

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

January 2021



Small Talk with Pastor Anna

Friends in Christ: I hope that all of you had a good Christmas. I know I did thanks in part to the bonus I unexpectedly received at the end of the Christmas Eve service. What a sweet gift to receive from so many of you. If you were there during the service, you know how touched I was. Churches all over the world celebrated the birth of the Christ Child in different ways this year than in the past, but the joy was still present as people once more felt the awe and wonder of what we have been given in Jesus. For me, as a single person celebrating Christmas has revolved around the church. I enjoy the four Sundays of Advent, the decorating of the church, the lighting of the Advent candles, the music and hearing the familiar scriptures as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. I enjoy the connection I feel as we worship together whether it be in person or online.

Now we begin a new year. May we all experience the epiphany, a new understanding of God's presence in our lives, feeling Christ's grace and the kinship of God's Holy Spirit supporting and sustaining us in this year to come. There will be challenges and surprises, but together we can accomplish much as we support each other on our journey of faith.

Blessings to all of you and a happy New Year!!!

Pastor Anna Small

Bible Banter

Seems there were these three professionals sitting around talking about the oldest profession.

The Doctor says, "Well, the Bible says that God took a rib out of Adam to make woman. Since that clearly required surgery, then the oldest profession is surely medicine."

The Engineer shakes his head and replies, "No, no. The Bible also says that God created the world out of void and chaos. To do that, God must surely have been an engineer. Therefore, Engineering is the oldest profession."

The Politician smiles smugly and leans discreetly forward. "Ah," he says, "but who do you think created the Chaos?"

<https://thinkaboutsuchthings.com/bible-jokes/>

12 Days of Gratitude

With the opening of the St. Anthony Hospital's new cancer center on December 7, 2020, it stirred the memories of Mark Conner of Glidden, Iowa. His memories scanned the past thirty years and what has taken place during that time. It was thirty years ago his mother, Marge Conner, was diagnosed with colon cancer and given only three months to live as the cancer had already spread. Her doctor told her she could travel to Des Moines, Omaha or Rochester for treatment. Marge and her family decided to receive treatment at St. Anthony in Carroll if she only had three more months to live. At this time, St. Anthony did not have a cancer center but did have a great doctor by the name of Dr Westberg. Marge began her treatment in a patient room on 3rd floor. Marge was one of the first persons to be treated with a new drug that Dr. Westberg prescribed. With the good Lord's blessings and chemotherapy treatments, Marge lived not three months but another three years. Her son Mark, realized at the time how much travel time was avoided with treatment at St. Antony and also avoiding the exhaustion that may be caused by such long travel time. Marge passed away in 1993 but Dr. Westberg referred to Marge as his Miracle Child due to her elongated life.

Move forward to 1996 and Marge's son, Mark Conner, is diagnosed with colon cancer, the same type his mother experienced. Mark never gave it a second thought as he wanted to be treated at St. Antony in Carroll and treated by Dr. Westberg and even inferred to the Dr. to use the same drug as he used on his mother. The cancer had spread with tumors throughout the abdomen, but in Mark's case the Dr. was more optimistic because they had caught the cancer in earlier stages. Along with chemotherapy, Mark was treated with radiation.

Mark is very grateful for the care he received during his treatments and mentioned the nurses as caring and professional in every way. He mentioned Paula Koehler, Jane Hackford and Cheryl Thielen as three such nurses who still work at St. Anthony.

Mark is now a 24-year survivor knowing well that his cancer is in remission. He is very grateful to Dr. Westberg, St. Anthony Hospital and support from his friends and people who had provided financial support for the new cancer center. Looking back some thirty years, Mark is amazed at the services offered by St. Anthony and how these services have expanded. Cancer services have

made great progress in treatment of cancer and St. Anthony has moved forward in lockstep.

There is still another verse to this message as Mark's father-in-law, Mr. Wayne Lindskoog from Odebolt, Iowa, contacted cancer and was encouraged to seek treatment in Sioux City, Iowa. Mr. Lindskoog chose Carroll for treatment and was pleased with his care until he died at 94 years of age.

As the Conner's think of Twelve Days of Gratitude at this time of year, they realize their gratitude extends to every day of the year.

Mark Conner, Cancer Survivor

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st-Kevin Nelson

2nd-Kirk Thelin

6th-Braylee Cose

7th-Brandon and Cole Burdine

11th-Anna Fleecs

12th-Daniel Lamp

17th-Jayden Douglas

18th-Stuart Conner

22nd-Larry Littlefield

24th-Duane Conner

26th-Erin Danner



From the Finance committee

As we near the end of a very different year and a different way of life the Finance committee would like to say thank you to the congregation and members for their continued support of the church and it's missions. Our financial state continues to be strong even as we have faced an unprecedented chain of events that have affected how we meet in worship and conduct our everyday lives. In relation to our current times we have been following how our investments have reacted to the world's events. During this time, we have been able to identify where we are strong and where we are weak. In the coming months the committee will be looking to those investments that have held steady and performed well to help carry us into the future.

During the months of November and December our stated mission was grocery gift certificates for those in need in our local community. As I reference the 2019 report, we as a congregation contributed an additional 31% to the gift certificate mission in comparison to last year. This was also supplemented by additional funds from the community auction that helped to provide additional funds to 17 local families for a Christmas meal in a year plagued by many negative aspects of life and brought light in a time of darkness. The community has responded well with cards of thanks and appreciation in regard to our commitment of fulfilling our local mission and our duty to God.

As we look to 2021 our mission for January and February is project share. While we identify this mission as one of 6 main focused missions for the year, we must not forget our local needs as well. First, being the mission to support our church and congregation. Another notable item of support in the Glidden community is the Little Wildcat Education Center. If you wish to direct money towards either of these specific missions in the coming months, please indicate on your check or envelope your desire to support that said mission.

A more detailed report of the churches finances and investments will be available at the upcoming annual meeting.

In closing, the committee once again extends its sincere appreciation to all the members for remembering the church , its missions and its community in all the tithes and offerings that are brought forth each and every day to help support our congregation and our community.

Clerk's report:

Watch every Sunday morning at 10:30 for Facebook Live broadcast of church service

Annual Meeting will be January 31 following Church. Watch Facebook for updates and your email for a report for those who cannot attend in person.

November average church attendance was 25 people.

Facebook Church Service is reaching over 40 people each week.

A Brief History of First Presbyterian Church (USA), Glidden, Iowa

“We who trust in Jesus Christ, believe that God loves everyone. We will share the love of God by calling all to faithful living, making disciples and giving to all humanity.” This is the mission statement of First Presbyterian Church (USA) of Glidden, Iowa. This year our church celebrated its 150th anniversary. Wanting to share the love of God and give to all humanity on April 17, 1870 our church was organized by the Rev. George R. Carroll, a missionary of the Omaha Presbytery in an old schoolhouse. Eleven men and women were charter members of the church. Alva Gee was elected and installed as the presiding elder. He preached at the first funeral ever preached here in Glidden.

For four years that schoolhouse served as the church building until the congregation had the means to build a house of worship. In January 1874, the decision was made to build the first church in Glidden. The church building was dedicated the following autumn.

The Methodist congregation shared the building until they could build their own house of worship in 1878. By 1888 the church grew enough that the building was enlarged and a bell and belfry were added. In March of 1907 a congregational meeting was convened to discuss the possibility of building a new church building, the building we now worship in, on 304 Idaho Street. The cornerstone was laid that July and after some delays the new church building was dedicated on January 12, 1908. Throughout the years there have been changes to the building including the addition of a clavinova to replace the organ and a projector and screen added to the sanctuary to help facilitate worship which has proved to be invaluable in this time of COVID19.

Yet, the church is more than a building. In 150 years this Presbyterian congregation has seen over 30 ministers lead in worship. One of those pastors, John Henry

Sammis who served from 1879-1881 wrote the hymn, “Trust and Obey”. Another pastor, Rev. Bob Peters left the congregation grieving when he suffered a heart attack and died that day at the age of 61 on Sunday, October 13, 2002. Much beloved, memorial funds were given in his honor to be used for various purposes such as air conditioning in the building, and to buy new pew bibles. This past January, Rev. Anna D. Small was called to be the church’s pastor. She began her time here in late February, shortly before the church chose to worship digitally because of COVID19. From this congregation, Elisabeth Read, Beatrice Riedesel and Steven Moorhouse went into the mission field. Wayne Gute, John Conner, Steven Moorhouse and Darin Seaman grew up in this church and went on to be

ordained pastors. While a campus minister at Oregon State University in 1977 John Conner chose to run for the highest office in the Presbyterian Church, that of moderator. He was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church and served a one year term. Carolyn Conner and William Crawford both trained

through the Lay Academy to be Commissioned Ruling Elders to serve in the role of pastor to congregations here in the Presbyterian Church in Iowa.

Over 150 years there have been many weddings performed, children born and baptized, and funerals. Throughout the years the congregation has changed, but we still meet and worship and now share Sunday School with Glidden United Methodist Church. We are happy to be a welcoming congregation with friendly faces to any who visit in person on Sunday mornings or who watch the services online. Supporting local missions such as the food pantry, New Hope Village, and school supplies for children in need continues to be a high priority for the church. Like many congregations, we have adapted to living with COVID19 by recording our services and putting them up on our website and Facebook page.



“Kudos Korner”

To PW for sending Christmas cards to our shut-ins and delivering \$10.00 gift certificates to five of our college students.

To the Wagner family for the lovely fresh flower arrangement given in memory of Dr. Robert & Virginia. Dr. Bob would have been 100 years old on December 12th. The arrangement was delivered to Swan Place following worship.

For the kind people who donated money for the purchase of grocery certificates for people in our community who might need extra help during this Christmas Season.

To our youth, with adult help, for lighting the Advent Wreath during worship.

To all the members who supported this church throughout the year. This support includes your labor, financial and prayers.

Kudos to ALL

