

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

August 2017



Iowans feed the world. The state of Iowa produces more corn, soybeans, pork, and eggs than any other state. Every year, Iowa produces three times as much corn as Mexico and nearly double that of Minnesota (the second largest corn producing state). Where do most Americans get their daily calories from? A farm in Iowa.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg. The United States, and especially Iowa, is the global leader in agricultural industry and research. We are leaders in seed improvement, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, expanding uses for crops, mechanization, the study of soil, and so much more. Iowans truly do feed the world.

And even those of us who do not work directly in agriculture tend to do work that makes farm life possible. We provide insurance or health care or other services to farmers. We educate children in rural areas and keep local businesses open. Everyone in Glidden contributes to the agricultural economy. We are all part of the same mission.

But that mission is not complete. Even though we produce far more food than we need, many people in Carroll County still go hungry. In the Glidden-Ralston school district, 84 children qualify for a free or reduced price lunch (roughly 26% of all the enrolled students). In the Carroll school district, that number is closer to 35%. Poverty in Iowa means that many people who contribute to food production often don't have enough to feed their families.

Additionally, around the world, there are 800 million people who suffer from chronic undernourishment. These people tend to live in developing nations in Southern Asia, Eastern Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Many are farmers themselves: people who work very hard to grow food but live in areas with poor soil or without access to advanced farming practices.

Thankfully, we can do a lot to meet both of these challenges. Our local food pantry, the Community of Concern, helps to ensure that everyone in Carroll County has access to nutritious food. And Meals From the Heartland packages family meals to be sent where they are most needed in the world. In 2016, Meals From the Heartland packaged 18 million meals – not enough to feed the world yet, but they don't work alone. Both of these operations work together to feed people that the normal agricultural economy might otherwise miss.

You can join us in this effort by signing up to go down to Des Moines with us on the morning of Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, for Meals From the Heartland's Annual Hunger Fight. Those of us who are carpooling will leave from the church at approximately 8:00am and package meals at HyVee Hall in Des Moines from 10:00am to noon.

Or, if packaging meals isn't your thing, you can always donate money or food to support our local food pantry. The Community of Concern is our special offering for July and August so all designated gifts will be passed on to them.

Iowans do feed the world, but there's still work to be done.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian

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## Meet the Members

The spotlight for this month's article shines on Abigail "Abby" Stonner who lives in Carroll, Iowa. Abby was born in Des Moines and lived in Norwalk the first year of her life.

Abby's parents are Dean Stonner and Carol Hawley Stonner who live in Newton, Iowa. Dean Stonner was a corporate attorney for the Maytag Corporation and later Principal Financial. Carol Stonner was educated as an early elementary teacher and taught prior to the birth of her children. Carol took time off to raise her family but when they reached junior high and high school, she re-entered the world of work. She is now employed as the Executive Administrative Assistant at Progress Industries in Newton and Des Moines. This organization oversees and manages residential homes for differently-abled clients who need oversight. It also supervises and places independently-living clients into daily work environment.

Abby has two siblings. Joey Stonner is 27 years old and is a 7th grade History teacher at Miller Middle School in Marshalltown, and is engaged to Katy Jo Madison, who works with Special Needs students at Miller. Erin Stonner lives in Storm Lake, Iowa and is a mental health counselor for Plains Area Mental Health, and is seeing Nanda Gopal, an engineer in Cedar Rapids. The only other member of Abby's family is Giada, a seven year old tortie cat.

Even in grade school Abby loved school and its challenges. She especially liked language arts, reading, history, and science. Later in her schooling she became more interested in math. In high school she excelled at English, Geometry, and Physics. Abby was well rounded as she participated in several extracurricular activities. Throughout her junior and senior high years she participated in chorus, band, jazz band, marching band, drama and played in the orchestra. She graduated from high school in 2006 and college days were a new beginning.

Abby enrolled in the University of Northern Iowa and became a Panther at heart. She majored in English, with a double minor in Creative Writing and Religious Studies. Her religious studies concentrated on Christianity but did cover other world religions. While at UNI Abby worked at the North American Review as a proof reader and participated in the marching band. Abby claims she plays the piano for her enjoyment and sings while driving her car. This demonstrates her joy for music.



Abby graduated from UNI in 2010 and that fall enrolled at Iowa State University where she studied creative writing for three years. While at ISU she was a teaching assistant for Speech Communication 212 for students from all disciplines, including a 7 am summer course for athletes that included running back (and neuroscience student) Jeff Woody .

In 2013 she accepted employment in Des Moines at Wells Fargo bank and worked there for one year. The type of work assigned to her was not a fit so she moved on to Truckers Insurance Company located in West Des Moines. She worked in the underwriting department and enjoyed her work as the company insured over the road truckers. She worked at Truckers for two years before she ran into a detour that changed her life.

She had previously signed up at E-Harmony and witnessed several off-based characters and was about to quit this program. At last she saw a picture of a young fellow from Glidden, Iowa. She had some interest and she read his story. Some of us assume she saw the fellow was from Glidden so he must be alright. In any event they agreed to meet for brunch on May 17, 2016 at 10:00am at Java Joe's. This coffee break lasted for 5-6 hours, as Abby and Pastor Brian met for the first time. A relationship developed and in late 2016, Abby relocated to Carroll, Iowa.

In January of 2017 Abby enrolled at San Jose State University to attain a Masters Degree in Library and Informational Science. She is completing her studies online as a part time student. In addition to her studies, Abby is working part time at JC Penney's and volunteers at the Animal Rescue in Carroll.

In her spare time she likes to write, cook, bake, and spend time on the internet.

Abby's grandparents lived in Florida and she remembers the long trips to visit them. This experience with a great family and working for the public have been unique as she has learned many life experiences from this background.

Abby grew up in the St. Lukes Methodist Church in Newton (where she went to church with Joyce Stonehocker) and fondly recalls work trips with the youth group to Rock Island, Illinois, Dubuque, Iowa and Colorado

Springs, Colorado as the group helped families with remodeling, painting and clean-up projects.

Abby speaks well of the people in the Presbyterian Church in Glidden and the welcoming spirit that each demonstrates. She also spoke of the beauty and upkeep of the building.

The future for Abby is well thought out as she works to get her Masters degree, but more importantly is the planning and execution of their wedding to be held on December 1, 2017.

As a new member, we only wish Abby a very blessed future and many years of happiness.

### **Quote of the Month**

*“Unhappiness always seeks to get.  
Happiness always seeks to give”  
~Harvey Mackay*

## **Church Camp Conclusion**

Staying up late. Making new friends. Learning camp songs. Talking about God and the beauty he has created in the world. Swimming in the lake. Eating junk food from the Canteen. These are just some of the memories that 4 soon to be 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys were able to make this summer at the LakeShore Center at Okoboji. This was possible because of all of you and our little church right here in Glidden Iowa. First Presbyterian Church in Glidden sponsored them to attend the Sports and Aquatic camp this year. Blayce Nelson, Alex Daniel, Carson Muggenberg, and Treynor Cose were all able to make the trip to spend 4 days and 3 nights at the Presbyterian Church Camp in Okoboji this past month. The memories they made will forever be cherished and remembered. It was great to listen to the 3 that attended last year tell Carson all about the things they enjoyed the previous year. What was even better was the camp counselors and other camp attendees they remembered as well. I asked them all what their favorite part of camp was and here is what the boys had to say:

Treynor: “Playing in the water with all of my friends.”

Blayce: “Swimming.”

Carson: “All of the swimming activities especially “the rocket” also GaGa ball.”

Alex: “The camp counselors were nice and helpful. Also I love GaGa ball.”

Below is a picture of Alex, Treynor, Carson, and Blayce at the end of camp. (Thanks for the picture Michelle.)

Braylee Cose also got to spend a day at camp so she could see what it was all about. Below is a picture of her and Grandma during the drop off. (Grandma was more worried than Braylee.)



## *Kudos Korner:*

*To all people who participated in the County Fair as exhibitors and a special Kudo's to Whitney Reever for showing the Grand Champion Breeding heifer and the Supreme Champion Breeding female.*

*To the Methodist Church for hosting the Presbyterians for church on June 25<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

*To Mark and Jane Toyne on the remodeling of their home. It looks great!*

*To the GR baseball and softball players for the great 2017 season.*

*To Amber & Tom Birkett on the baptism of their daughter, Adeline Marie, on Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*To Bob Wagner to being parade marshal for the Sesquicentennial parade.*

*To Jen Flemmig and Wayne and Shirley Seaman for weeding the planter in front of the church, and to Wayne for cleaning the kitchen and bathrooms. Thank you!*

*And congratulations to Larry DeVries and Ruthanne Humphrey on their wedding this week. It was a happy surprise to all of us!*

## August Birthdays and Anniversaries

13<sup>th</sup>-Toni Sinclair

20<sup>th</sup>-Joyce Conner

21<sup>st</sup>-Allison Thelin

22<sup>nd</sup>-Linda McCellan

24<sup>th</sup>-Carolyn Conner

25<sup>th</sup>-Erik Lamp

25<sup>th</sup>-Jane Burdine

26<sup>th</sup>-Marge Middaugh

28<sup>th</sup>-Ed and Jen Flemmig Anniversary

31<sup>st</sup>-Mike and Linda McCellan Anniversary



## *Thank You Received*

*I received the church newsletter covering my story. I will always be proud of Glidden, the church and the fine family that sent me off on my journey through life. God Bless you all. ~Jerry Conner*

*Thanks for paying for church camp. It was really fun. We played a lot and also my favorite part was swimming. ~Treyner Cose*

## **Sympathy:**

To Dr. Bob Wagner on the loss of his friend Delores Detterman

To the Mary Fairchild Family and Jen and Ed Flemmig on the loss of their young grandson and nephew

To Jane and Ron Burdine and the entire Johnston family for the loss of their brother, dad and grandad  
– Joe Johnston

## **Announcements**

- The Glidden Sesquicentennial is August 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>
  - \*The Tour of Homes is Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - \*Community Worship Service – Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30am at the football field
  - \*There will be no worship service at First Presbyterian on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>
- PW meets on Wednesday, Aug 9<sup>th</sup>, at Hunan's in Carroll at 11:30am
- Session meets on Wednesday, Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30pm
- Nominating Committee meets on Wednesday, Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30pm
- August 27<sup>th</sup> is the last Sunday of 9:00am worship
- Meals From the Heartland's Annual Hunger Fight is August 31<sup>st</sup>
  - We will carpool from the church at 8:00am and package meals from 10:00 to noon

### **In July and August, our church will Feed The People**

In July and August, we will support two different food-related ministries: the Community of Concern Food Pantry in Carroll and Meals From the Heartland. We know that at the last food drive you gave six cans of green beans and a box of cereal to the Community of Concern – but financial gifts are often far more helpful to a functioning food pantry than canned goods. The food pantry is able to buy excess grocery store food at greatly reduced prices, so your gift has a much greater impact if you donate money to the pantry, rather than buying the food yourself. The Community of Concern has enough green beans; let's give them some dough.