

# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

September 2020



## *Small Talk from Pastor Anna*

I do not know about the rest of you, but this has not been the easiest of weeks. I drove to Carroll the other day and saw the saddest of sights, bleached out cornfields, a confirmation that Carroll County is in the heart of an extreme drought. Then I have watched the numbers of those testing positive for COVID-19 skyrocket, at least it feels that way to me. Then there is the horror of seeing another African American male shot in the back 7 times or Hurricane Laura that has already brought about one death. So, where do I turn and find my center once more.

First I turn to scriptures reminding myself of the truth that God is always with us, especially as we struggle to understand what is going on and why. Then, and I cannot believe I am writing this, I return to my Calvinist roots. Now who is John Calvin you might ask. The Presbyterian Church (USA) traces its beginning theologically speaking back to Calvin, a 16th century French Protestant Reformer. Basically, what he calls us to do is that as we have been transformed by the blessings of God's love in Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit we work to transform the world we live in for the better.

It is no surprise then that as a denomination we have a Book of Confessions, eleven in all, that state our beliefs about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the church and who we are called to be as Christians. We have so many confessions because we acknowledge we are reformed, but always reforming. As we change our understanding of what it means to be Christian, to be Presbyterian changes as well. These confessions remind me that the church has grappled with issues of faith from the beginning with the Nicene Creed, how to speak truth to power in the Barmen Declaration, on issues of race in the Confession of 1967 and so much more. I find comfort in connecting to our history as a church and as a denomination seeing the way those before us sought how to be transformative in the times they lived in.

What brings you hope, gives you comfort in difficult times. I would love to know and hear your thoughts on this. Remember you can reach me at 503/847-1938 or at [annadeesmall@gmail.com](mailto:annadeesmall@gmail.com)

Blessings,  
Pastor Anna Small

## Where are they now?

Barb Iverson

John and Adeline Riedesel were long-term members of the First Presbyterian Church. They had five children; Warren, Cal, Barb, Miles and Suzanne. Barb, who lives in Minneapolis, is the focus of our story this month.

Barb was born on December 3, 1953, and began her life on the farm north of Glidden. She has wonderful memories of Glidden and spent all 13 years in the G-R school. Barb liked growing up on the farm but like many farm children she had her chores to do which included walking beans during the summer months. She was especially blessed to live close to Glidden as she and her siblings either walked or rode their bikes to town until they were old enough to drive.

Barb loved school and like most of us she can recall where she was when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. She was in the fourth-grade, two-room classroom in Ralston when this awful event took place. During her school years she took piano lessons from Carolyn Conner for nine years. This training led her to play the organ in church during her high school years. During her years in high school, Barb kept busy with many extracurricular activities such as band, drum majorette of the high school marching band, and editor of the high school newspaper. High school was very good to Barb as she, unlike most high school students, decided as a sophomore that she wanted to attend Iowa State University and study journalism. A favorite high school teacher named Mrs. Ruth Robb encouraged her in this area.

During her school years she developed fond memories of First Presbyterian as she participated in a very active youth group. She enjoyed the various potluck dinners and recalls fondly the beautiful Christmas Eve



services with the church nearly overflowing with people. Other memories of Barb during this time included spending summers at the Glidden swimming pool and waitressing at Tom's Café and the Busy Bee Café in Glidden.

Barb realized as a junior in high school that her world was larger than Glidden, Iowa, so unbeknownst to her parents she applied for a job in Colorado and she ended up in Granby, Colorado, during the summer months of 1971, 1972 and 1973. She worked in a restaurant in a resort town and enjoyed every minute of her expanded world.

Barb graduated from G-R in the spring of 1972. She enrolled at Iowa State University in the fall, graduating in 1976. She studied journalism during Watergate and had big dreams of getting a job with the Des Moines Register upon graduation. Instead, she ended up as the editor of a weekly newspaper in Lost Nation, Iowa, which provided her excellent experience in all aspects of journalism and the business of running a newspaper. Superb experience.

She moved to Bozeman, Montana, in 1977 to work as the news director for the Montana State University News Service. She met her first husband Doug Young in Bozeman and got married in 1978. They had two children – Julie, now 40, and Reed, now 38 – while she lived in Bozeman from 1977-1982.

Her career took her family to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, in 1982. They lived there for three years, moving to Minneapolis in 1985, and has lived there ever since (35 years). Minneapolis is definitely home.

Her first marriage ended in a divorce in 1996. She remarried Jim Iverson in 2002. He died of lung cancer and COPD in 2016.

Barb worked for a large global public relations firm – Weber Shandwick, headquartered in NYC -- from 1996

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until she retired in 2016. She had the time of her life there. She worked with amazing talent and on large national and global clients. She continued to live and work out of Minneapolis, but her job demanded that she travel nearly weekly to NYC and Washington, DC. She was responsible for new business quests in the financial services industry for this public relations firm. Clients included Prudential Retirement, MasterCard, Transamerica, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, ADP, the U. S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank, among many others. She worked with teams of people from the U.S. offices of Weber Shandwick. It was a terrific career.

Husband Jim died in 2016, and she retired the same year. Since Jim's death and her retirement, she has continued to live in the same home in the Lakes Area of South Minneapolis. She spends winters in a rented condo in Palm Springs, Calif., so she can be close to her granddaughters.

Covid has curtailed her travel, but before Covid, she took several trips in 2018 and 2019 with friends to the Scandinavian capitals and St. Petersburg, Russia; Berlin; Barcelona, Spain; Norway; and Cambodia. She gets together annually for a retreat with the six women whom she lived off campus with at ISU. They remain lifelong friends.

She has remained a loyal Iowa Stater, including six years on the Alumni Advisory Council for the Greenlee School of Journalism. She chaired this group of 30 alumni from all over the U.S. from 2014-2018.

Barb has faced several setbacks in life but she remains the eternal optimist and is an organizer extraordinaire. Barb helped organize a national summit on the future of journalism, public relations and advertising at ISU two year ago. She also helped organize First Presbyterian's 145<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration in 2015. At the time I questioned if we had enough time to plan the event she replied, "We can organize a funeral in three days so we can plan a reunion in three months."

We spoke earlier of Barb's setbacks in life and these are a few of her sad times in life: the sad ending of her first marriage to divorce; parents' deaths; brother Cal's

lifetime of mental illness; death of Miles to acute myeloid leukemia in 2012; death of Suzanne to pancreatic cancer 2016; and husband Jim's death in 2016.

Barb has also experienced a lot of joy in life: a rewarding career; two wonderful children and their families; good health; a big circle of friends in many cities; her home in Minneapolis. She remains close to brothers Warren (and wife Mary) in Des Moines and Cal, who lives at a group home in Sac City.

Daughter Julie Taggart is 40 and owns and runs a marketing firm in San Diego. The firm, Wayward Kind, develops websites and does content management on social platforms for small business clients. Her husband Jeff graduated from law school, passed the California bar, and works in IT consulting. They have two daughters: Olympia, 6 and Helena, 4. Son Reed Young is 38, is married to Sara Ziff (who runs a non-profit in NYC), and he's an editorial photographer for newspapers, magazines and ad agencies. They live in Brooklyn, NY, and are expecting their first child this November. Even though her kids live on the coasts, Barb makes a point to see them regularly.

In her spare time, Barb reads, writes, enjoys music, travels, meets friends for coffee and walks, and takes pride in a beautiful garden and yard. Once a journalist, always a journalist. She's a big reader and watcher of the news. She is a member of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, where she serves as the volunteer communications director for the church's Racial Justice Initiative.

It was a great joy corresponding with a G-R alumnus who from early on knew what she wanted to do and went out into the world and accomplished great expectations. She remembers her roots and is especially grateful for her mother's influence of strength, deep faith, positivity and independence. Likewise, she remembers the important influence of First Presbyterian Church.

Farm Crisis Ministry Network - supporting farmers and those who love and care for them, sharing resources for farm families, congregations, and rural communities.  
[Http://www.facebook.com/farmcrisisministry/](http://www.facebook.com/farmcrisisministry/)

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### THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

First Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the Community of Concern Board and Volunteers, I would like to thank you for the donation of \$100 for the year 2020. This is a wonderful thing for our pantry to have. We also thank you for your interest in our program. Your concern for those in need is greatly appreciated and enables us to assist those who struggle to provide for their own needs.

Roxanne Reinart, Director  
Community of Concern, Inc.

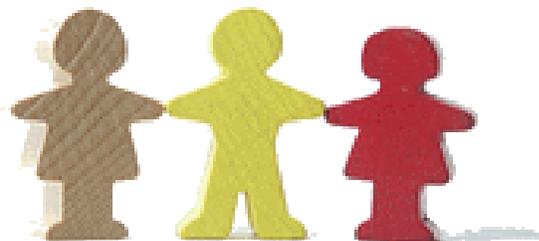
## From your Clerk of Session

- Technology grant was received from Presbytery in the amount of \$924 to purchase and install an Ipad Pro to record Sunday Service and post to Facebook/Website. This includes installation of audio to the sound board and removal of old, unused equipment.
- Review of 2019 Clerk's books is postponed til 2021. There will be zoom review this fall.

### Sunday School Update

We will be holding off on Sunday School for now. We will be sure to update everyone when that changes.

## Children's Sunday School



### What time is church?

Church will continue to be at 9:30 am through September.

October 4<sup>th</sup> we will gather at 10:30 am



## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3<sup>rd</sup> -Julie (Burdine) Raisch
- 13<sup>th</sup> -Ryan Thelin
- 15<sup>th</sup>-Larry and Judy Littlefield Anniversary
- 18<sup>th</sup>-Amber Birkett
- 19<sup>th</sup>-Elaine Crawford
- 26<sup>th</sup>-Wayne Seaman



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## *Kudo's Korner*

*To Lindsey Cose for gathering, arranging and printing this newsletter each month. All newsletters are sent to all members of the church and all people who have been featured in the column, "Where are they now". Lindsey has handled this job for the past seven and one-half years.*

*To Lora Reeve as she recorded the Sunday services in August and placed it on Facebook for homebound persons to watch.*

*To Suzy Danner for making cloth face mask with scripture messages on each mask for Pastor Anna, Marlys Conner, Judy Reeve & Diane Thelin.*

*To all the kids as they head off to College to continue their education. Also, to Kirk Thelin & Sara Stevens returning to the classrooms to teach.*

*To all G-R students who will participate in extracurricular activities during the fall season. Good luck, stay safe and enjoy your activities but always remember why you attend school.*

*To Whitney Reeve for her showing "Roxie" at the Iowa State FFA Breeding Show, receiving 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, Champion Chiania & also "Viola" at the Iowa State Fair Breeding Show for Reserve Grand Champion Angus.*

*To Bill & Elaine Crawford on the birth of their great-granddaughter. This birth provides the Crawford's with four great-grandchildren. Two girls and two boys.*

*To Braylee Cose for participating in the puppy pack classes at the fair. Treynor showed horses & dogs. He received several purple and blue ribbons. He ended up with champion of champion halter horse & overall junior high point.*

*To Carolyn Conner on her birthday on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Would like to know her secret for staying young. She looks the same as she did when she left Glidden.*