

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

May 2020

Spring

## Small Talk from Pastor Anna

I am in awe of the power of the human spirit, the acts of kindness, the courage exhibited and the perseverance shown in these incredibly difficult times as we deal with COVID-19. Here in our church we have celebrated communion virtually, had a session meeting thanks to zoom and managed to worship on Sunday mornings thanks to the help of Diane and Kirk Thelin and Elaine Crawford. Diane records me each week and Kirk and Elaine have used their skills to put the recordings up on the church website and on Facebook. I also thank Marlys Conner for adding music back into our shortened services.

Don't get me wrong these last several weeks have not been easy by any means. I know churches and businesses small and big struggle to stay afloat. Nothing is normal anymore and who knows when we will be able to return to living life as we once used to do. It is hard to not be able to go out and see our friends and family, to go to school, to church and to have work that we can count on. The future is a great unknown.

What I do know is that we need to count on each other by staying in contact on the phone, through email or meeting at a safe distance. We need to also take time to connect with God through prayer, reading the scriptures or taking walks outside appreciating the wonder of God's creation. Be still. Let God enter in to be with you in the good, the bad and in the in between for God through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit is with always.

I look forward to the time when we can once come together in worship at the church. In the meantime, I plan on hosting a virtual fellowship hour Sunday morning 11:30 am May 3rd via Zoom. I will send you an email with the link. All you have to do is click on the link and join for however long you choose and if you don't want to participate that's fine. I think it will be nice to see each other.

Blessings,

Pastor Anna

## *Kudos Korner:*

*To Pastor Anna, Marllys Conner and Diane Thelin for organizing and broadcasting Sunday Church services online for several weeks.*

*To Sara Stevens, Jamison, Zoey and Grayson for being responsible for a young Foster Child for over a year. Ella is special and is a joy to the entire congregation.*

*To the people who continue to financially support First Presbyterian even though we can only meet online.*

*To the generous support of members who have contributed to the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. This church has contributed over \$1,334.00 to this worthy cause.*

*To Marllys and Mark Conner for painting and updating the sign at the church. Great improvement.*

*To Sara Fleecs for a new "Thank You" sign in front of the church recognizing essential workers and their contributions to our lives.*

## *Quotes of the Month*

*And if you have room – All things in life are temporary. If they're going well, enjoy them... They will not last forever. If they're going wrong, don't worry. They can't last forever either.*

*Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, friend, it's just a bend, not the end!"*

*Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles... It takes away today's peace.*

## Mary Poppins Pre-School

Over the past 38 months we have featured several young people who have grown and now have families of their own. In many of their stories the people have mentioned and praised their days at Mary Poppins Pre-School. This month we will relate some of the history of Mary Poppins as told by Lois Copp, Jane Burdine & Nancy Braden.

In 1971, Pat Millard and Betty Kinzler started a Mary Poppins Pre-School for eleven four-year-olds. The first year the school was held in the Lutheran Church. Changes began to occur as the school moved to the Methodist Church in its second year. Pat Millard moved away from Glidden, therefore Sandy Thielen and Lois Copp were added to the staff. In 1980, Nancy Braden was added to the staff as lead teacher. In 1981, the number of students climbed to thirty and the school was moved to the Presbyterian Church to allow additional room. Provisions had to be made to store school supplies such as games, music, costumes and boxes so Cal Hughes, janitor, volunteered to build shelves in a storage room to handle the necessary equipment that was required to operate the school.

The focus of this story will be on the twenty-year period from 1980-2000. Jane Burdine was added to the staff to keep the leadership at three people – Lois Copp, Nancy Braden & Jane Burdine. The school had a board of directors, usually made up of parents of students. Board members in the early 1980's were Marilyn Jepsen, Karen Heuton and Mary Rezabeck. Mary Poppins Preschool was required to be licensed by the state of Iowa and could only host 10 students for each teacher, therefore were limited to 30 students each day. Four-year-old pre-school students would meet every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the normal school year. If the pre-school had a class

for the three-year olds, they would meet on Monday and Wednesday.

The three teachers divided the work load based upon their interest. Nancy Braden was considered the lead teacher since she had a teaching certificate. She also maintained licensing, completed the book work, payroll, ordered supplies and taught students. Lois Copp was in charge of music as she was able to play the piano and she was considered the



nurse in addition to teaching. Jane Burdine did everything else and was considered the “Jane of all trades”. She also taught. To determine what to teach, the three pre-school teachers would visit the kindergarten teachers and ask them on how to prepare students for kindergarten. They concentrated on basic learning skills like lining up in a line, how

to share, how to follow directions, learning the alphabet, making letters and developing motor skills.

The average day at pre-school, beginning at 9:30am, consist of thirty minutes of play the first thing in the morning. This time may consist of playing games, playing with trucks, tractors, dolls or just crawling in and out of an empty box. Play time was followed by story time which may include a teacher telling a story, show and tell, explaining how a calendar works or reading a book to the students. It is now time for a snack prepared by parents on a rotating basis. Once snack time was over, Lois Copp would lead the students in music. Occasionally, Lois would lead a session on baking and the children would make cookies, bread, pizza or even make a mini pie that they could take home to consume. Next was craft time where students would set around the table and cut out letters of the alphabet, develop additional motor skills, or make a paper doll. If time permitted before mom or dad was to pick up the student, they would go outside for additional play time. School would end a 11:30am. In the twenty-year period covered by these three teachers, no child was sick, no

child needed to see a doctor and no injuries. All three teachers were CPR certified in the event such services were needed.

One boy didn't want to come to pre-school but Mom insisted so for two weeks the boy would come, get under the table and just sit there. Finally, he decided, on his own, that it may be alright to join the other students' activities.

Every day was not the same and occasionally the students would go on field trips to visit a llama farm, or Van Horn's farm. The late conservationist, Joe Halbur, would bring live animals to school and talk to the children about these animals. Occasionally he might bring a stuffed animal for the kids to pet and hug. Each fall the students would visit a pumpkin patch. They also would have a Halloween party with costumes and treats. The Christmas program and graduation were real highlights as parents and grandparents were involved. Graduation got so large the group was required to move upstairs to the sanctuary.

Like most any business, there is a money trail that needed to be covered by tuition. Tuition paid for salaries, supplies, rental cost of the church and other costs. On rare occasions, a student's family could not afford to pay the tuition, therefore the scholarship fund of the First Presbyterian Church would pay the tuition so that no child was turned away. Just a small part of the mission of the church.

In the twenty years that these women operated the pre-school, they never had a problem with discipline. Children got along well with no arguments or scuffles. This is a real testament to the parents and families of the children and to the leaders of the school. In fact, the school had a waiting list for students wanting to attend. Some families had three or four children attend Mary Poppins over the years.

In the year 2000, Nancy Braden accepted a full-time job at the Carroll Day Care Center. Lois Copp and Jane Burdine decided twenty years was enough so the three of them all left that year. Mary Poppins

continued for nine more years under the direction of Denise Pottroff and Kim Buss. Pre-school was then transferred into the public-school system.

As we concluded our visit with these ladies, it is very evident their love for children. They say that the mannerisms of a four-year-old are still evident 36 years later when the person is now forty. The teachers did want to thank the people of the church for their support and show their appreciation for the great community in which we live. The old axiom that, "if you love your work, you will not have to work another day in your life", applies here. In conversations, it is evident the teachers loved their work and their students.

Mary Poppins Pre-School lasted thirty-eight years and started many young children on to the path of a great education.

*SYMPATIES to and recognition of the life of Shirley Adams, Mark's mother, who passed away on April 7, 2020. Our payers and support are extended to Mark & Deb Adams and the extended Adams family.*

**Zoom**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**11:30 am**

**See Pastor Anna's  
email for details!!**

## **Clerk's Corner**

- Pastor Anna's Installation is on hold until church resumes.
- The Presbytery Connection is a Bi Weekly Newsletter of the Presbyteries of North Central Iowa and Prospect Hill. If you would like to receive the newsletter please contact Jeannie Stolee at 319-233-1747 or email at [northiowapresby@gmail.com](mailto:northiowapresby@gmail.com). Here are some items from the April 30 newsletter:
  - Presbyterian Women's 2021 Churchwide Gathering will be held August 5-8, 2021 in St. Louis
  - Spectrum Spirituality Project-support resources for families with one or more children who have a sensory, emotional, and/or behavioral disorder; also equip congregations to welcome and serve these families.  
[https:// www.facebook.com/pg/spectrumspirit/about/?ref=page](https://www.facebook.com/pg/spectrumspirit/about/?ref=page) internal.
  - Farm Crisis Ministry Network-supporting farmers and those who love and care for them, sharing resources for farm families, congregations, and rural communities  
<https://www.facebook.com/farmcrisisministry/>
  - 2020 Synod School is July 26-31. The theme is What Shall We Tell Them?
- The Session continues to meet via ZOOM meeting to conduct church business. We will be evaluating when/how to return to normal church services.

## **Senior Spotlights**

### ***Grant Fleecs***

Grant will go to Wayne State College in Wayne, NE after graduation. He earned a Nebraska Access Scholarship and a Dean's Commitment Scholarship from WSC. Grant will be majoring in Computer Networking in Cybersecurity. He is excited about participating in intramurals. He will continue to work at Hy-Vee with a Helpful Smile under his mask until he leaves for college.

### ***Anna Fleecs***

As Grant goes to WSC, Anna will be leaving WSC as the most decorated athlete for her accomplishments on the rugby pitch. She was a member of 6 national championship rugby teams and what could have been 7 if it weren't for COVID19. Anna majored in Human Services counseling with a coaching and art minor. She graduates as an honor student and recipient of the Niehardt Scholarship. Anna was also selected into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Anna plans to further her education at Mankato State University in Mankato, MN majoring in school counseling. She will be home for the summer taking online classes due to COVID19 and working.

## Finance update for April 2020

Not a whole lot has changed since last month in terms of finances for the church. The current pandemic is playing havoc on the stock market as well as our investments. This too shall pass. Our main investment advisor is skeptical on how long it will take to recover those negative trading balances. To describe the market as pessimistic or optimistic is currently up in the air. The general population of the US is currently saving more than they are spending, which in turn will take longer for the economy to turn around. On a quarterly aspect, January and February giving were very similar in amount. However, March did have a pretty good increase of roughly 35% in tithes and offerings. Please remember that the one great hour of sharing fish can still be deposited to support the mission if you have been unable to do so. In the aspect of giving to the church, we need to remember as a congregation that our offerings and investments are what support our church and pastor. Pastoral expense has been significantly low due to pulpit supply over the last year. In the coming months we will be challenged with meeting the monthly financial needs as the Pastor, utilities and general upkeep of the church grounds need to be met. With that being said the church has been granted a forgivable loan through the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program which will help to cover the salaries of those who regularly collect a monthly wage from the church. The money granted is a one-time payment based on last years wages paid by the church.

Our mission of interest for the months of May and June have historically been the Community of Concern food pantry. Due to schools being out early and shelter in place suggestions for some the food pantry is receiving unusual traffic volumes for this time of year. They are accepting both monetary and physical donations at this time.

If any member shall have questions on the church's finances in a more specific manner prior to our annual meeting please reach out to the finance committee for further explanation on our current status.

## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 4<sup>th</sup>-Jeremy Douglas
- 6<sup>th</sup>-Julia Fleecs
- 9<sup>th</sup>-Roy Middaugh
- 9<sup>th</sup>-Jeremy & Sarah Douglas  
Anniversary
- 11<sup>th</sup>-Wesley Reeve
- 14<sup>th</sup>-Rick Burdine
- 16<sup>th</sup>-Marlys Conner
- 20<sup>th</sup>-Zoey Stevens
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Ron Burdine
- 25<sup>th</sup>-Kathe Powell
- 28<sup>th</sup>-Ty & Lindsey Cose Anniversary
- 31<sup>st</sup>-Grayson Stevens

