



# September 2024 Presbits

## Grimes First Presbyterian Church

“If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”

Matthew 5:29

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

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus moves from a discussion about anger (our topic last month) to comments on adultery, lust and divorce (this month) and then on to loving your enemies (next month). He wasn't afraid to tackle difficult topics head on. If we are serious about spending time at the feet of Jesus' teaching, we can't just pick the topics that are easy or comfortable. People in 2024 are still having sex and are still getting married. So, here we go.

As I did in last month's newsletter on anger, I'll begin with a disclaimer. There is no way to say everything that could be said about lust, marriage and divorce in a short article. If Jesus had a Frequently Asked Questions page, there would be thousands of questions that began with the phrase: "But what about..." This is why we are called to live "in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). There is no way to have a law for every situation life brings. We need wisdom.

I will also add a second disclaimer. We must remember that, as Majorie Thompson once wrote, "all the divine commands are life giving." That is to say, Jesus doesn't give commands haphazardly. His commands are intended for human flourishing.

Jesus' discussion of adultery begins, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'" This is a direct quote from the ten commandments. Then Jesus adds, "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart." In the same way that murder is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to anger, adultery is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to lust. Jesus wants us to begin rooting out potential problems in our hearts long before they become physical realities. Jesus' warning works in two ways. Disordered desires lead to disordered actions. But lust also reduces other human beings, created in God's image, to objects. Instead of loving our neighbors, lust denies them their inherent dignity.

Jesus follows this with two striking images about poking out your eyes if they cause you to sin and chopping off your arm if it causes you to sin. Clearly this is hyperbole. Jesus doesn't want us to literally maim ourselves. But it does show how serious he is about getting to the root of our struggles. Sexual desire is powerful. This is why advertisements have used sexually suggestive commercials to sell non-sexy things like car tires and Doritos. It is why men's magazines usually have women on the front cover and why shirtless and muscular men (with fabulous hair) are on the covers of romance novels. Because of that power, Jesus warns us to run from it. Adultery ruins relationships. It ruins families. It ruins churches - there has been no shortage of high profile pastors recently (and low profile pastors we don't hear about) who have destroyed their ministries and embarrassed the name of Jesus. King David's adultery with Bathsheba ruined his family. Jesus wants us to flourish.

Jesus moves from adultery and lust to divorce. In the first century, there were two competing interpretations of Deuteronomy 24. One teaching gave men free reign to divorce their wives for almost any reason. The other teaching restricted divorce to cases of marital unfaithfulness (see Matthew 19:1-12). As you can imagine, the first teaching put women in an impossible situation. Men had the power and divorced women had limited options to support themselves making them extremely vulnerable. Jesus expounds on this more in Matthew 19, but here in Matthew 5, he sides with those with the more restrictive view on divorce. This does two things. It upholds the integrity and inherent goodness of marriage. Marriage was intended to be “til death do us part.” It also protected women from impulsive and fickle men. He isn’t heaping guilt on women who already had limited power in their culture, he is protecting them from further danger.

Now again, this isn’t the only thing the Bible has to say on divorce. Specific situations need to be handled with wisdom and mercy and compassion. The center of the gospel is the grace of Jesus because nobody but Jesus has ever fully lived up to God’s vision for human flourishing. Divorce is not unforgivable. As Dale Bruner reminds us, “What God forgives, he forgives fully and thus forgets. So must the church...God Saves is Jesus’ very name, and he saves both by his tough Commands and by his forgiving Blessings.” But here in Matthew 5, Jesus gives six case studies of what it looks like to participate in God’s kingdom here on earth and two of them have to do with the integrity of marriage. Jesus took it seriously and so should those of us who take him seriously.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Doug



**The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Grimes met in regular session on Tuesday, August 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

- The sidewalk to the ramp was replaced on July 27, 2024 by JLC Concrete. A church member paid \$1,500 and the other \$500 came from the maintenance budget. The ramp railing was put back in place by Dana Grefe and Rich DeJooode. The sanctuary sign was hung on the ramp by Dana Grefe and Brent Smith.
- Denny Rosenberg and Brent Smith tried to repair the hole in the metal plate on the sidewalk. The metal plates were old and have been replaced with new ones.

- Denny drilled out the pencil holes in the sanctuary.
- The east side of the building needs the weeds killed and yard fabric placed down and covered with rock.
- Dead trees are on the list.
- Fill dirt and grass seeding in the fall. Denny had called for a bid on the dirt-\$400 from Frank Manning. Dana will check with his neighbor about dirt and get in touch with Denny. Delivery of the dirt should be close to the September 7th work day.
- Ramp has several parts that need to be replaced.
- Metal door on the east is rusting.
- Denny R. has Gene Grief coming to spray the weeds in the yard. May take more than one treatment because we have lots of clover. Denny will cover the cost of the first treatment.
- Dana replaced the ballast in the light in Fellowship Hall.

- Rock and matting will be placed on the west side of the building by the ramp and by the basement windows so that they don't get splashed with mud every time it rains. Rock will be placed north of the ramp by the sidewalk. Work day has been set as Saturday, September 7th at 8:45 AM.
- Handicap bars were needed in the men's restroom. Two were purchased and one has been installed.
- Air Conditioner isn't functioning. Kohles and Bach service call on Saturday, August 3. After testing, he told us that Freon is \$400 a pound and we need 8 pounds. The tech and boss will be out this week to look at the cost of a new air conditioner. Three bids will be needed. Suggested companies are Schaal, Des Moines Comfort, and Laser. Once we get the first bid, we will get two more that are close to the same so we can make an accurate decision.
- A date will be set for Cyndy, Janel, and Pastor Doug to begin work on the Stewardship letter.
- Cyndy asked the Committee Chairs to please work on and submit Committee budgets.
- Pastor Doug stated that he would like to address and get approval from the congregation in September for the cost change in his medical insurance policy. It was noted, that if the Committee Budgets are completed by that date, the Budget could also be approved.
- The Financial Reports were placed on file for later review.

**Memorial:** (Susan Ballard)

- Susan reported that she is planning to have a Committee Meeting to discuss what items are still remaining on the Committee's "Wish List," and also if there are additional items that need to be added. Susan would like to have this completed so that she could meet with family members to offer them choices for memorials donated (the Roth and Sharp families).

**Christian Ed/Sunday School:**

Chair, Janel DeJoode

- An All-Ages Vacation Bible School was held on July 9-11, 2024, which was a great success. There were approximately 35-38 adults and 10 children. Many members of Union Park attended.
- The Governors' Day Parade was held on June 8th. Lyle's truck had a banner that advertised the church. Thank you Lyle and Sheila. Janel and Rich set up a stand during the Car Show selling drinks and snacks.
- The Committee is working on being able to bring children attending church to the nursery for a story time, craft, etc. More to follow on this.

**Finance, Stewardship, and Memorial:**

Chair: Cyndy Bolsenga

- Cyndy reported that after reviewing a quote from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company, it was decided to stay with our current insurance company.
- Following a discussion regarding Special Offerings, it was decided to participate in One Great Hour of Sharing and the Christmas Joy Offering in 2025.

**Nominating Committee:**

(Chair, Ellen Workman)

- Ellen reported that she would like to do a presentation to the congregation in September to "recruit" future Session members. She will arrange a meeting for the Committee to discuss this.

**Nurture Committee, Mission & Evangelism:**

(Chair, Jane Altman)

- In Jane's absence, the following items were discussed that she submitted.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed for the following to be paid from the "Pay It Forward Account" from the profits from the Garage Sale: a \$100 gift certificate to a favorite restaurant to the couple who provides flowers from their garden to the church; \$100 to the Homeless Shelter Women's Drive/feminine products; \$100 gift certificate to Casey's for Michelle and Mike Mickle (Pam Rosenberg's daughter); \$50 gift certificate for pizza to Pam and Keith Rosenberg for watching their grandkids while Mike is recovering; and \$100 to Cross Outreach/Backpack Drive.

- The Garage Sale was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who helped! Approximately \$5,500 was made on the sale. It was suggested that for future garage sales, exits not be blocked in case of an emergency.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed, that Chris Stockman be reimbursed \$50 for restroom supplies that she purchased during the garage sale due to the fact supplies couldn't be reached in the furnace room.
- The sale of the sign that Brent Smith purchased is pending. Upon the sale of that item, the money should be returned to the Memorial Committee (could possibly be \$500). There was a discussion that the money had come from Building and Grounds, but when verifying that, it was confirmed by Roxanne and Susan it had come from Memorial.

**Personnel Committee:** (Chair, Ellen Workman)

- Ellen reported that she met with Pastor Doug and Roxanne for a “check-in” meeting.
- Ellen reiterated that Pastor Doug’s salary package needs to be approved in September as the medical insurance has been increased and will be in effect prior to January 2025. The other personnel packages could also be approved at that time as there are no changes.
- Ellen will send out the updated Office Manager’s Job Description to Session members for their approval.

**Worship Committee:** (Chair, Vacant)

**Worship Attendance:**

June/July: 170 Average Attendance: June/July: 47  
 Communion: June 2 – 47 served; July 7 – 43 served

- Reminder: Ushers need to light candles prior to worship.
- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay Spencer a \$100 stipend each time he helps with worship. The next time he will be leading singing is in September.
- We will have a Fall Kickoff Cookout on September 8th. A sign-up sheet will be forthcoming. Burgers, hotdogs, condiments, buns, and drinks will be provided. Bring a side to share.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the Committee Reports.

**Old Business:**

- None

**New Business:**

- Jane had asked if there was a church laptop that could be used for movie night. There is one available and Janel will ask Rich to update it.
- A discussion regarding committee chairs for events was tabled until the next Session Meeting.
- Pastor Doug reported that all Session members need to have “Boundaries Training.” There are two videos to be viewed and it may require two sessions. He will try to arrange dates for Union Park to join us for the training.
- Melodee stated that the Operations Manual will be updated in the future.
- It was approved that Janel can reserve Fellowship Hall on Saturday, Sep. 7, 2024, from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. for a bridal shower.



The next Session Meeting will be September 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

<b>Session Members</b>		
<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	Cyndy Bolsenga Chris Stockman
<b>Clerk Of Session:</b> Susan Ballard		



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

We will continue our survey of the Bible on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month starting September 11<sup>th</sup>**. I believe the Bible comes alive in new ways when we see how all 66 books tell one big story with Jesus at the center. This Fall we will pick up where we left off in June with the last two sections of the Old Testament (the Wisdom books and the Prophets) and by Christmas we should be moving into the New Testament. We have had great participation and good discussion. If you weren't able to make it last year, that is okay, you can join us anytime. **We start at 6:30pm and meet for about an hour.**



Please join us!



To our church family:

Thank so much for your prayers during Mike's surgery. We are so blessed to have so many wonderful caring people in our church. Thanks again.

God Bless!  
Keith & Pam Rosenberg and the Mickle Family

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Church family,

We are so blessed to be surrounded by your thoughts and prayers as we journey through Mike's health journey!

Thank you for the gas gift card that helps tremendously with travel to Omaha!

God Bless,  
The Mickle Family

## DEACON'S CORNER

HELLO  
*September*  
GOODBYE AUGUST

Thanks for the reminder that changes  
can be beautiful!

As we begin this Fall season, let us celebrate September 2nd Labor Day. Let us remember those we lost September 11th and the Autumnal Equinox on September 22nd where the day and night are approximately equal in length.

Five nursing and home visits were made plus two hospital visits.

Lunches were enjoyed with Carol, Marilyn and Connie. We look forward to our time together.

We delivered sanitary items and desserts when we helped serve lunch at the Homeless shelter.

We attended Bill Sharp's funeral and assisted with his funeral luncheon. We offer Connie and her family our prayers in their loss.

May the loveliness of this September month remind us of Fall's blooming and blossoming beauty.

The Deacons,  
Gai, Robbin, and Bev

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY  
*Birthdays*

September 3	Nancy Kapfer
September 11	Grace Wager
September 15	Dana Grefe
September 17	Christine Stockman
September 17	Renee Becker
September 20	Jorie Smith
September 26	Lincoln Wager
September 27	Katie Basler
September 30	Mackenzie Derry



## SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

### Ushers & Greeters

September 1	Robbin McClelland & Gretchen Derry
September 8	Connie Sharp & Cyndy Bolsenga
September 15	Janine Jensen & Marlene Youde
September 22	Leon & Jane Altman
September 29	Carl & Gaylene Lee



### Offering Counters

September 1	Gai Shields & Bev Boyd
September 8	Denny Rosenberg & Janel DeJoode
September 15	Brent Smith & Ellen Workman
September 22	Chris Stockman & Robbin McClelland
September 29	Janel DeJoode & Phyllis Rosenberg



### Communion Servers

September 1	Bev Boyd & Gai Shields
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### Coffee Hosts

September 1	Cathy Fosselman & Robbin McClelland
September 8	Cookout/Potluck
September 15	Marlene & Bruce Youde
September 22	
September 29	



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

*Happy Anniversary*

September 11 Dana & Melodee Grefe



*Upcoming Events*

**September 2 (Monday):** Labor Day

**September 3 (Tuesday):** Session Meeting, 6:00pm

**September 5 (Thursday):** Coffee Club, 9:00am

**September 7 (Saturday):** B&G's Outside Work Day 8:45am—12:00pm; Fellowship Hall Reserved 12:00—5:00pm.

**September 8 (Sunday):** Youth Bible Presentation; Building & Grounds Meeting; Cookout/Potluck

**September 11 (Wednesday):** Worship Team Meeting, 5:30pm; Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm

**September 15 (Sunday):** Blessing of the Animals

**September 19 (Thursday):** Coffee Club, 9:00am; Serving the Homeless, 11:15am

**September 25 (Wednesday):** Adult Bible Study, 6:30pm

**October 4 (Friday):** Wicks Bonfire/Potluck, 5:30pm

**October 6 (Sunday):** Craft Club, 10:30am

**October 13 (Sunday):** Harvest Home Dinner

**October 22 (Sunday)** Annual Pumpkin Design Contest

## 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, 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.

As you know we have been volunteering serving lunch and bringing wonderful home- made desserts for years at the Central Iowa Homeless Shelter. I believe once a month we brighten some long days for the people who need help in downtown Des Moines.

In August when we went to serve lunch they had double booked the kitchen servers and at first it was chaotic. We met the new staff person who is now coordinating volunteers. She asked if we would want to sort clothes and help in the clothes closet getting it restocked. We dove right in and helped organize and hang clothes on hangers.

This situation turned into another way we can help if anyone is interested doing monthly or a few times a year. I am looking into the possibility of during the same time some of us will serve lunch and some can be in the clothing area.

It is a very humbling experience seeing the faces of people less fortunate than we are. They can pick eight pieces of clothing/shoes/undergarments per month.

More information to come and I thank everyone in our congregation who keeps this mission going.

Robbin, Gai and Bev



The Worship Committee is hosting a **Fall-Kick Off Cookout on Sunday, September 8th**. To kick-off the Fall season we thought it would be fun to have a Cookout Potluck after worship. Burgers and hotdogs will be provided (along with buns and condiments). Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. We will eat inside the fellowship hall as soon as the burgers/dogs are finished on the grill.



Thank you to all who contributed food, helped organize tables, priced items, worked at the garage sale, donated items and bought items. We have a great Church Tribe and made \$5,039.97 at our **2024 Garage Sale!** Reminder: If you have a "Pay it Forward" recommendation - email/text Jane.

**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!

*All creatures great and small are welcome!*

**Outside Work Day**

The buildings and grounds committee is planning a work day on **Saturday, September 7th**, at 8:45am. We will be working outside of the building. We are planning to spread some dirt, grass seed, and rock around the building. We will be tearing down the fence around the air conditioning units on the east side of the building, etc. We could use some extra hands so if you are free on Saturday the 7th, please come and join in.



We are on the lookout for a new 7' pre-lite Christmas tree for the church. Do you have one to donate? Or if you come across one that is on sale, please let Jane Altman know (Nurture Committee Chair).

**Start lighting up your creative side - Pumpkin Decorating Competition is ONE month away!**

All members are encouraged to enter the Annual Pumpkin Design Contest! Your pumpkin can be carved, drawn on, assembled together, any size and/or color, etc.

Your pumpkin needs to be at the church no later than the 9:00am Church Service on **October 20th** for voting. You can create a pumpkin individually, as a family, with a partner, or as a group/committee! Have fun!





**BONFIRE/POTLUCK**

Out to Eat with Friends  
**Friday, October 4th**  
**at 5:30pm**

Bring your own lawn chairs and s'more sticks.

Hotdogs, Chips, S'mores and Lemonade will be provided

Bring a side dish to share!

Wicks

Alan & Roxanne Wicks  
 16347 240th Street, Minburn



**Our Annual HARVEST HOME Drive-thru Fundraiser Dinner is coming up!**

Our dinner this year will be Sunday, October 13th!

Whether your gift of time and talent is to cook/serve the meal, donate money for the ingredients, make/bring desserts or help clean in the kitchen/fellowship hall, any and all assistance is greatly appreciated. Please see the sign-up sheets in the hallway. Thank you in advance for your support.



**HARVEST HOME FUNDRAISER DINNER**

AN ANNUAL EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**4:30 - 7:00pm**

Turkey & Dressing • Mashed Potatoes & Gravy • Green Beans  
 Cranberry Sauce • Rolls • Pumpkin Pies

DRIVE-THRU ONLY • FREEWILL OFFERING

Bob and Jane's Wildflowers' Acreage





# Ambassadors of Grace

The Southern Gospel Duet of Dennis and Cheryl Perkins





**Garage Sale**  
**Friday, August 2nd**  
**& Saturday, August 3rd**





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



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

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on all of our fun events and  
activities.



[First Presbyterian Church of Grimes](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchofGrimes)



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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](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:**



# September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Communion Sunday</i> Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am	2 	3 Session Meeting 6:00pm	4	5 Coffee Club 9:00am 	6	7 Outside Work Day 8:45am-12:00pm  Fellowship Hall Reserved 12:00— 5:00pm
8 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am Youth Bible Presentation B&G Team Mtg - 10:30am <b>Cookout/Potluck</b>	9	10	11 Worship Team Meeting, 5:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm 	12	13	14
15 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am <b>Blessing of the Animals</b> 2:00pm 	16	17	18	19 Coffee Club 9:00am  Serving the Homeless 11:15am	20	21
22 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am Worship Team Mtg - 10:30am	23	24	25 Adult Bible Study 6:30pm 	26	27	28
29 Worship - 9:00am Fellowship - 10:00am	30					