slow. The good news is you're not alone. In the Bible, God's people often find themselves in the wilderness -- the wilderness can be disorienting, scary, and confusing. But God always meets His people in the wilderness and, in fact, uses those times to strengthen their faith and encourage their trust in Him. Each night we will look at a story together and then break out into smaller groups for age specific discussion. We'll also sing, play games, make crafts and eat a meal together.

When: July 9-11 (Tuesday-Thursday) 6:00pm until 8:00pm.

Where: First Presbyterian Church of Grimes (410 SE 3rd Street)



Grimes Presbyterian Women's Annual

Women's Tea

Join us for an elegant affair filled with delightful conversations, exquisite teas, and a delectable assortment of sweet and savory treats.

Choose Joy
Psalm 16:11

Saturday, May 4th
11:00am - 1:00pm

You are welcome to bring a guest -
mother, daughter, aunt, friend, etc.



For planning purposes,
please RSVP by
Sunday, April 28th
515-986-3720

Ladies, please join us on May 4th from 11:00am-1:00pm for lunch and tea. You are welcome to bring friends or relatives. Reservations are needed for planning purposes. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall or you may call the church office. Reservations are needed by April 28th.

Thank you

Thank you!

I would like to thank my church family of Grimes First Presbyterian Church for the get well cards, phone calls, gift cards and visits while in the hospital for 15 days.

It's a blessing to be back home and able to attend church. *Bill Sharp*

Thank you from Cathy Fosselman

I am truly blessed to have all of you as my church family. Thank you so much for all your prayers, cards, gifts, texts, and calls. It means so much to me. You are all such a blessing and you'll never know how grateful I am.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, calls, and visits following my knee replacement surgery. It has truly meant the world to me. I am now in the process of mending which means a lot of physical therapy. I would especially like to thank Cyndy Bolsenga who is doing the videos for me, as well as Melodee Grefe who took the minutes at the last Session Meeting. I can't wait to get back to church and see all of you. Thanks again!

Love and Friendship, *Susan Ballard*



Easter flowers are given in honor of and in memory of those we hold close to our hearts, and to the glory of God, during this, the holiest of seasons. Our sanctuary will be decorated Easter morning with lilies and Hydrangeas, celebrating cherished lives and memories.



Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas shared this Easter season.

In memory of Dick and Patti Barnes; Arthur & Calista Adams; Halsie Barnes

- Vern and Bev Adams

In memory of Tom Ballard

- Susan Ballard

In memory of Jo Nicholas, Dan and Dorothy Bolsenga

- Dave and Cyndy Bolsenga

In memory of Clarence and Edith Brown

- Mildred Brown

In memory of Bill Hauersperger, Henrietta Bogan, the Davis Family

- Beth Hauersperger

In memory of Irene Osborn Wheeler, Jerry Wheeler and Cap Osborn

- Sharon Kramer & family and Shirley Shipley & family

In memory of past Loved Ones

- Carl and Gaylene Lee

In memory of Our parents - Harry and Luella Marlow; Fred and Dorothy McClelland

- Don and Robbin McClelland

In memory of Ron & Jodean Rosenberg, Robert & Mildred Morin, Maddie & Zoey Mickle, Ben Morin

- Keith and Pam Rosenberg

In memory of Joan Rivers, Tom & Dorthey Sharp

- Bill and Connie Sharp

In memory of William Hauersperger, Henrietta Bogan

- Chris Stockman

In memory of Raymond, Darline and Raedine Urfer

- Jerry and Sandy Urfer

In memory of Gus and Carolyn Workman

- Keith and Ellen Workman, Nick, Amber & Norah Leiting

In memory of Loved Ones

- Marilyn Whitmore

In memory of Riley and Adoline Telecky

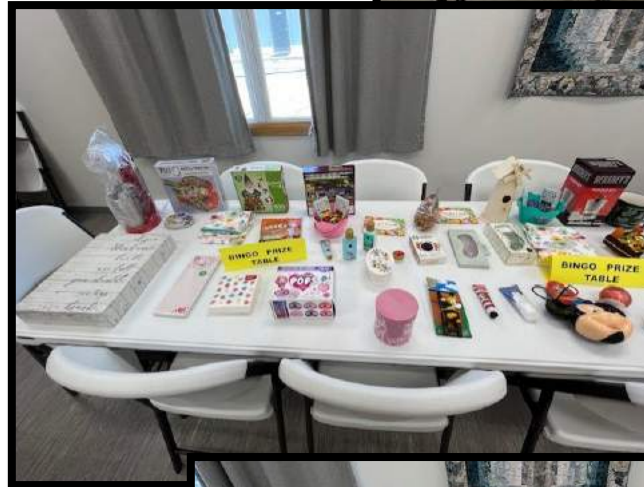
- Anita VandeVorde



We had 30 people attend the Potluck/Bingo activity.

It was another fun filled afternoon!

Potluck & BINGO







COME ON
CALLER
MAKE ME
HOLLER
Bingo!





Bingo

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APRIL



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Follow us on Facebook, Twitter,
and Instagram to stay up-to-date
on all of our fun events and
activities.



[First Presbyterian Church of Grimes](#)



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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

Office Manager – Roxanne Wicks

Email:

officegrimes1stpres@gmail.com

Clerk of Session – Susan Ballard

Financial Sec. – Cyndy Bolsenga

Custodian – Kyle Rosenberg

Organist – Colene Townsend

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:



April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Session Mtg 6:00pm	3	4 Coffee Club: 9:00am Girl Scouts 6:30pm—8:00pm	5	6
7 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Worship 9:00am Fellowship 10:15am Craft Club 10:30am B&G Team Mtg 10:30am	8 Steffenson Funeral & Luncheon, 10:30am	9 Christian Ed Mtg 9:30am	10 Bible Study 6:30pm 	11	12	13
14 Worship 9:00am Fellowship 10:00am Dale Harrell's Celebration of Life, 2:00-4:00pm	15	16	17	18 Coffee Club 9:00am Girl Scouts 6:30pm—8:00pm	19 Mattaniah & Ericka Corban Concert 7:00pm	20
21 Worship 9:00am Special Guest: Mattaniah & Ericka Corban Fellowship 10:00am	22	23	24 Bible Study Cancelled	25	26	27
			 Pastor Doug and Roxanne Out of Office			
28 Worship 9:00am Fellowship 10:00am	29	30	