

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

April 2020



NOTE FROM PASTOR ANNA

Greetings from a socially safe distance!

What a way to begin my ministry here in Glidden. I miss seeing you in worship on Sunday mornings! Yet, I am grateful that we can connect through the Internet, telephone calls and from a distance if we happen to come across someone at the store or on walks. I give thanks to Diane and Kirk Thelin for coming up with the idea of putting a weekly message on the website and Facebook. I thank Diane for recording me and for Elaine Crawford for figuring how to put the recordings on the website and Facebook. I imagine seeing all of you as I preach in the sanctuary.

I give thanks for the emails and calls I have had with many of you. I thank Lora Reeve for reminding me that I needed to write an article for the April church newsletter and for Jeremy Douglas who reminded me that we need to bring in our fish for One Great Hour of Sharing. As Jeremy wrote, I will open the church on Palm Sunday. Those who bring in their fish can also pick up some palms. Enter the side door and leave your fish on the tables. Remember to keep six feet away from each other. I will be out in my car ready with lysol to spray between visits. If you see several cars, please wait until people come out of the church. And if you feel it is better to stay at home, please do so. Safety comes first!

I urge you to stay in contact with each other. Please let me know any prayer concerns or joys that I should know about and those that can be shared with our church family. In these challenging times, I am reminded each day that the church is not the building, but the people who worship there and at large. Together, we are the church. Know that God is with us in Christ, walking with us, listening to us and holding us in loving arms.

Stay safe and Blessings to you all,

Pastor Anna

*The first ever Cordless Phone Was created by God. He named it "Prayer" ...
It never loses it Signal and U never Have to recharge it.*

MEET JAN!

Janet Wooldridge Christian was born in Jefferson, Iowa but her parents soon moved the family to a farm south of Perry. Jan had one older sister and as was typical of farm families of that period, the girls were expected to help out on the farm. Mom and Dad raised sheep, cattle, hogs and milked cows along with row crop, so the family kept busy all year long.

Jan attended school at Washington Township Consolidated School all twelve years. This school is located just south of Perry and is a small country school. Jan was manager of the school's six on six girls' basketball team. Once high school was completed, Jan was off to Simpson College located in Indianola, Iowa, to prepare to become a teacher. At that period in time, a person could earn a teaching certificate with a two-year degree. While in college, Jan met a special lady who became close friends and they remain good friends sixty-five years later. The two often stay in touch even though Jan lives in Glidden and her friend now lives in California. Jan graduated from Simpson College in the spring of 1957 and began the search for a teaching job.

The Superintendent of the Scranton School was Mr. Glenn Franzen and he hired Jan as the school's second grade teacher to begin in the fall of 1957. She taught students with familiar Scranton names such as Tim Healy, Mac Nixon, Linda Walker, Brock Neary, Randy Fey and others in her first year of teaching. Jan taught two years in Scranton before moving to Jefferson to teach. She taught one-year in Jefferson when she learned that married women could not teach in the Jefferson School system so she returned to Scranton to teach.

One of Jan's first nights in Scranton, she went to the West End Café for dinner. Herb & Margaret Lepke were at the café who Jan knew and they introduced Jan to a young man by the name of Rich Christian. After a year delay, Rich and Jan started dating. The couple were married at the First Christian Church in Perry, Iowa in July of 1960. Jan and Rich lived in the town of Scranton for the first three years of their married life before moving to the farm north west of Scranton. Jan had now come full circle as she was back on the farm raising hogs, cattle, and sheep, just as she did as a little girl. There was one difference as she and Rich now had two boys. Doug Christian

was born in July of 1961 while Don Christian was born in July of 1964.

As was mentioned earlier in the article, a graduate with a two-year college degree could teach but stiffer requirements have been approved. Graduates now had to have a four-year BS degree in education or previous two-year graduates could work toward a BS degree. Jan gives Drake University great credit for outlining a flexible schedule where people in her classification could earn a four-year degree. Jan attended Saturday classes, night classes and summer school and over the next seven years earned her four-year teaching degree as she taught, raised a family and worked on the farm with her husband. This education has been put to good use as Jan was a substitute teacher for 25 years. She substituted at the elementary level.

Rich and Jan loved the years as their family developed. The boys did well in school and were involved in band, Future Farmers of America, sports and other activities the school had to offer. Jan and Rich followed the boys as they participated in football, basketball and baseball. Doug Christian attended the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and achieved his Masters degree at Berkley in California. Don achieved his Agri Management degree from Iowa State. Doug and Linda Buss married and have two children – Nathan and Clayton. Nathan graduated from Simpson and Clay is a senior at Buena Vista studying accounting and plans to become a Certified Public Accountant. Doug passed away in 2003.

Don and Amy married and have two children – Lily and Lucas. Lily is in college at South Dakota University while Lucas is a seventh grader at Glidden-Ralston. Don operates the family farm while Amy teaches at DMACC in Carroll.

Rich and Jan farmed for 42 years and Jan loved being involved on the farm. In 2006, the couple moved into Scranton to allow the next generation to take over the farm. In 2010, Rich had hip surgery and very unexpectedly died in recovery. Jan continued to live in Scranton for another five years before moving to Glidden to be closer to her grandchildren's activities.

Jan attends the Presbyterian Church because the church stands for being inclusive much like Jesus taught as he spent time with people who had leprosy, ate with sinners, and reached out to the Gentiles. The doors of Jesus's church are open and welcoming to

everyone and the doors of the local church must be as welcoming.

Jan spends her time doing water aerobics, having coffee, doing hand work, attending school activities of grandchildren and reading. She always had been involved in community, school, and church activities.

In closing our conversation, I asked Jan what have I missed. She responded that life has been very good. She had good parents, a good marriage, good children and good grandchildren, therefore she feels blessed.

The First Presbyterian Church is also blessed to have Jan in our congregation as she reminds all of us, "life is good".

2020 Committees

Finance/Stewardship: Jeremy Douglas

Building and Grounds: Ron Burdine with Mark Conner, Keith Danner, Matt Conner.

Worship/Christian Ed: Session approved combining these committees with Marlys Conner as chair.

Parish Life: Gordon Cose and Mark Adams, co chairs. Committee members are Diane Thelin, Judy Reeve, Jane Burdine

Pastoral/Personnel/Nominating: Sarah Fleecs

Clerk: Lora Reeve

Kudos Korner:

To Kirk & Diane Thelin for getting Pastor Anna recorded and on-line including Facebook. To Elaine Crawford for getting it on the church website. Once again, Keith came to the rescue by thawing out the lock to the church so that they could get in.

To Taylor and Cierra Burdine as they renewed their wedding vows and had a reception February 22, 2020 in Kansas City. Taylor is the son of Reed and Michelle Burdine and grandson of Ron and Jane Burdine.

To Suzy Danner for thirty-one years of serving the Glidden community. She retired from the City Clerk's Office on April 1st.

Remittance of church offerings during suspension of church services

Although we have suspended in person gathering and services for the time being, your tithes and offerings can still be given to the church. We ask that you use one of two options to continue to support the church and its missions.

Option 1- by mail to First Presbyterian Church PO Box 604 Glidden IA 51443

Option 2- By deposit at United Bank of Iowa in Glidden. Please make this offering by check. This will allow it to be documented properly for year-end tax reporting purposes.

Pastor Anna has graciously offered to open the church on Psalm Sunday April 5th from 1030am to 1230pm to receive the fish banks to support the mission of One Great Hour of Sharing. If you are unable to make it out or feel it safer for your health to stay home please hold onto your fish until we meet again as a congregation.

Session Notes

- Presbytery is April 25 in Battle Creek.
- Pastor Anna is planning for her Installation on May 3, 2020, 2 PM. Her brother, Rev Michael Small, will speak.
- Pastor Anna is working on establishing hours to work at the church and days off.
- Session approved Home Communion.
- Pastor Anna is working on getting herself moved and learning about her new community and church.

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

-2nd-Mark and Marlys Conner

Anniversary

-3rd-Gordon and Karla Cose

Anniversary

-5th-Brad Mueggenberg

-17th-Madison Douglas

-18th-Suzy Danner

-18th-Keith Danner

-29th-Matt Conner



Bible Banter

A 7-year-old boy proudly tells his father "I finally know what the Bible means!" Surprised the father replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means? What does it mean?" "That's easy, dad, it stands for Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth."