

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

March 2020



NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings!

I just started on February 17th and here we are already into the season of Lent. For me, Lent is not about giving up something for 40 days. Lent is a time when we as Christians can reflect more deeply on what it means to follow Christ, to put him first in all that we do. The first thought that comes to mind comes from Micah 6:8, "God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

I am pretty sure that I used this verse when I was ordained 29 years ago this month. This verse comes after a dialogue in which the willful people are being called to take for how they have forsaken God. They respond defensively and with sarcastic exaggeration as to what would satisfy God. Micah 6:8 is God's response. The whole of Jesus' ministry reflects his mission to do justice for God's people, to love kindness as he taught, as he preached, and as he healed. Certainly, even as God's Son he walked humbly always putting God first in all that he did and said. He never wavered from carrying out God's work knowing that his mission would lead him to the cross.

The amazing truth is that even when the people strayed in the time of Micah, God stayed with them. When Jesus started his ministry, he didn't come to minister to all who were in need even those like the Pharisees and others who served in the hierarchy of the Jewish faith at that time. Those who listened to him and accepted what he had to offer were transformed becoming the best persons they could become because Jesus showed them what he saw in them. They learned how to do justice, love kindness and to walk humbly with their God. Take time in this season of Lent to reflect on ways in which you can do the same and so put Christ first in all that you do.

In the next several months I look forward to getting to know as many of you as I can a little bit better. So, I hope you're open to visits with your new pastor. Let's explore how we can grow together in faith and in service to the Christ who loves us all. If you need to reach me, my email and telephone number are listed below.

Blessings, Pastor Anna

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Where are they now?

Phyllis and Leland Bender were lifelong members of First Presbyterian in Glidden. They raised a daughter Brenda. In fact, Brenda's four grandparents were long time members of First Presbyterian. Her grandparents were Wendell & Leah Greene and Bernard (Bub) & Eula Bender. This month's focus is on Brenda Bender Rickabaugh.

Brenda was born at Stewart Memorial Hospital in Lake City in 1965. She was the only child in the family, so her mother worried about her developing proper social skills. When Brenda was four or five years of age, her mother enrolled her in pre-school in Carroll at the home of Mrs. Longnecker.

Brenda recalls little about her life as a very young child, but she does recall her kindergarten class with Miss Polly Ott as her teacher. Kindergarten was only one-half day and Brenda attended the morning session. Brenda advanced through the grades and in that process had a first-year teacher by the name of Miss Lindskoog who later became Mrs. Marlys Conner. Brenda was in the last class that attended fourth grade in Ralston. Being a resident in the town of Glidden, Brenda did not ride the bus until she traveled to Ralston and that was part of the fun of school in fourth grade. Mrs. Hermansen was her fourth-grade teacher while in Ralston. The school was sold to the Neubauer family. Rhonda Neubauer Conner was in Brenda's grade, so she got to return to the school, now home, to visit Rhonda once it was remodeled, which was very interesting to see.

Memories of church include attending Sunday School at the Methodist Church with Jodi Hofstad, Tim Reeve, Matt Conner and others. Church potlucks were a favorite with all the families gathered in the lower level with every table filled with people and fun food to eat. The kitchen was always busy with women putting the final touches on the dinner. The children played on the stage as

they awaited the meal. Brenda also thinks about the fun the junior high children had as they rang the church bell just before church started. Candle lighting was also a memorable experience as they wore white smocks while lighting the candles.

It was Memorial Day weekend and Brenda had just completed fifth grade and summer break was the next three months, so it was time to ride bicycles around town. Brenda and Sara Breon were riding on Colorado Street just north of the railroad when suddenly a speeding car crossed the tracks and hit Brenda's bicycle.

The impact threw Brenda to the curb breaking both bones, compound fracture, in her left leg. She was transported to Lake City Hospital where the doctors set the leg and placed a cast on from hip to foot. Brenda was on crutches with the full cast and later a knee to ankle cast for the entire summer. In fact, when school started in the fall, she began that year with the cast and crutches.

Junior High was enjoyable for Brenda as was every year at Glidden-Ralston. In junior high she began to play the clarinet in band and like most children in Glidden spent her summer day at the Glidden pool where young people seemed to meet.

In 1980, Brenda entered high school and like most students her activities increased. She played basketball a couple of years but soon realized her shortness was not conducive to that sport. But she did find track to her liking. In fact, when Brenda was a junior, she along with seniors Barb Bock, Bobbi Jo Genter and Jackie Wiederin, qualified for state in the shuttle hurdle relays and ran at Drake Stadium in Des Moines. Brenda participated in speech contests and held parts in several school plays.

It wasn't all fun and games for Brenda as she and her mother walked beans during the summer months for Don Hansen and Ed Walkup. Brenda never worked at her grandparent's grocery store, Greene's Market, but spent many days there with her grandparents and has very fond memories of the store. The town's Noon whistle would be



blown from this store and many times Brenda got to push the whistle button. She probably did some work but was not included on the payroll.

As a senior, Brenda was elected President of the senior class, which had thirty members in the class – 15 girls and 15 boys. Brenda recalls senior Prom with dinner at Mister D's, followed by prom at the gymnasium. Since graduation, in 1984, three of her classmates have died.

Graduation came and went, and Brenda was off to Des Moines to continue her education at American Institute of Business (AIB). She attended AIB from 1984-1986 graduating with a two-year degree in Executive Secretarial. Her first job was with ExecCenter in West Des Moines. This company provided administrative support for several companies in the complex. The company has since ceased to operate.

In 1988, Brenda accepted a job downtown Des Moines with Federal Home Loan Bank as an administrative assistant. During this time, she met and married Jeff Tomlin. The couple married in 1989 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines. This marriage produced two wonderful boys. Ben Tomlin is 27 years old, lives in Polk City, and is engaged to be married in September of 2020. Joe Tomlin is 24 years old and lives in Des Moines. Brenda and Jeff decided to part ways in 2003, but today remain friends.

After serving 14 years at Federal Home Loan Bank, Brenda changed jobs and started at Wells Fargo Bank in 2002. She was an Administrative Assistant until 2017, at which time she accepted a Client Associate role with Wells Fargo Advisors, working more with brokerage accounts and retirement funds, such as IRA's.

Brenda and Jeff Rickabaugh were introduced to each other by Jeff's oldest daughter Jayme and Brenda's oldest son Ben who were middle school friends. Brenda and Jeff Rickabaugh were married on New Year's Eve in 2011. Jeff has two daughters from a previous marriage. Jayme is 26 years old, married to Aaron Nihart and lives in Sheldahl. Alyson is 25 years old, engaged to be married in June 2020 and lives in VanMeter. Jeff works for the old Jacobsen Transportation Company, which is now called XPO Logistics as a fleet manager.

The couple enjoy attending local music in the Des Moines area, bicycling, walking, exploring the trails and

parks and the many restaurants and attractions in the Des Moines area. Along with spending time with their grown children who all still live close. This year they will be busy helping plan and attending two of their children's weddings. Full time work still eats into their time, but they still take time off for some vacations to Minnesota in the summer and finding other fun spots to explore and enjoy.

In closing, our phone conversation, Brenda said her most unique experience in life was being hit by a car and the time it took to regain her health. She has many fond memories of growing up in Glidden. She and Jeff get back to visit but not as often as they would when Leland and Phyllis were still alive. Brenda is grateful that Jeff enjoys traveling to the Glidden/Carroll area and making time to see old friends and reminiscing. They enjoy seeing the changes when returning to her hometown area.

Brenda's father called her, Pete, so we will close out this story by wishing Pete and Jeff many years of happiness in the future and ask God to bless this young lady and her family, the best life has to offer.

Kudo's Korner

To Will & Leah Reeve whose wedding was celebrated on December 14, 2019.

To Stewart & Becca Conner on the birth of their daughter, Reagan Marie, born on January 17, 2020. She joins big brother, Flynn. Grandparents are Matt & Rhonda Conner and great-grandparents and are Duane & Joyce Conner.

To the PNC members Lindsey Cose, Linda McClellan, Diane Thelin, Mark Toyne & Wayne Seaman for their dedication and diligence in the pastoral search. We are delighted to welcome Rev. Anna Small to be pastor of our church.

SYMPATHIES extended to the families of: Paul Walkup whose service was held on January 25th and Dr. Robert Wagner, whose service was held on February 5th.

Gracious *THANK YOU* notes were received from Oliver Conner, Whitney Reever and Wesley Reever for Christmas gift cards sent to them from the Presbyterian Women

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 11th-Ron and Jane Burdine Anniversary
- 13th-Kevin Fleecs
- 18th-Russ and Lil Draves Anniversary
- 23rd-Mark Adams
- 24th-Jamison Stevens
- 26th-Rhonda Conner
- 26th-Sara Fleecs
- 28th-Kali Nelson
- 30th-Judy Littlefield



Announcements

-PW meets on Wednesday, March 11th, at 11:30am at Bloomers

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.

When God solves your problems, you have faith in his abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, he has faith in your abilities.