

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

March 2018



One day, as I was running errands in Carroll, a woman stopped me with a very earnest expression. “Brian,” she said, “I know you’re a pastor. Tell me the truth: do animals go to Heaven?” She said it with a kind of urgency that made it clear that the wrong answer would threaten our friendship.

I didn’t really know how to answer this question. Not very many people ask me theological questions when I’m buying groceries, so I’m usually not prepared to give a coherent answer. And, in this case, I did not give a coherent answer. I muttered philosophically about how the purpose of Heaven is the re-creation of the world as it was originally meant to be. She looked confused. I sounded confused. No one was happy.

But then, I stopped and asked, “Why? Why is this so important to you?”

And at that question, she broke down crying. Between tears, she told me how she had a cat that grew up with her children, how it had died during the week, and she shared the pain that they all felt at the loss of this animal friend. Then, to top things off, some fool had told her children that animals didn’t have souls (therefore they can’t go to Heaven) and it made the whole situation even worse.

In my experience, in nine times out of ten, people ask theological questions for very simple personal reasons. What this woman was really asking me was, “Does my faith offer any comfort for my pain? Does God care that I’m sad over the death of a cat?”

And if you go read the Bible, you’ll quickly discover that Jesus talks a lot about Heaven, a lot about Pharisees, a lot about tradition, Sabbath worship, and forgiveness – but he never once mentions cats. In fact, Jesus doesn’t talk about many things that are relevant to modern life: being bored at work, paying bills, weight gain, alcohol addiction, raising teenagers, or how much TV is too much. On all these relevant subjects, Jesus is silent. Does God care about any of these things?

In the Presbyterian Church, we like to say that there is no area of life where Jesus Christ is not Lord. He governs and is concerned about every aspect of our lives – from the course of our careers to when we wake up in the morning. His words can illuminate national debates about gun control and personal decisions about how to care for our bodies.

And so, even though I don’t know which specific challenges that you might be facing, I do know that our God wants to help. Regardless of how big or small your troubles – we serve a God who wants to be part of your modern life.

As Jesus Christ once said, “God is a God of living, not of the dead.” And Easter means that Jesus is still alive, still at work in the world, still speaking to us. Jesus lived, died, and rose again to heal all your wounds – the shallow and the deep. God knows your fears and wants to help; even if you just need him to babysit a cat.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian

**Pastor Brian’s Contact Info:**

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**Palm Sunday 10:30 am**

**Joint Worship with the Methodist Church**

**Sunday School children will be participating!**



**Quotes of the Month**

“You can give without loving. But you cannot love with giving.” ~Amy Carmichael

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“NO one has ever become poor by giving.” ~Anne Frank

**Bible Banter**

**Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?**

A. Noah; he was floating his stock while everyone was in liquidation.

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**Q. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?**

A. Because he knew there was something fishy about it.

<https://margaretfeinberg.com/23-of-the-best-bible-jokes-riddles/>

## March Birthdays and Anniversaries

-11<sup>th</sup>-Ron and Jane Burdine

Anniversary

-18<sup>th</sup>-Russ and Lil Draves

Anniversary

-26<sup>th</sup>-Leland Bender

-26<sup>th</sup>-Rhonda Conner

-28<sup>th</sup>-Kali Nelson

-30<sup>th</sup>-Judy Littlefield



### Announcements

-PW meets on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30am at Las Margaritas

-Session meets on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm

-Palm Sunday is March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am

-We will have a joint worship service at the United Methodist Church

-Maundy Thursday is March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

-We will have a joint service and potluck at the United Methodist Church

-Bring a place setting and covered dish to share

-Easter is Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

The Mission Emphasis for the months of March and April is the **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

The One Great Hour of Sharing is the largest Special Offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It goes to support three different Presbyterian ministries – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. In 2016, the OGHS supported projects from repairing a fire-damaged Presbyterian Church in Burt, Iowa to the construction of 40 toilets for a town in rural India. This offering is the primary source of mission funds for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is one of the best things that we do together as Presbyterians.