

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

Glidden, Iowa 712-659-3721

December 2009



What does Joy look like? How would you describe it? If you had to come with an explanation of joy, what would it be? Is it a mother holding her newborn child? Maybe it is that huge grin of a groom when he watches as his bride is walking down the aisle on their wedding day.

Joy is an interesting emotion. It is hard to explain and put into words, yet when you see it, it's unmistakable and unforgettable. We have all felt it. What would you say the symbol of joy is? Right or wrong, the U.S. dollar might be the best sign for many people. It is hard to argue against the emotional influence of money. So many people would consider Christmas to be the most joyful time of the year. Christmas and joy go together! Christmas and spending money go together like peanut butter and jelly or Regis and Kelly— well, you get the picture.

Our Christmas Joy is found getting presents and waiting for those bonuses! Just ask Clark Griswold from National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation about Christmas Joy, and he will tell you about his Christmas bonus.

Here is the problem. The Bible paints an entirely different picture of joy. It truly is a picture that is disconnected from symbols that we are so familiar with today. It's not to say that giving gifts and having possessions are bad. Giving gifts is great, and receiving them is great. And money is often a means of temporary peace and stability and blessing and fulfillment. But that is not joy...at least not biblical joy.

Zephaniah is one of those underappreciated prophets of the Old Testament. He reminds the people of Israel of their need to turn away from the other earthly gods they have been going after. If they fail to do

so, Zephaniah says, one day all the temporary joys that have been pursuing will fade away.

But in the closing words of his message, Zephaniah offers an incredible picture of joy. He speaks of a day when men and women will sing aloud and shout and they will be glad and rejoice with all their hearts. This true, authentic joy, will well up in the people not as a result of having enough money or achievement. No, this lasting joy will flow from the fact that God has found his joy in us.


Real joy comes from knowing that "The Lord your God is with you" and that "He is mighty to save." The joy comes from knowing that God Himself delights in you and that "he will rejoice over you with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17)

The real joy for the celebration of Jesus is because in his arrival, God tells us that the "days of joy" have come! In Jesus' arrival, our King has come into our midst and our sins are now forgiven. Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God has forgiven and forgotten it all!

This Christmas, may we do what is often overlooked and underappreciated! Let's join together and sing with Zephaniah, for our real joy, Jesus has arrived.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Pastor Mike



Ten Free Gifts For Christmas

The gift of *LISTENING*-

1. Why not give this valuable gift to someone who lives alone? And you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your responses. **JUST LISTEN.**

The gift of *SIGNS OF AFFECTIONS*-

2. Be generous with your hugs, kisses, and gentle squeezes of the hand. Let these tiny actions demonstrate the love inside **YOU.**

The gift of a *NOTE*-

3. It can be as simple as "I Love You" or as creative as a sonnet. Put your notes where they will surprise your loved ones.

The gift of *LAUGHTER*-

4. Just cut out a cartoon, say a clever article. Your gift will say "I live to laugh with you."

The gift of *COMPLIMENT*-

5. A simple "You look good in blue" or "I like your hair" or "Good supper, honey" can be of greatest value to those who may feel they are being taken for granted.

The gift of *FAVOR*-

6. Help with dishes, clean out the basement, etc.

The gift of *LEAVING ALONE*-

7. There are times in our lives when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Become more sensitive to those times and give solitude.

The gift of a *CHEERFUL DISPOSITION*-

8. Try to be cheerful around those you love especially.

The gift of *GAME*-

9. Offer to play your loved one's favorite game. Even if you lose, you'll be a winner.

The gift of *PRAYER*-

10. Pray for those people on your Christmas list and let them know that you pray for them. Praying for someone in a way of saying, "You are so special to me that I talk to God about you."



Have a Merry Christmas!

Lectors: Lora Reeve (1st & 2nd)

Joyce Conner (2nd & 3rd)

Acoloytes: Ethan & Cooper Mueggenberg

Ushers: Larry & Charlotte DeVries



*To My Presbyterian Church
Family,*

*I'm grateful for your prayers,
cards and the pretty maroon-
gold mum plant.*

*Thank You,
Nadine Lindsay*

Pulpit Supply

Barb Huisman will be our Pulpit supply for January and February. She will be gone on January 31 and a Sunday in February when she will be ordained.

Financial Report

October 2009

	This Month	Year to Date	Budget
Balance Forward	9699.14	17296.53	0.00
<i>Income</i>			
Adult Giving	3147.00	34314.50	0.00
Loose Offering	64.00	873.32	0.00
Preschool	0.00	375.00	0.00
Special Offerings	25.00	1219.57	0.00
Memorials	0.00	0.00	0.00
Flowers	0.00	63.00	0.00
Transfers In	0.00	9716.19	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	3236.00	46561.80	0.00
<i>Expenses</i>			
Ministry	2766.66	27741.66	34160.00
Operations	444.83	10217.04	18325.00
Parish Life	0.00	0.00	500.00
Stewardship	0.00	0.00	100.00
Christian Ed	90.81	564.99	3000.00
Worship	104.00	214.24	1000.00
Missions	285.00	4044.57	5420.00
Per Capita	0.00	2517.12	2240.25
Transfers	0.00	9314.87	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	3691.30	54614.49	64745.25
ENDING BALANCE	9243.84	9243.84	



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lora Reeve— 1st

Harry Reeve— 3rd

Larry DeVries— 6th

Shirley Seaman— 10th

Bob Wagner— 12th

Charley Newman— 12th

Ethan Determann— 12th

Tami Burdine— 13th

Weston Conner— 13th

Judy Reeve— 17th

Phyllis Bender— 18th

Kirsten Stidham— 21st

Lillian Draves— 28th

Shelly Strahl— 28th

Tim & Lora Reeve— 30th

Annual Report

The Power of Change! The writer of the Gospel of Mark is more than convinced that change has come into the world, and we cannot control it! God has broken into human history, calling new followers, and transforming the way that we perceive God working in the world. I truly believe the Gospel of Mark proclaims a compelling and inspiring and sometimes frightening change. The kingdom of God has broken into the present age!

This past year, 2009, we have experienced many changes that have been inspiring, as well as frightening. We have been inspired by the many people in the congregation that step up and make things happen! We have seen young families joining the church and becoming involved in the life of the church. May we encourage them and equip them as disciples of Christ.

As I leave as your pastor, I want to express my deep appreciation to you and to Christ Jesus for giving me the opportunity to serve in His name. I was honored to serve among you in the joys and in the sorrows! This past year, has been a year of transition. Though the future, at times, may look frightening, we are reminded of God's power! The Power of Transformation! A defining message of Mark is that "everything is possible with God" (Mark 10:27; 14:36). God is moving in new directions as we look for ways to serve each other in the name of Jesus Christ. As we look toward 2010 we know that the resounding message of Mark is our message at First Presbyterian Church, Glidden. It is a message that the new has broken into the old, changing both the community and the world and our perceptions of God's action in it. As you review this report, may the Holy Spirit inspire you to be a part of the power of change in this community of faith through Jesus Christ!

—Pastor Mike





*From home to home, and heart to heart, from
one place to another. The warmth and joy of
Christmas, brings us closer to each other.*

- Emily Matthews

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Lora Reeve	2	3 Harry Reeve	4	5
6 Larry DeVries	7	8	9	10 Shirley Seaman	11	12 Bob Wagner Charley Newman Ethan Determann
13 Tami Burdine Weston Conner	14	15	16	17 Judy Reeve	18 Phyllis Bender	19
20	21 Kirsten Stidham	22	23	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26
27	28 Lillian Draves Shelly Strahl	29	30 Tim & Lora Reeve	31		