

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

January 2017



“The Rose Parade will never happen on a Sunday and, in return, God will never let it rain on the Rose Parade.”

I repeated those words to myself as I stood guarding a parking lot in Pasadena, CA, on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. The Rose Parade was a block away, it was a Monday, and it was raining. But it wasn't just raining – it was flooding. I was drenched, the library was filling with water, and I couldn't go inside because some confused Big-12 fans might block our parking lot. I was miserable.

And those bitter words stuck with me: “The Rose Parade will never happen on a Sunday and, in return, God will never let it rain on the Rose Parade.”

Despite their deal with God, it still rained on the Rose Parade. And the worst part of that weekend was that on January 1<sup>st</sup> of that year Pasadena saw perfectly clear skies. If they had not rescheduled to avoid a Sunday parade, then I would not have been caught in the rain.

Our deals with God don't always work out the way we first planned. This becomes obvious when we think of the life of Jesus Christ. He fulfilled dozens of prophecies about his life – but no one expected him to live like he did. They expected a divine king to exercise political power, but he changed the world through his moral example. They thought that he would fight off the Romans, but he told people that the Romans weren't the true enemy. The agreement that the Ancient Jews thought they had with God didn't turn out they way they planned.

And we are often similarly overconfident. Thousands of preachers cite Biblical prophecy to promise national renewal or financial blessing. We think that we can use God's promises to get him to do what we want him to. But that is not how faith works.

Faith is the act of submission to God's will, it is not a negotiation. We agree to follow his ways because – like a good parent – God knows best. We do not follow his law because it is the route to getting the earthly blessings we want. God sees the world as it really works. God understands what is truly important, and God is already looking out for the deepest needs of his people. As Christians, we trust that God will care for us; we don't cut deals expecting more.

The New Year is a time when many of us reexamine our lives. We make resolutions and set goals for the future. This is a good thing to do, but we are often tempted to bargain God into helping us. This is unnecessary. God loves us and wants to see us thrive. If we set goals that are in line with God's hopes for our lives, then we can expect his daily aid. But if we set goals that are opposed to God's wishes for us, then no amount of bargaining will change his mind.

We don't need to plead for God's blessings. God wants to bless us. But we must recognize that many of the things that we see as blessings are actually burdens in God's eyes.

Sometimes it does rain on the Rose Parade, because sometimes Los Angeles needs the rain.

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Brian

**Pastor Brian's Contact Info:**

Email: [Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org](mailto:Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org) or Cell phone: 818-388-9779

## Meet the Congregation

On a cold, snowy winter night, we had the joy of sitting with Sandy Draves Pietig and Russ Pietig for a delightful conversation. Sandy is the daughter of Russ and Lillian Draves and Russ is the son of the late Marvin and Annabell Pietig. Marvin died in 2012 and Annabell died in 2015.

Sandy has two siblings, Kim Draves and wife Geri and sister Becky and her husband Scott Dillehay. Russ was joined in his family with four siblings. They are Dennis Pietig and his wife Chris, Gary Pietig, deceased, Joyce Mieners and husband Don and Donna Krickle and husband Paul. This couple has four grandchildren with another grandchild on the way. Sandy claims three children, Alyssa and husband Matt Willenborg, Bryant and wife Megan and Chad. Russ has four children Becky, Melissa, Lindsey and Nicole. This extended family relates very well to each other as they support one another in life's journey.

Both Sandy and Russ were born at St. Anthony Hospital in Carroll and both were the youngest children in their families. Sandy and Russ attended school in Carroll, Iowa. Russ graduated from Kuemper High School and Sandy from Carroll High. Russ graduated in 1982 while Sandy followed graduating in 1984. These young people met years ago as they both rode the same school bus. Following graduation their lives went in different directions as they both worked, married others, raised their own children and moved through life.

In talking to them, it was evident that each had been taught the value of work. Russ was involved in farming even during his school years as he worked on the farm. Once he graduated, he continued farming and also worked for Juergens Produce for five years. Over the years Russ grew his farming operation by raising cattle and hogs while row-cropping up to 1000 acres. Russ would farrow up to 150 sows per year and raise the off-spring to market weight. This laborious task of farrowing and finishing hogs came to an end in 2010 when Russ concentrated on row crop production. So far, Russ has been farming for thirty four years and enjoys this occupation and plans to continue for many more years.

Following graduation, Sandy was occupied the first 10 years as a mother raising her family and doting over her precious new babies. Once these children were well on

their way in life, Sandy entered the work force and worked six years for the Pella Corporation. In 2001 she transferred her effort to American Home Shield where she was employed for the next six years. Sandy enjoyed her time at American Home as she enjoyed working with customers and associates. For the next five years she was employed at Wendl Feed Yards followed by a four year stint at Independent Inputs in Breda, Iowa. In April of this year, Sandy began employment at the Graphic Edge in Carroll. Much like Russ, Sandy plans to continue working as long as she feels fit.

As mentioned earlier in the article, their lives took different directions upon graduation, but they reconnected in 2011 and began to date and they reminisced and talked about old times. They dated for three years and on December 13, 2014 they were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden. As they point out, they were married on 12/13/14 which is easy for Russ to remember. Pastor Brian performed the wedding ceremony. The couple went on a honeymoon trip for one week to St. Martins Island with a few friends. Over their years of marriage, they have had other friends question their wisdom of taking friends on your honeymoon, but it worked out well and is still one of the best trips they have taken. Vacation trips have been abundant for Russ and Sandy, as they have visited Mt. Rushmore, Las Vegas, Branson, Missouri and Washington, D.C. The visit to Washington, D.C. was very educational and historical for them.

In addition to trips, they enjoy camping with their fifth wheel camper. They laugh when they explain their camping trip to Swan Lake. Swan Lake is only one-half mile north of their home place. They also like to camp at Lake View and at stock car events, wherever they are located. Russ is into stock car races and can speak the language of race car drivers. His favorite car driver is Dale Earnhart, Jr. who drives car #88. They attend races in Kansas City and Newton, Iowa on a yearly basis.

The best advice this couple received was not presented in words but was demonstrated by parents and family. That advice is the reward in life of hard work, demonstrated each day as they grew in their youth and applied each day as they move through life.

Family is very important to this couple as they celebrate their children and welcome the birth of their grandchildren. The birth of life in the spring is their



favorite time of the year as the grass turns green, the corn sprouts and new calves arrive on the sprawling meadow.

The future is geared toward spending many happy years together while continuing to work on the farm and at her job. They do dream of the day they can travel south and avoid snow and cold weather of Iowa. Whatever their future shall be, we wish them well and remind them that our doors and arms are open to welcoming them into the First Presbyterian Church at Glidden, Iowa.

## *Quotes of the Month*

*“Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength.”*  
~ Charles H. Spurgeon, Pastor

-----  
*“When a man has no strength, if he leans on God, he becomes powerful.”*  
~ D.L. Moody, American Evangelist

<http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/top-25-christian-quotes-about-strength/#ixzz4UoPDipca>

## *“Kudos Korner”*

### *Kudos to:*

- *To Keith Danner for his work throughout the year on maintaining the church building and surrounding grounds.*
- *For a delightful combined Christmas Eve Service as the Methodists and Presbyterians celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ.*
- *To the people who organized and prepared the children’s goody bag for the children.*
- *To those good Samaritans who supported the gift packages presented to fellow Glidden residents during the Christmas season and to all good people who supported the church throughout the year.*
- *To Marlys and Judy, who contribute music to the church on a weekly basis. It is appreciated and never so much as when we tried to sing a cappella!!!*
- *To Linda McClellan and Wayne Seaman for their service on the Session and to Jen Fairchild Flemmig, Gordon Cose and Rhonda Schroeder for their nomination to serve on the Session for the next three years.*
- *To the Sunday school teacher Marlys Conner for her efforts putting together the upcoming kids Christmas Concert that was moved to Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.*

Kudos to all

## Annual Meeting - 2017

The church's annual meeting will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, following church and a lunch. Many times the annual meeting is viewed as a ho-hum occasion. But, let controversy enter the church and people who have been sitting on the side-lines say, "Why didn't someone do something?". The annual meeting is a chance for people to ask questions, express their thoughts and keep bad things from happening. Attendance, participation and supporting the church are important as you vote for leadership in First Presbyterian and by your attendance, you are supporting the beliefs of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

So what does this church believe? In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Presbyterians drafted the Six Great Ends of the Church.

1. The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
2. The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
3. The maintenance of divine worship
4. The preservation of the truth
5. The promotion of social righteousness
6. The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world

John Knox was the founder of the theological foundation of the Presbyterian Church which adopted a rather strict philosophy. Over the years this strict Philosophy has been changed to include a broader segment of the population. The Church is committed to ecumenism to demonstrate this open attitude.

So, how important is an Annual Meeting? By being apathetic, we allow others to make the decisions on behalf of us, and for the total church. We allow others to promote their ideas on our behalf, without any input from the rank and file.

### *Here is a little story about a Man and a Fork. Thought you would find it interesting.*

There was a young man who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as he was getting his things 'in order,' he contacted his Priest and had him come to his house to discuss certain aspects of his final wishes. He told him which songs he wanted sung at the service, what scriptures he would like read, and what outfit he wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Priest was preparing to leave when the young man suddenly remembered something very important to him. 'There's one more thing,' he said excitedly.. 'What's that?' came the Priest's reply. 'This is very important,' the young man continued. 'I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.'

The Priest stood looking at the young man, not knowing quite what to say. 'That surprises you, doesn't it?' the young man asked. 'Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request,' said the Priest.

The young man explained. 'My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming .... like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!' So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?'

Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.'

The Priest's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young man good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see him before his death. But he also knew that the young man had a better grasp of heaven than he did. He had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice his age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. He KNEW that something better was coming.

He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st-Kevin Nelson  
2<sup>nd</sup>-Kirk Thelin  
6<sup>th</sup>-Braylee Cose  
7<sup>th</sup>-Brandon and Cole Burdine  
7<sup>th</sup>-Linda Bender  
12<sup>th</sup>-Daniel Lamp  
15<sup>th</sup>-Megan Delaney-Arellano  
17<sup>th</sup>-Jayden Douglas  
18<sup>th</sup>-Stuart Conner  
22<sup>nd</sup>-Larry Littlefield  
23<sup>rd</sup>-Evan Arellano  
24<sup>th</sup>-Duane Conner  
25<sup>th</sup>-Randy Christensen  
26<sup>th</sup>-Erin Danner  
31<sup>st</sup>-Adam Arellano



### Announcements

- \*The Joint Sunday School Christmas Program has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>  
Worship will begin at 10:30am at the United Methodist Church  
Children and Students will arrive at 9:30am for the final rehearsal
- \*Pastor Brian will be gone from December 26<sup>th</sup> to January 9<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Worship will be at the UMC on January 1<sup>st</sup> and January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am
- \*Normal Sunday School Returns on January 8<sup>th</sup>  
Adults and Children meet at the United Methodist Church  
Students meet at the Presbyterian Church
- \*PW meets on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Winery in Carroll at 11:30am
- \*Session meets on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm
- \*The Annual meeting is on January 29<sup>th</sup>, after church

The Mission Emphasis for the months of January and February is Glidden Project Share.

The Project Share program was created in 1989 by the City of Glidden electric utility to assist needy Glidden households in paying their winter energy bills. Those qualifying for help are carefully identified by a local community action agency. All Project Share contributions are available only to Glidden residents. The City Glidden Project Share program follows guidelines originally established by the Glidden Ministerial Association.