

August 2024 Presbits

Grimes First Presbyterian Church

²³ So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24

Dear Community and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Grimes,

I remember David Powlison suggesting that the most basic definition of anger is: “I don’t like that.” We get angry because something is happening to us or to others that we don’t want to happen. We get angry when people cut us off on the interstate. We get angry when we are put on hold for thirty minutes with our credit card company. We get angry when a friend betrays us and gossips about us to other friends. We get angry when we hear about gross injustice or of innocent children starving. There is much in the world that we should get angry about. And there is much in our anger that is often self-centered, petty, or impulsive.

Anger is one of God’s attributes that we, as humans created in God’s image, share. God gets angry when he sees the nation of Israel cheating the poor in their community (Isaiah 1:15-17). In fact, sometimes God is angry because we are not angry enough. God says he plans to judge Israel in Isaiah 1 precisely because they are apathetic - they don’t care about the injustices that are happening in their community. The difference between our anger and God’s anger is that God is always righteous in his anger. God always has the full picture. God is never petty, or vengeful, or impulsive. God’s anger always moves toward good. Our anger does not.

In the last newsletter I quoted George Ladd who said that “the life which Christ came to bring us is the life of God’s kingdom.” If this is true and the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 is the fullest picture of life in the kingdom of God then one question is: what does anger look like in God’s kingdom?

Anger is the first case study that Jesus takes up in Matthew 5. In verse 21 he says, “You have heard that it was said in ancient times, “You shall not murder”...but I say to you, ‘If you are angry with a brother (or sister) you will be liable to judgment.’” We don’t have enough time here to look at everything Jesus says about anger. But I noticed two primary ideas.

- 1) Jesus clearly wants us to begin to root out anger in our hearts and not just in our actions. Murder is merely the tip of the iceberg when it comes to anger. It is the last stage. But Jesus wants us to root out anger long before it comes close to that final stage. Anger, insults, and condemnation are all steps along the way (5:22). When we cancel someone as a human being we are getting fairly close to murdering them in our hearts.

2) The first step Jesus gives in rooting out anger is to deal with it quickly. He gives two examples. The first is, if you are at the Temple giving your offering (which is similar to our church services but not exact) and you remember someone has something against you, stop what you are doing and go reconcile. The second example is if someone is taking you to court, reconcile the matter before you get there. The point seems to be that anger needs to be dealt with quickly. This is similar to Paul’s wisdom in Ephesians 4 about not “letting the sun go down on your anger.” Don’t let it fester. Don’t let bitterness set in. Don’t nurse a grudge.

The life of the kingdom of Jesus is as interested in the interior of our hearts as the exterior of our actions. We will see this idea repeated over and again in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is after our hearts.

You will get angry. I promise. Anger happens. And as I said above, some things are worthy of our anger. There is much that is wrong in the world. But there is also much to our anger that adds to that wrong. Jesus wants us to learn, with his help, to root out the anger that is selfish and petty and based on our own self-importance. He also wants us to reconcile as quickly and as often as possible.

One habit that followers of Jesus have used for centuries is called the daily examen. All it means is that at the end of the day take a few moments to think through your day. Where did you get angry? What caused that anger? Did you feel snubbed, forgotten, neglected, used? How did you respond? Was your anger justified? Is reconciliation possible?

The practice of asking these types of questions will help us figure out where anger is in our lives. And, to be honest, just being aware is a huge step in the right direction. Then we can bring our anger to God in prayer. And ask the Spirit to help us have the courage to take whatever next step we need to take.

Our world certainly needs less petty, impulsive, self-absorbed anger. And the world needs the right kind of anger to lead to productive, constructive change and not simply more yelling. May God transform even our anger into work for good.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Doug

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Grimes did not meet in July. The next regular Session Meeting will be August 6, 2024 at 6:00pm.

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

Wednesday Night Bible Study will begin again in September. Watch for updates.



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



Pastor Doug will keep his same working schedule.



Vacations

Pastor Doug will be on vacation August 2-6

Roxanne will be on vacation the week of August 19th and will be back in the office on August 27th.

Grimes First Presbyterian Church



August 2nd & 3rd

GRIMES FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

410 SE Third Street
515-986-3720

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 15, 2024
at 2:00pm



Come and join us
as we celebrate and bless our furry family members!
We will have treats, certificates, and lots of fun!



DEACON'S CORNER

AUGUST

Is like the last Sunday of Summer

“August whispers of Summer’s end urging us to savor each sunlit moment before the leaves start to turn.”

We enjoyed lunch with Carol Crow and delivered birthday wishes to Mary Lou Denker and Ora Austin, 102 years young.

We provided desserts and helped with lunch at the Homeless Shelter. We also helped with Vacation Bible School and the Ice Cream Social. Maggie’s Place received our lap blankets with much appreciation.

We attended the funeral and served the funeral luncheon for Carolyn (Carrie Lou) Roth.

We are so sorry that we have lost our fellow Deacon, Bill Sharp. He truly will be missed.

As the summer winds down let August be a month of gratitude and renewal.

The Deacons,
Gai, Robbin, and Bev



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY
Birthday

August 5	Cyndy Bolsenga
August 14	Susan Ballard
August 19	Shane DeJoode
August 20	Ellen Workman
August 22	Jane Altman



August 1 (Thursday): Coffee Club, 9:00am

August 2 (Friday): Garage Sale, 8:00am-4:00pm

August 2—6: Pastor Doug on Vacation

August 3 (Saturday): Garage Sale, 8:00am—12:00pm

August 4 (Sunday): Ambassadors of Grace; Building & Grounds Team Meeting, 10:15am

August 8 (Thursday): Bill Sharp's Funeral, Visitation 10:00, Service—11:00am.

August 11 (Sunday): Communion Sunday

August 14 (Wednesday): Worship Team Meeting, 5:00pm

August 15 (Thursday): Coffee Club, 9:00am

August 19—23: Roxanne on Vacation

August 22 (Thursday): Serving the Homeless, 11:15am

August 27 (Tuesday): Harvest Home Kick-off Meeting, 6:30pm

August 29 (Thursday): Coffee Club, 9:00am

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

Ushers & Greeters

August 4	Gai Shields & Brent Smith
August 11	Bev Boyd & Mildred Brown
August 18	Rich & Janel DeJoode
August 25	Doug Laverrenz & Matt Velelis



Offering Counters

August 4	Denny Rosenberg & Jane Altman
August 11	Bev Boyd & Phyllis Rosenberg
August 18	Melodee Grefe & Robbin McClelland
August 25	Janel DeJoode & Chris Stockman



Communion Servers

August 11	Chris Stockman & Lyle Peitzman
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Coffee Hosts

August 4	Donuts
August 11	Dana & Melodee Grefe
August 18	TBD (need volunteers)
August 25	Keith & Ellen Workman



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, 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

I would like to thank all those at the church who remembered me by sending me a card for my birthday. It was very nice to hear from you. Mary Lou and I miss seeing you at church.

Don Friar

Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated.



The Family of Carolyn "Carrie Lou" Roth

1st Presbyterian Kitchen Ladies ~

Thank you to all those who helped with the luncheon for mom. Everything was wonderful & your support to our family is greatly appreciated.

The Family of Carolyn Roth

Out to Eat with Friends

On Thursday, July 18th at
Cayannes' Café & Gifts



Sharing your Summer Fun

Please send any selfies, family or friends photos that you have taken during this summer! We will share all of them at the end of the month.

Sponsored by the Nurture Committee

Pictures/photos due for the 'Sharing Your Summer Fun' on July 23rd.



July 7th

Summer Potluck and Ice Cream Making Party



Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 14th

4:00pm - 6:30PM or until the Ice Cream is gone!

Yummy!

**A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT
FREE WILL OFFERING**

Beef Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Baked Beans,
Homemade Ice Cream, Cookies, Bars, Tea and Lemonade



Here's the SCOOP:

147 People served

34 Volunteers

\$1.022 freewill donations

ICE CREAM SOCIAL was a success!

“CONE”gratulations!







The Christian Education Team would like to thank everyone that donated food and volunteered their time to help at this year's VBS. A special thank you to Dave Bolsenga for grilling hot dogs for us during his vacation time and Betty Reed for playing the keyboard at opening and closing. We would also like to send a warm "Thank you" to everyone that attended VBS and made this year a fun and successful three nights!

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410 S.E. Third St.
Grimes, IA 50111



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Grimes, IA 50111

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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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchofGrimes)



firstpresbyteriangrimes



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:



August 2024



Summer Office Hours
 Roxanne:
 Tuesday–Thursday 9:00am–2:00pm
 (unless otherwise noted)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Coffee Club 9:00am	2 Garage Sale/Food Sale 8:00am–4:00pm	3 Garage Sale/Food Sale 8:00am–3:00pm 
					← Pastor Doug on Vacation	
4 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am B&G Team Mtg - 10:30am Ambassadors of <i>Grace</i>	5	6 Session Mtg. 6:00pm	7	8	9	10
→						
11 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am	12	13	14 Worship Team Mtg - 10:30am	15 Coffee Club 9:00am	16	17
18 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am	19	20	21	22 Serving the Homeless 11:15	23	24
	←		Roxanne on Vacation		→	
25 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am	26	27 Harvest Home Kickoff Mtg: 6:30pm	28	29 Coffee Club 9:00am	30	31