

# June 2024 Presbits

## **Grimes First Presbyterian Church**

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:20

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

Last month we looked at Jesus' description of his disciples near the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount - "You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world" (Matthew 13-14). Notice, he doesn't tell the disciples *to be* the salt and *to be* the light. He says *you are* the salt. *You are* the light. It is a declaration. It is our identity. If we are followers - learners - of Jesus, then we will impact the world around us. In last month's newsletter I stole a line from Leif Enger's novel, *I Cheerfully Refuse*, to summarize what Jesus is saying: we are to "better the world by being in it."

In the next section of the Sermon, Jesus explains how we go about bettering the world. He says our righteousness is to exceed that of the scribes and the Pharisees. Those are three words we don't normally use in everyday conversation. Righteousness. Scribes. And Pharisees. So, let's get some definitions so we can better understand what Jesus is talking about.

**Righteousness** - is living in right relationships with others; first with God and also with other people. In Matthew 5:20, Jesus is using the word "righteousness" in the sense of living out God's vision for life - doing right by God and others.

**Scribes** - The scribes were the Bible teachers. They were educated in Scripture and would have been seen as teachers and experts.

**Pharisees** - Pharisees were the people who took the Bible very seriously, their desire was to follow God's laws as closely as they possibly could and they believed everyone else needed to as well. By Jesus' day this often became overly obsessive about the minor details and missed the larger picture.

Now, if you put these three words together, Jesus is calling his disciples to be better at living out God's vision for life than the teachers and the super-religious would have been. At first glance, this would have sounded impossible. How would people just learning the ways of Jesus live better lives than the experts?

The answer is that the experts did not have as much expertise as they thought. When Jesus says "our righteousness must exceed that of the scribes and the Pharisees," he isn't saying that we simply have to try harder. The Pharisees tried really hard. The issue wasn't effort or desire or dedication or even sincerity. The problem was they had missed the heart of the story. So for example, another time Jesus talks about the Scribes and Pharisees he says:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others. 24 You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel! (Matthew 23:23-24)

Jesus is declaring that the religious leaders were so committed to following the rules that they even gave 10% of their herbs and spices - your mint and dill and cumin. But the problem is, they had neglected the "weightier matters" like justice and mercy and faith. He makes a joke to help illustrate the point - it is like they focus so much on making sure there are no gnats or fruit flies in their drinks and get strainers and make sure there are no small bugs in the tea, but then go on and swallow an entire camel in the process. They obsess about the minute details and miss the big picture.

Now note, Jesus does say you should have followed the former rules (tithing) without neglecting the other rules (working towards justice and mercy). In other words, all the Old Testament laws still matter. Jesus never tells people to stop following the law. In the Sermon on the Mount he even says, "those who break even the [least] of [the] commandments and teach others to do the same will be considered least in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19). Which is why teachers - both back then, and pastors like me today, need to take this so seriously. Jesus' point is that the laws in the Old Testament pointed to something bigger about God and the world and how to live faithfully. The Scribes and Pharisees had missed the bigger picture and so in spite of their sincerity and dedication they were dedicated to the wrong things.

Living life in the kingdom of God here on earth does require commitment, faithfulness, hardwork and sincerity. But Jesus is saying we need to be committed and faithful to the right things. The next section of the Sermon on the Mount will look at several of these specifics. How can we take the wisdom of God's laws and apply it to the variety of situations we face every day and over the course of our lifetime? That is what we will look at over the next several months.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Doug

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Grimes met in regular session on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Doug Basler called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer and a quorum was declared.

Here are some highlights...

#### Building & Grounds, Technology:

Chair, Melodee Grefe

- An e-mail motion was made, seconded, and passed to award Tom Sauer Roofing, Inc., Urbandale, IA, the roofing contract. Estimated cost is \$48,905.60 with plywood at \$65 per sheet. There are soft spots on the Fellowship Hall roof which will most likely add to the estimated cost. Shingle samples were delivered. Pewter is the color choice.
- The insurance company sent a check for \$25,918.70. Our deductible is \$2,500. They held back \$4,062.99, but once we prove that we have completed the work, they will send us the remainder of the money. Fellowship Hall was

not covered because they paid in 2015, but it is believed the money was used to roof the Sanctuary instead of Fellowship Hall. So, the insurance company is paying \$29,981.68 for the sanctuary roof and gutters. The money has been deposited in the Edward Jones Money Market account.

- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the gutter bid from Contract Services of Iowa for \$4,593. The company will remove the gutters before the roofers begin. When the shingles are completed, they will install the new gutters. We need to pay half of the cost for the gutters up front which will be \$2,296.50.
- A discussion was held regarding financing for the roofing cost not covered by insurance. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay for the roof from the Building and Grounds Money Market Account and take the remaining balance from the General Fund Money Market (cash) Account. We will put articles in The Gathering Place and the weekly bulletin regarding the roof, and if members wish to donate money, they may





place a check in the offering plate with roof in the memo line. These donations will allow us to take less from the Edward Jones Money Market accounts.

- An e-mail motion was made, seconded and passed to pay \$55 per occurrence to Kyle Rosenberg for lawn mowing.
- The fire extinguishers have been inspected by General Fire and Safety for the year.
- Small dead tree and bush on the east side have been removed by Carl Lee and Rich and Janel DeJoode.
- There is not room for a ramp into the basement because there is not enough incline. As suggested by Roxanne, Melodee will mention a folding ramp to the Committee to see if that is a possibility.
- The B &G Committee is looking for black dirt to level out a couple of areas on the east side of the building. If we can get some dirt for little or no cost, the area would be leveled, grass will be planted.
- The Committee has talked to Keith Workman about painting the vent area above the air conditioning units and the outside door into the room behind the organ. He will put this on his list.
- There was a hole reported in the steel covering on the east side of the building. Brent will see if he can repair it.

#### Christian Ed/Sunday School:

Chair, Janel DeJoode

- An All-Ages Vacation Bible School will be held on July 9-11, 2024, at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Harvest Bible Church will be conducting their Vacation Bible School on the same dates. Pastor Doug will be preparing the curriculum. Carl Lee will be in charge of games. Roxanne will check with Robbin to ensure this information will be in Grimes Living.
- The Governors' Day parade will be on June 8th. Janel has ordered banners for Lyle's truck (4'X6') that will have the capability of putting interchangeable information on them.

#### Finance, Stewardship, and Memorial:

Chair: Cyndy Bolsenga

- No Report
- The Financial Reports were placed on file for later review.

#### Memorial: (Susan Ballard)

• No report.

#### Nominating Committee:

(Chair, Ellen Workman)

• No report.

#### Nurture Committee, Mission & Evangelism:

(Chair, Jane Altman)

• Jane reported that she received 17 surveys back regarding activities that members would enjoy participating in. Below is the schedule of activities for the summer months.

#### May

- $\Rightarrow$  May 5th Craft Club painting table holders
  - May 30th, 7-9 pm
- $\Rightarrow$  Iowa National Guard Summer Concert Series 2024 The Nadas Acoustic Duo

#### June

- ⇒ June 6th 7-9 pm Iowa National Guard Summer Concert Series 2024—Eli Alger and the Faster Horses
- ⇒ June 8th Governor Day Parade (Float) Jane is working on finding an area where church members can sit together to view the parade.
- ⇒ June 9th Rev. Dr. Doug Basler Graduation Celebration during Fellowship (Nurture Committee)
- ⇒ June 20th, 7-9 pm Iowa National Guard
  Summer Concert Series 2024 Standing
  Hampton & Classic Car Night
- ⇒ June 27th, 7-9 pm Iowa National Guard Summer Concert Series 2024—34th Army Band
- ⇒ June 6, 13, Walking Club meets at 6 pm to walk 2 miles (Prairie Creek Church parking lot)
- ⇒ June 20, 27 Walking Club Meets at 5 pm to walk (due to IA National Guard Concert Series - perhaps add Saturday morning at 7am)
- ⇒ June 30 Movie Night from 4-6 pm Fellowship Hall (Suggested movie: Family Camp)

#### July

- $\Rightarrow$  July 7th Ice Cream Making Party with Potluck 10:30 am
- $\Rightarrow~$  July 14th  $\,$  Ice Cream Social 4-6:30 pm

 $\Rightarrow$  July 26th - Start setting up for Garage Sale

#### August

- $\Rightarrow$  Aug. 2-3 HWY 141 Garage Sale
- $\Rightarrow$  Aug 11th Movie Night from 4-6 pm

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

• Pastor Doug distributed a draft letter to be sent to members of the congregation inviting them to a series of "Congregational Conversations," with the first being June 5th (Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.). The letter was discussed with a few suggestions for changes being made. Pastor Doug will send a revised letter to Session members for review.

#### Personnel Committee: Chair Ellen Workman

• No report.

#### Worship Committee:

Chair,

#### Worship Attendance:

April 2024: 172 Average Attendance: 43 Communion: April 7th – 43 served

- The Committee did meet in April. Pastor Doug will try to arrange evening meetings in the upcoming months as two additional people are joining the Committee who work during the day.
- On May 19th, we will have a worship song leader. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that we will pay him \$50. Session will then decide whether we should have him once a month in the future, and, if so, a fee will be determined.

#### **Old Business:**

• None

#### New Business:

- Following a discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed that \$500 from the Steffenson funeral donation will be directed to PW, with the remainder to go to the General Fund.
- Susan Ballard reported that a gentleman would like to attend our church, but he doesn't drive and uses a walker. He is in need of a ride

- to and from church. GVSS has found a ride for him which will begin on May 12th for one month. This man lives on North James Street. Wondering if there is someone in the church who would be willing to transport him to and from church?
- Discussion regarding a group in Grimes looking for church space to worship.

The next regular Session meeting will be Tuesday, June 4th, at 6:00pm.

# Session Members4Class of 2025

Janel DeJoode

Class of 2024 Jane Altman Melodee Grefe Ellen Workman

Class of 2026 Cyndy Bolsenga Chris Stockman

Clerk Of Session: Susan Ballard

### **DEACON'S CORNER**



Spring being a tough act to follow, so God created June.

As we welcome this month, we also welcome the beginning of summer, June 21st. Hopefully this season will allow us to enjoy the warmth of sunny days and summer evenings! Our visits continue, making eight home and nursing home visits and a hospital visit. We delivered desserts and helped served lunch at the Homeless Shelter.

We took carnations to Kennybrook to share with residents and employees on Mother's Day. Lap blankets were given to Maggie's Place.

Being together with you to share conversations and laughter is time we thank God for.

May June bring you joy, happiness and love -

The Deacons, Gai, Robbin, Bev, and Bill

And remember, some of the best memories are made in flip-flops!

#### **JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

- June 1Joyce HartJune 2Keith RosenbergJune 4Loyde LullJune 5Vivian KernsJune 9Colene TownsendJune 11Bev Adams
- June 21 Roxanne Wicks June 29 Rich DeJoode
- June 29 Rich DeJoc

#### **JUNE VOLUNTEERS**

#### **Ushers & Greeters**



- June 2Keith & Ellen WorkmanJune 9Doug Laverrenz & Matt Velelis
- June 16 Cyndy Bolsenga & Janine Jensen
- June 23 Leon & Jane Altman
- June 30 Vern & Bev Adams

#### **Offering Counters**



June 2Gai Shields & Bev BoydJune 9Denny Rosenberg & Janel DeJoodeJune 16Brent Smith & Ellen WorkmanJune 23Chris Stockman & Robbin McClellandJune 30Janel DeJoode & Phyllis Rosenberg

#### **Communion Servers**

June 2 Dana & Melodee Grefe



#### Coffee Hosts June 2 June 9 Nurture Committee June 16 Bruce & Marlene Youde June 23 Janine Jensen & Gai Shields June 30 Robbin McClelland

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



June 4 Keith & Ellen Workman June 8 James & Carol Calvert

Upcoming Events

**June 2 (Sunday):** Building & Grounds Team Meeting; "Dear Younger Me" performed at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1025 28th West DSM, 5:30pm

June 4 (Tuesday): Session Meeting, 6:00pm

June 5 (Wednesday): Congregational Conversations, 6:30pm

#### June 6 (Thursday):

Coffee Club, 9:00am; Walking Club, 6:00pm; Iowa National Guard Summer Concert Series -Eli Alger & the Faster Horses, 7:00pm

June 8 (Saturday): Grimes Governor's Day Parade, 10:00am

**June 9 (Sunday):** Rev. Dr. Doug Basler Graduation Celebration during Fellowship

June 12 (Wednesday): Bible Study, 6:30pm

June 13 (Thursday): Walking Club, 6:00pm

#### June 16 (Sunday): Father's Day

#### June 20 (Thursday):

Coffee Club, 9:00am; Serving the Homeless, 11:15am; Walking Club, 6:00pm; Concert Series - Standing Hampton & Classic Car Night, 7:00pm

June 26 (Wednesday): Bible Study, 6:30pm

**June 27 (Thursday):** Walking Club, 6:00pm; Concert Series - 34th Army Band, 7:00pm

June 30 (Sunday): Movie Night, 4:00pm

**July 9—11 (Tuesday-Thursday):** Vacation Bible School for Everyone, 6:00–8:00pm

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#### 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.

- CENTRAL IOWA SHELTER & SERVICES
- Thursday, June 20th
- Thursday, July 18th
- Thursday, August 22nd
- Thursday, September 19th
  - Thursday, October 17th
- Thursday, November 21st
- Thursday, December 19th

Donations of baked goods are needed for each date. One of the freezers in the class room has been dedicated for the shelter's baked goods. If you are able to make and donate a dessert, please have it at the church the day before. Thank you.

Thank you for all the cups that were donated to the Homeless shelter. Also, thank you for making desserts each month. We really appreciate the kindness of your baking and brightening the day of many individuals.



Serving the Homeless on May 16th Pam Rosenberg, Gaylene Lee, Bev Boyd, Robbin McClelland and Roxanne Wicks

#### 2024 Coat Mission Update

We have collected over 150 coats and cardigans since January. Our donations have helped Grimes Clothing Pantry, Waukee Clothing Pantry, DCG Schools, and Greenfield, Iowa. Our Coat Mission will end in December and we are taking any coat, cardigan, or sweater in any size and for any season. Our Church is helping those that are in need - YOU are simply THE BEST!



#### **Congregational Conversations**

Join us for a series of Congregational Conversations this summer. The first will be on **Wednesday June 5th** 

**from 6:30-7:30 pm** in the fellowship hall. We ask that you consider the questions below as a way to get the conversation started.

- How did you find First Presbyterian Church and why did you choose to stay?
- What is your favorite part of church life right now?
- Where have you seen God at work lately?

The plan is to spend an evening listening to each other and then to see where God might take us from there. So, save the date! Light refreshments will be provided.





Anyone wanting to walk - we will meet at 6:00pm every Thursday in June at Prairie Creek Church (formerly Methodist) and walk on the sidewalk to the high school. You can either walk 1

mile or 2 miles. Walk at any pace - bring your dog, walker, friends...just a chance to get outside and chat and walk.

#### **Grimes Governor Days Parade** Saturday, June 8th

If you want to sit with church members and watch the parade then place your chairs in front of the GVSS building and enjoy the parade with church friends.

There will be a freewill breakfast at the Community Center from 7:00am-9:30am Saturday morning.

If you would like to ride or walk beside Lyle's Vintage Truck - please let Jane Altman know.



**Graduation Celebration Rev. Dr. Doug Basler** 

We will have a Graduation Party for Rev. Dr. Doug Basler after church services on June 9th in the Fellowship Hall. Cake and refreshments

will be served.

A basket will be provided for cards.



Need a night free from cooking? Join church members at Tiger Bowl on Friday, June 14 around 5:30ish (arrive earlier/later) and eat with friends. Marlene and Bruce suggested this restaurant for the "Italian Tenderloins" but they have a full menu of chicken, burgers, salads, and pizzas.

> **Tiger Bowl** 205 Annex Rd Madrid, Iowa 50156



We need a new roof!

Earlier this Spring we noticed a leak in the main outside the office hallwav door. Upon investigation, it turned out that the Fellowship Hall roof is badly in need of replacing and there has been hail damage to the shingles on the Sanctuary. We had our insurance company send out adjustors to review the damage. Buildings and Grounds and Financial Committees, after looking at several bids, put together a proposal for Session. Session approved the proposal at the May meeting. The contractors for the new roof and gutters are Tom Sauer Roofing, Inc. and Contractor Services of Iowa. The estimated cost is \$53,498.60. We believe there will be additional cost for the Fellowship Hall as all the roofers have told us there are soft spots on the The insurance company will pay roof. \$29,981.68. The insurance company has sent \$25,918.70 and have held back \$4,062.99 until the work is completed. Session has voted to pay for the balance of the repairs from the Edward Jones Money Market accounts. If you would like to help cover some of the cost, please write a check with 'roof' in the memo line and place it in the offering plate. All funds received will allow us to take less from the money market accounts. Thank you!

#### Wednesday Night Bible Study **God's Big Story**



Bible study with Pastor Doug will end on June 26th and will resume in September. Please watch vour bulletin for the September start date.





On June 30 - we will have our first Summer Movie Night starting at 4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will be serving M&M's and Popcorn. Bring your own drink. In the past - some people brought their own chairs. Bring friends and family - all are welcome. Movie and description will be posted in the church bulletin.



Faith in the Wilderness: Learning to Trust in Troubled Times

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. Tuesday, July 9 through Thursday, July 11 from 6:00-8:00pm 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)

Please register beforehand if possible at 515-986-3720, (to allow for food preparation) however, we will accept new registrations each night.

> faith→

Save the Date Summer Potluck and Ice Cream Making Party July 7th

We will be making HOMEMADE ICE CREAM inside the kitchen and having a fun potluck and fellowship outside the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. Join us for our first Summer Potluck - we will eat, chat, and have some fun activities.



This event will be open to the community. We would appreciate donations and help to make this happen! A list of items that will be needed will be available in the Fellowship Hall. We thank you in advance for your generosity of time and supplies!

#### **Nurture Committee**



If you have a suggestion for a RESTAURANT (breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert), an EVENT, or an ACTIVITY - please tell Jane Altman. You can also place a note in her Session Mailbox outside Pastor Doug's Office.



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 wire hangers.
- Shop yourself—there is a 'Freewill Donation Box' at the end of the first table. <u>Many items are already boxed up</u> ready for the sale, these have previously been on display and will be put out before the sale for the congregation to look over again.
- If you have any questions, please contact Carl Lee or Roxanne.



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers, gift cards, cards, and gifts I received for Professional Administrative Day. God has really blessed me with a job I love and with beautiful people I get to work for.

Thank you for everything!!!

Roxanne Wicks

I have been blessed with my family and such amazing friends that have been by my side thru life's journey. I'm very grateful for those that God has placed in my path.

I plan to stick around for all the new adventures life has in store.

Thank you all! Bev Boyd



#### Friday, June 14th



#### Sunday, June 16th

Father's Day celebrates and honors the men who have embraced the essential role of fatherhood. On this day, we also thank fathers and father figures (uncles, grandfathers) for the sacrifices they make, for embracing the responsibility of nurturing and raising children, and for their devotion to their families.



The Office Manager will be out of the office on Fridays during the summer.

Pastor Doug will keep his same working schedule.



### CRAFT CLUB-MAY 5TH





Creating table signs for the August garage sale.





Spencer Meyer, song leader, lead the singing on May 19th during worship.





Saying thank you doesn't seem like enough but it will have to do. Brent, Don, Bev, Roxanne, Pam, Beth and Robbin, thank you so much for everything you did. The success of our Tea is due to all of your help. *Gai Shields* 

HOO

Thank for attending. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!







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



#### First Presbyterian Church 410 SE Third Street Grimes, IA 50111

Phone: 515-986-3720 Email: office@grimes1stpres@gmail.com



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







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

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

<u>Nurture, Mission & Evangelism:</u> Jane Altman

Personnel: Ellen Workman

<u>Stewardship, Finance, Memorial</u>: Cyndy Bolsenga <u>Worship</u>:



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



Sun	Mon	Tue 🕋	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Worship 9:00am	3	4 Session Meeting	5 Congregational	6 Coffee Club 9:00am	7 Office Manager	8 Governor Days Parade
Fellowship 10:00am Nurture Team Mtg 10:15am B&G Team Mtg 10:15M		6:00pm	Conversations 6:30pm	Walking Club 6:00pm	Out of Office	10:00am
"Dear Younger Me" 5:30pm				Eli Alger & the Fast Horses 7:00pm		<b>***</b> ***
9 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am Pastor Doug's Graduation Celebration during Fellowship	10	11	12 Bible Study 6:30pm	13 Walking Club 6:00pm	14 Office Markey Out of Out to Eat with Friends 5:30ish	15
16 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am Father's Day	17	18	19	20 Coffee Club 9:00am Walking Club 6:00pm Standing Hampton & Classic Car Night 7:00	21 Office Manager Out of Office	22
23 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am	24	25	26 Worship Team Mtg - 5:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm	27 Walking Club 6:00pm 34th Army Band 7:00pm	28 Office Manager Out of Office	29
30 Movie Night 4:00-6:00pm				1	I	1