

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

June 2016

Spring

Growing up, I was always smaller than the other kids. In second grade I became familiar with terms like “bone age,” “growth hormone deficiency syndrome,” “pituitary gland,” and “Synthetic HGH.” It was never a very big deal to me. I had a medical condition that caused me to be shorter than I should be, so I had to get daily shots to fix it. I just assumed that all children who were behind in their bone age would be treated exactly the same as I was. In fact, it was kind of fun being the cutest kid my elementary school had ever seen.

It didn’t matter, except at amusement parks. I had to wait two extra years to ride the best rides. It didn’t matter, except in little-league baseball games. I never could hit a home run. I could bat just as well as the next kid, but I couldn’t hit the ball hard enough to get it over the fence. Those are the things I remember, but I think that the truth was probably a bit more complicated.

There was a point in my young life when either my parents or my pediatrician had to realize that I was even shorter than I should be (my parents are 5’7” and 5’1”; no one was expecting a giant). They had to have health insurance that covered HGH deficiency (many plans do not). They had to know how to fight back when the insurance company tried to end my treatment before our doctor thought it was complete. They probably had to do jump through hoops that I never knew existed, just so that their son could be laughably short, rather than uncomfortably so.

It was never that big of a deal to me growing up; but, as an adult, I realize that my parents did far more for me than I ever understood. I suspect that we all discover this when we reach adulthood. Our parents do far more for us than we know, and there is no greater head start in life than being blessed with good parents.

May and June are the months when we formally recognize our parents with kitschy holidays. We buy them cards, make the requisite phone calls, and have a family dinner. Mother’s Day and Father’s Day don’t do much to balance the ledger. My phone call isn’t really adequate recompense for the gift of excellent health care in my early years. We do what we can to say “thank you,” but I will never succeed in paying back my parents for all the good they’ve given to me.

This reminds me of a quote from one of my favorite authors, Lois McMaster Bujold, who said, “You don’t pay back your parents. You can’t. The debt you owe them gets collected by your children, who hand it down in turn. Or if you don’t have children of the body, it’s left as a debt to your common humanity. Or to God. The family economy evades calculation. It’s the only deal I know where, when you give more than you get, you aren’t bankrupted – but rather vastly enriched.”

And it amazes me that the vast majority of that gift is stuff that I don’t even remember. But I do remember one thing. I remember the one time that I did hit a home run, playing little league. I couldn’t hit it over the fence, but – luckily – the other team’s right-fielder was distracted by an interesting patch of grass. Two to three errors later, and I rounded the bases for my first (and only) inside-the-park home run. My Dad was there.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Pastor Brian’s Contact Info:

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Meet the Congregation

Our visit today is with Jeremiah and Dana Johnson who live at 190-170th Street, Scranton, Iowa. In over three years of visits with members we experienced a “first” on this visit. More about this later...

In this case, we begin our visit mentioning grandparents. Don & Lu Wiederin and Dale and Sharon Johnson, both of the Glidden area, are Jeremiah’s grandparents. Dana has one grandparent still living, Marie Seeger of Red Lake Falls, Minnesota.

Dana is the daughter of Steve and Carol Seeger who live in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. Jeremiah’s parents are Brian and JoAnn Johnson of Glidden.

Dana joined a family of two brothers and one sister. Levi Seeger, now deceased, and her brother Cole Seeger and his wife Hannah, along with her sister Kelly and her husband, Ben Pahlen, still live in Minnesota. Jeremiah has a sister Mandy who is married to Chuck Hoffman and they live in Adel, Iowa. Dana and Jeremiah enjoy their five nieces and nephews.

Jeremiah was born and raised in the Glidden area and attended Glidden-Ralston School. He graduated in 2003 and headed off to attend college at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota. Jeremiah majored in Business Administration with an emphasis in Small Business Management and Management Information Systems. While at Bemidji, Jeremiah played four years of college football as a defensive back. Like many football players, Jeremiah was redshirted as a freshman, therefore he still had one season of eligibility remaining following his four year graduation. He returned to school in the fall semester of 2007, enrolled in extra classes and completed his football eligibility, receiving his diploma in December of 2007.

Dana grew up and attended school in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. While in school, she was involved in various sports and music and had several years of piano lessons. Graduating in 2007 from Lafayette High School, she headed off to college at Bemidji State University. She majored in Exercise Science with a minor in Psychology.

In 2007, Jeremiah met Dana with about a month left of his time in Bemidji. They recall a big snow storm and a football gathering the night they met. Dana was a freshman at BSU.

Following graduation for Jeremiah, he began a six year term of employment with ING insurance in Minneapolis. Jeremiah was classified as an internal wholesaler and he worked with agents who had direct contact with the customer. Dana finished school in Bemidji in 2010 and completed her internship in St. Cloud, Minnesota in the cardiac rehab program at the hospital. Once her college career was complete, she took a job at a physical therapy clinic at Blaine, Minnesota for the next three years.

In 2014 Jeremiah and Dana decided they preferred the open spaces rather than living in a crowded city so they moved back to the Glidden area. Jeremiah began his career at Midwest Financial as a Financial Advisor working alongside his dad, Brian. Dana

accepted employment at the Greene County Medical Center as an Exercise Specialist working in Care Management Services (Cardiac Management, Diabetes Management, and Respiratory Therapy). Both Dana and Jeremiah stressed the joy in their job was working with people and assisting them in making positive lifestyle changes. Dana also teaches some yoga classes at the Jefferson and Glidden Rec. Centers.

After arriving in Glidden they purchased a 21 acre plot of ground from George Druilas and decided to build a home north of Ralston about a mile from the river. The building of this home was a community project with many skilled professionals involved. Jeremiah and Dana were involved every step of the way, plus Brian and JoAnn Johnson were at the building site on a regular basis always offering a helping hand. The first level of the home is complete. They are now in the process of finishing the lower level.

On September 19, 2015, a big event took place at the Johnson acreage, as Dana and Jeremiah were married with 250-300 guests in attendance for the wedding and reception. Pastor Brian performed the wedding ceremony held outdoors with the reception and dance taking place in a large tent. The weather was perfect on this September day. Jeremiah and Dana were happy with the proceedings but spoke of the tremendous amount of work involved to



host an outdoor wedding when all equipment must be moved to the site.

This young couple are busy with their careers but do enjoy spending time outdoors with their dogs, Penny Lane and Riggins. Dana enjoys gardening, kayaking, crafts and music. Jeremiah enjoys fishing, hunting, snowmobiling and cooking with an emphasis on baking. Both are regular Iowa State sports fans.

Jeremiah has traveled with his father and others to the Canada for twenty-two years for their annual fishing trip. Dana, upon graduating college, traveled with two of her girlfriends to Europe for a month long trip; they traveled to England, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Portugal as they explored a larger area of the world.

The Johnson couple speaks well of First Presbyterian in Glidden as they enjoy the music by Marlys and Judy. They speak highly of Pastor Brian and are thankful for the welcoming and accepting attitude of the church people.

We wrapped our visit by inquiring of the couple's future plans. They both plan on developing their careers. They paused for a short while and then informed us they were going to have a baby in October. This is in reference to the "first" mentioned in paragraph one. Very exciting news and we send our congratulations.

A very rewarding time spent with Dana and Jeremiah Johnson and we look forward to sharing a part of their lives as they move forward with their family.

Heifer Project

Heifer International was founded by a farmer. Dan West was born in Ohio and farmed land in Northern Indiana. Truthfully, though, it was probably his wife that did most of the work running the farm. Dan loved his church, and often travelled the US as a youth worker and Christian Educator. Things changed in 1936 when Dan took a job as the director of a relief program for refugees from the Spanish Civil War. The Spanish Civil War was devastating and Dan wondered how these people would ever get back on their feet. Among the rations given to the refugees was a single cup of milk – which gave Dan a thought: What if they didn't just have a cup? What if they had a cow!"

Dan took his idea back home to Northern Indiana and to all the farmers in his church. Could they donate young heifers to families in need? His idea launched a relief program in his denomination (the Church of the Brethren) in 1942 and became an independent non-profit organization in 1953. Today, the goal of Heifer International is to give needy families "not a cup, but a cow."

Our church will continue to support Dan's work with our Special Offering in May and June. We believe that Heifer International's "teach a man to fish" model of relief work is far more effective than many other forms of aid, and Heifer International is a very well recognized relief organization. Please support Heifer International this month if you feel God leading you to do so, and help us to keep changing the world one family (or cow) at a time.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3rd-Diane Thelin
- 3rd-Brad & Heather Mueggenberg Anniversary
- 11th-Keith & Suzy Danner Anniversary
- 15th-Matt & Rhonda Conner Anniversary
- 19th-Rick & Tami Burdine Anniversary
- 20th-Russ Draves
- 24th-Duane and Joyce Conner Anniversary
- 29th-Madison Christensen



CAMP LETTER

This month, our church received the following letter from Lakeshore Center, the Presbyterian Camp at Okoboji:

Dear Friends of Lakeshore Center;

In 2016, we are celebrating 60 years of ministry. We want to encourage our friends to partner with us in God's calling to provide a sacred space for all to enjoy and encounter Christ. One of the ways you can do this is to give to our general operating budget. Be a part of Lovin' Lakeshore!

In Lakeshore Center at Okoboji's overall financial picture, the Lovin' Lakeshore Fund serves as the bridge between camp and retreat revenue, Presbytery support, designated gift income and our operating budget. In 2015, it composed 20% of our operational funding. This fund is built through the generosity of individuals, churches, and foundations, who believe strongly in Lakeshore Center's mission, ministry, and value and want to be a part of its fulfillment by giving each year. The larger the Lovin' Lakeshore Fund grows, the better Lakeshore Center will fulfill its mission.

Part of fulfilling that mission happens during Summer Camp. Isabelle Barrett, age 8, from Sioux City, recently told me this: "Church camp is important because you learn about God and have fun. You get to make friends and do fun things like swimming, gaga ball, archery, arts and crafts. I really like the music that we sing. I like being outdoors and playing with new friends. I like all the fun activities that are planned for us."

As we prepare for the upcoming summer camp season, we hope you will consider being a part of this special ministry helping thousands of people every year to encounter God and see what's next for their own and their church's faith journey. Please give to the Lovin' Lakeshore Fund. Your support is important.

For questions or other ways to support Lakeshore Center, call Beth Ehlers, Executive Director of Lakeshore Center at 712-337-3313 or email director@lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org.

Blessings,
Beth Ehlers
Executive Director

Mission Re-Cap

For the months of January and February, First Presbyterian supported Project Share as its mission emphasis. This mission helps Glidden families with heating bills that qualify with a payment to the city, not to exceed \$50.00 per family per year. First Presbyterian contributed \$640.00 to this cause that supported nearly thirteen Glidden families.

In March and April the mission was One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) which supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Programs and Self Development of People. First Presbyterian donated \$1330.00 to this project.

First Presbyterians outreach is local and international. Thank you to all who so generously supported these missions and the entire workings of our church.

Member Speaks

The church is not a building, the church is the people! At Glidden Presbyterian Church, that is the case. The church members are my church family. Like any family, we are happy for others joy and are sad for others sympathy or concerns. We share each other's feelings, good or bad. The church family lifts you up spiritually with a smile, kind words, or even a hug. When I think of investing in my church, I think of caring for each other and our community. I love the way our church family invests in our community, like grocery certificates, Project Share, Glidden Ralston School needs, afterschool program, food pantry and others.

Your Input will be appreciated

At the May Session meeting, a discussion was held regarding storm windows on the remaining twenty seven windows on the east, north and west sides of the church. These windows are now covered with stained plexiglass and some storm windows

With the guidance of the Building and Grounds Committee, the session discussed pricing selective window repair and various ways to improve the appearance of the building. The Session decided to limit 2016 repair to the six windows on the east side of the church and one window facing the north that is directly to the south of the stairway entrance.

It appears the church membership has two options. The first option would be to repair the east windows the same way we repaired the rose window and others that face the south. Most of this work would be completed by Classic Art Glass at a cost of approximately \$1000.00 per window. Classic's original bid in 2014 was for \$792.00 but that bid may change and the committee suggested the wood frames be painted before installation. If members wish to view a repaired window using Classic Art Glass, they may do so by viewing the window on the north side of the bell tower.

The second option would be to remove the stained plexiglass and reinstall clear plexiglas. This would most likely be completed by a local contractor and again would require painting prior to replacing the plexiglass. Keep in mind that five windows on the east and north have storm windows on the bottom one-half that may be opened if we desire. Or the committee could remove the storm and install plexiglass full length. The committee estimates the cost of the plexiglass covering at \$300.00 per window.

Options available for consideration:

1. Install window covering using Classic Art Glass - $7 \times \$1000.00 = \$7,000.00$
2. Replace present plexiglass with new plexiglass - $7 \times \$300.00 = \$2,100.00$

The committee has decided the repair of these seven windows has a much higher priority than the remaining windows on the north and west.

The church is asking for member feedback on these options. Please communicate your ideas to the Building and Ground Committee members. They are: Ron Burdine, Keith Danner, Matt & Mark Conner.

The church would like to complete work on this project this summer so feedback needs to be quick. The members of First Presbyterian have already done a great service to the building over the past three years as needed repair was addressed. This option is just another step in making the church building more appealing.

Members have already pledged money to repair three Classic windows and the finance committee will be requesting additional funds to complete this project.

Kudos Korner:

- *To the Parish Life committee for providing flowers to the adult women of the church on Mother's Day. Tasks around the church are completed because someone or some committee takes charge.*
- *To the people who prepare and serve communion each month.*
- *To the Parish Life Committee for serving cake, coffee and juice after worship as we honored the graduating seniors.*

To Diane Thelin who is retiring from 36 years of teaching (33 at Glidden-Ralston). Diane will leave a large hole in the GR staff as she has filled many jobs i.e., directing plays, production of yearbook, newspaper, plus promoting art in the park and the Book Club. She still teaches a full schedule in the classroom.

Congrats Senior Graduates!!



Announcements

*The Presbyterian Women will meet on Wednesday, May 8th, at 11:30am at the Winery in Carroll

*Session will meet on Wednesday, May 8th, at 5:30pm

*Father's Day is Sunday, May 19th

*Pastor Brian will be gone for Study Leave and General Assembly from June 13th to July 2nd

On Sundays, June 19th and June 26th, we will worship at the United Methodist Church

On Sundays, June 5th and July 3rd, the Methodists will worship at our church

Bill Crawford, who is currently serving as a lay pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Odebolt, would like to invite everyone from our church to attend a concert for the Triumphant Sound Quartet on Sunday, June 19th, at 2:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Odebolt. There is no charge for admission.