

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

January 2018



Whenever someone asks me about Heaven, I always think back to Revelation chapter 21:

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’” ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making all things new!”

Heaven is when God will make the world new again. He will fix all the problems and defects of our current existence and create a world where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. It is a place where we are reunited with everyone we’ve lost and given the opportunity to fix all our previous mistakes. Heaven is a new world, without the problems of the old, and Heaven is coming.

But we can’t just sit around and wait for Heaven to come. There are problems with this world that will only ever be fixed by God, but there are many things we can do every day to make this world more heavenly.

Instead of waiting for God to wipe the tears from our eyes, we can reach out and comfort our friends during times of grief. We can work to hold off death and reduce the pain that people feel. We can celebrate weddings and mend broken relationships. We can make new things – a little bit like the God who makes all things new.

And the New Year is an excellent opportunity to start making new things. At the beginning of the year, I am allowed to put the financial or academic mistakes of the previous year into the past. I can start over with a new commitment to my budget or to my work, and those changes are often quickly visible.

Of course, there’s nothing magical about the New Year (it’s really just an accounting gimmick), but real changes are often made at times like this. This is a reminder that we too can make a new world, even if it’s only one small change at a time.

And when we make new commitments or bring renewal to old relationships, we are acting just a little bit like the God who will one day make all things new.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Brian

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Where are they now?

The year was 1967 and the Glidden-Ralston School had just employed two new teachers. Karen Ploeger was employed to teach math at the Junior High and Senior High level. Dennis Ploeger was employed to teach Social Studies at the same level. When they arrived in town they were accompanied by a nine month old girl by the name of Kim Ploeger. Kim is our spotlight person of this month's story.

Kim was born in 1966 at the Buena Vista Medical Center in Storm Lake and within months moved to Glidden. She attended grade school and high school at G-R for thirteen years. During her elementary years, Kim recalls fond memories of her teachers and in particular Mrs. Bayer. She also appreciated Mrs. Flemmig as she taught science and Kim loved any science course. During her young life she recalls Mark & Marlys Conner as great youth leaders in the church, both at Junior & Senior levels.

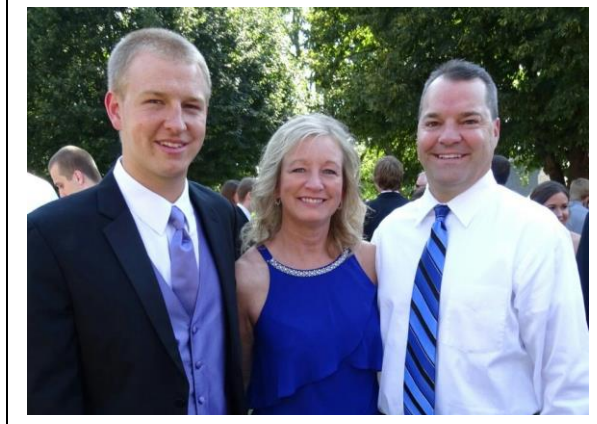
Kim loved school and especially her high school years as she became involved with activities beyond regular classes. She participated in band, jazz band, drama, swing choir, cheerleading and playing the piano. Kim was focused on science, therefore she appreciated Mr. Rezabek as an inspiring science instructor. Kim had a great experience in high school and graduated in the spring of 1985 with thirty of her fellow classmates. She was a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the homecoming court and salutatorian of her class.

In the fall of 1985, Kim was off to college at the University of Northern Iowa where she had earned a full academic scholarship. She majored in Earth Science Education with minors in Chemistry and Physics. While in college, she became an astronomy lab assistant and was a member of Kappa Delta Pi (education) and Sigma Gamma Epsilon (earth science) honor societies. During the summer months, Kim returned to Glidden and worked at Mister D's.

During her senior year in high school, Kim began to date a young man by the name of Clark Buelt. Clark graduated from GRHS in 1987. Clark attended Iowa State University in Ames enrolled in Ag Business. While in college, Clark worked at Ron's Standard and during the summer

months he was employed at the Farmers Coop. in Ralston and Glidden.

They continued to date each other throughout their college years. On July 12, 1991, Kim and Clark were married at the First Presbyterian Church in Glidden. Rev. Don Cameron was the pastor who performed the marriage ceremony. The couple recalls it was a very hot day with no air conditioning in the church, but still a wonderful day. The honeymoon followed and the young couple traveled to Disneyworld in Florida and then onto the Bahamas on a short cruise.



As Clark was finishing up his last year of college, Kim began her career as a Chemistry teacher at Linn-Mar High School in Marion, Iowa. She filled this position for the next 18 years. While teaching she also was the cheerleading coach for 16 years. During this time she also continued her education by attending classes at

night, weekends, and summer school at UNI and in 1993 received her Master's Degree in Science Education. In 2008, Kim also completed another Master's Degree in Administration at Drake University. Again, attending Drake on weekends and summer school. She has now been employed at Linn-Mar for eleven years as Associate High School Principal. One of her many rewards as a teacher/principal is witnessing her students succeed in life after school. With any job there is a down side and being required to hand out discipline is one of Kim's least favorite tasks.

Upon graduation from ISU, Clark became a financial manager and served various organizations in financial planning and management. Presently Clark works for TIAA Finance, located in Coralville. Clark also furthered his education over the years by attaining many additional licenses in Financial Management.

The pride of this couples' lives is a son, Cody, born on July 15, 1993. Cody graduated from ISU in Civil Engineering and works for the Fehr-Graham firm in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Kim and Clark are involved in school activities and have little time to become involved in other community activities. When time permits, they do enjoy camping, boating, and fishing. Quiet time is spent reading and walking or biking the trail near their house.

Kim has fond memories of First Presbyterian Church in Glidden because of youth and high school groups. She also recalls the precious weekends back in Glidden when everyone in the church welcomed her on her visits home from college.

Today the Buelts are active members of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Marion, Iowa. They are involved in regular church activities and have been teachers at times in the Wednesday night church youth program.

Kim discussed an important life event with the death of her mother. Her mother, Karen, suffered with Lupus for 25 years and died in 1991. Positive memories in her life have

been their wedding, the birth of son Cody, being a parent, and family travels.

The Buelts built a new home last year in Robins, Iowa, which is a suburb of Cedar Rapids, as they plan on working for a few more years prior to retirement in the area.

For those of us who have been around Glidden for many years it is very rewarding to watch two young children grow up and become successful in their lives. Kim and Clark have been this couple and we wish them great success in the years to come.

“Kudos Korner”

-To the Glidden-Ralston chain crew consisting of Keith Danner, Wayne Snyder, Monty Rohrbeck, Tony Ball, and Vince Smith who were selected to operate the yard markers at the State eight man and Class A Championship football games held at the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls. You make Glidden proud.

-To the Parish Life Committee for organizing and hosting the Thanksgiving dinner on November 19th. The committee consists of Diane Thelin, Jen Flemmig, Judy Reever, Jane Burdine and Lori Reever. Also thanks to the Tim Reever family for preparing the turkey.

-To Mitch and Brittany Jensen for the baptism of their son, Leim on Sunday November 5th. Leim joins older sister Avery in this family of four.

-To Abby and Pastor Brian on their wedding held on the 1st weekend of December. We wish this couple many years of happiness.

-To Bill & Elaine Crawford as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday November 19th at the Presbyterian Church in Odebolt.

-To Stuart and Becca Conner on the birth of their son, Flynn Mathew, born October 19, 2017. Best wishes to all three.

-To Anna Fleecs and the Wayne State Women's Rugby Team for their national championship victory. We're very proud of you. Go Wildcats!

-To Ron Burdine for cleaning the front steps of the church. They look as good as new.

Kudos to all

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st-Kevin Nelson

2nd-Kirk Thelin

6th-Braylee Cose

7th-Brandon and Cole Burdine

7th-Linda Bender

12th-Daniel Lamp

17th-Jayden Douglas

18th-Stuart Conner

22nd-Larry Littlefield

24th-Duane Conner

26th-Erin Danner



Announcements

*Sunday School meets at 9:30am

Children and adults at the United Methodist Church

Students at the Presbyterian Church

*PW meets on January 10th at Charlie's in Carroll at 11:30am

*Session meets on January 10th at 5:30pm

*Pastor Brian will be on Study Leave from January 15th to January 22nd

Worship on January 21st will be at the United Methodist Church at 10:30am

*The Annual Congregational Meeting is on January 28th, 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. Just this past year, it was expanded to also include meal delivery to elderly residents as well.

Donations to Project Share will be split evenly between these two worthy causes.

We are proud to be a church that helps to meet the needs of our neighbors.