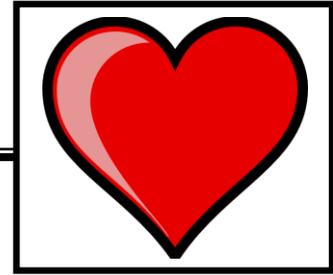


# First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

February 2021



## Small Talk with Pastor Anna

Friends in Christ:

What does it mean to be Presbyterian? What is the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions? Why do we have these books? This past week I learned that Wayne Seaman asked Bill Crawford to write about John Knox, considered one of the fathers of the Presbyterian Church this month. I look forward to reading what he has to say about being Presbyterian.

One of the things I appreciate about being Presbyterian is that we are a connectional church. I am more aware of those connections as I work on my installation service which will be February 14, at 2 p.m. at the church. Both you, the congregation, and I will make promises to support each other and work together carrying out the work of the church. There will be an installation commission of ministers and elders representing this presbytery and this church. Rev. Kevin Freese of First Presbyterian Church in Battle Creek, Rev. Rikki Sorensen of First Presbyterian Church in Carroll, Rev. Jennifer Olson of United Presbyterian Church in Denison, Wayne Seaman, a ruling elder from our church and Kathy Vonnahme, a ruling elder from Auburn United Presbyterian Church are on the commission. The service will be a time to celebrate even with our masks on.

It is strange to be installed almost a year after I officially started, but for me it makes the service that much more meaningful because I know most of you far more than I did when I accepted the call to be your pastor. I look forward to getting to know more of you better in the years to come. The first hymn we will sing at my installation is one I learned while in seminary. It is titled "We Are Gathered", by Doris Ellzey Blessoff. The first verse reflects what we experience as a community of faith. The first verse is, "We are gathered here together in the presence of the Spirit, the Spirit that keeps breaking in our lives. We don't have all the answers, but we sure do have the questions. We know that to create is to survive." Together, may we seek out what it means to be Christian and to be Presbyterian.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Anna Small

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## Where are they now?

This month's article will focus on Clark Conner of Ankeny, Iowa, who is the son of Paul Conner (deceased) and Carolyn Conner.

Clark was born in Carroll at St. Anthony Hospital in 1959. He was later joined in this family by two siblings – Karmen and Clair.

In his pre-school years, he lived on the farm and like most farm children he learned about living things as he watched the flowers bloom in the spring and watched the crops mature throughout the year. Like many pre-school children, they fail to realize how much learning is taking place just by observing.

Clark spent thirteen years at the Glidden-Ralston School and he recalls fondly his fourth-grade year spent in Ralston. It was a good experience as the fourth grade was on its own. The class became more connected and closer to each other during this year. While out for recess one day, Clark was struck by a ball bat as the batter brought their bat back to swing. Clark was hit in the temple which blackened both eyes and most of his face.

Clark enjoyed school as he moved into his junior high years with participation in extracurricular activities. He joined football, chorus, and began to learn to play the saxophone. Mrs. Hazel Peters, Clark's aunt, was his fifth-grade teacher. Mrs. Louise Klegel taught Clark in Glidden-Ralston who also taught Clark's dad, Paul, when he attended GR.

In high school, Clark continued his interest in music as he played in the band, stage band, participated in vocal and instrumental music playing and singing in many groups. He also participated in drama and stage productions such as Hello Dolly, Music Man and others led by his vocal music instructor and mentor, Mr. Temple.

During his high school years, the family moved twice. They first moved from the home place to a place north west of the Merle Hay Cemetery. His junior year the family moved to their new home in Glidden. Clark was a junior when this house was being built. Clark had an interest in wood working and building so he watched and helped build parts of this house.

Prom and graduation came in the spring of 1977 without much fanfare, but the group did attend the movie in Carroll where they watched the movie Jaws.

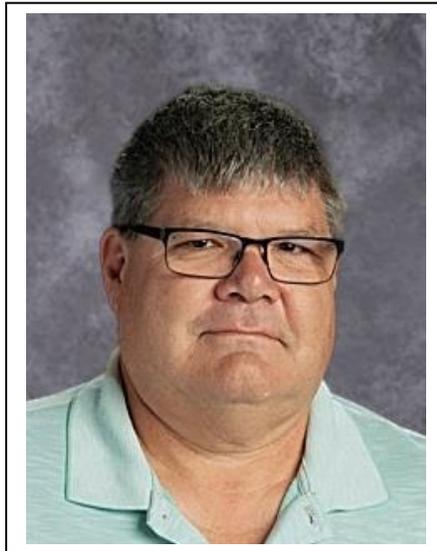
College was calling so Clark enrolled at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Industrial Technology, graduating in 1981. While at UNI, he was a busy man as he participated in music all four years of college. He sang in the Glee Club and in his sophomore or junior year, the Glee Club toured West Germany, Austria, Amsterdam, and places throughout Europe. The group of 65 students had the entire upper deck in a jumbo 747 to themselves on the flight. So, to pass the time the group broke out in singing some of the material they would use on the tour. The officials from the airline approached the upper deck and

requested the students come down to first class and coach and stand in the aisles and sing to the other passengers. What a way to break up an eight-hour flight!

As a freshman, Clark signed up for a Spanish course and also taking that class was a young lady by the name of Patricia (Pat) Moore. During Clark's sophomore year, he asked Pat for a date and she said, Si. This couple began dating in 1979 and were married in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ankeny on August 8, 1981. The ceremony was performed by the Priest and Rev. Scott Burkley from First Presbyterian Church in Glidden.

The young couple began life together as teachers in Fairfax, Minnesota. Pat taught first grade in the St. Andrews School while Clark taught seventh grade through twelfth grade Industrial Technology. The couple were involved in Fairfax School for two years when smaller schools started to join the larger systems. The future was uncertain in Fairfax therefore they accepted teaching positions in the larger school at Algona, Iowa. This was 1983 and Clark retired in 2020 after thirty-seven years at Algona. Presently the Algona school system has an enrollment between 1200-1500 students in all thirteen grades. When Clark started teaching his class size was nine to thirteen students and currently class size is 20-23 students. Mergers of school system has caused this expanded class size as parts of LuVerne, Corwith, Wesley merged with Algona plus Titonka. A bigger school still required Clark to share an office at Algona with the music teacher. Because of Clark's love of music this sharing was not a problem.

At the beginning of the century, Clark began to work on his Master's Degree as he attended S. W



Minnesota State at Marshall, Minn. He received his Master's Degree as he continued to teach.

Pat was also very active in the school system as she too taught in the Algona school in the elementary and middle school. During this tenure she did take a couple of years off with the birth of her first child. The birth of the following two children did not interrupt her teaching schedule as she continued her career as a teacher and mother.

The Conner's have three children and four grandchildren. Son Brett is married to Lori and they have two children and live in Clive, Iowa. Megan and her husband, Tim Divine, live in Coralville Iowa, with their two children. Justin and Trisha live in Elkhart with their two dogs.

In talking how his world has change in education, Clark said, "When I started teaching thirty nine years ago, my world involved teaching about metals, plastics, woodworking and hand drawing. Today, its about 3d printers, CNC Lacer Engravers, CNC Plastic Cutters, Power Coating and computers". Most everything is now computer based including grading on-line, parent-teacher conferences and limited use of paper.

Students have changed during Clark's tenure however many things remain the same. Some students live for school. One student built his own 3d printer prior to the school acquiring one. Another student built his own drone prior to them being readily available.

Clark was not fully occupied with school as he also worked at the YMCA, was an insurance adjuster, managed the swimming pool 10 years, and worked at a computer store for fourteen years, all as part-time work. For 25 years, Clark was a leader in the Cub & Boy Scouts and his boys both attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Clark & Pat were married in Ankeny and forty years later they return to where their life together all started living in Ankeny, Iowa. Clark still works with wood as he builds items for grandchildren, enjoys singing, does some walking but is now limited somewhat with health problems. He has had both knees replaced and now is dealing with a heart that won't stay in rhythm.

"Above all the clouds there is always blue sky". This is good advice Clark promotes. He encourages his friends and students to be positive and think positive thoughts.

Clark remarked of his roots in Glidden and the Presbyterian Church as he notes this gave him a great foundation. He spent time at various Okoboji Camps at a

young age and as an adult helping their young people. He even drove a bus to Canada for the Presbyterian Camp for a Canoe trip.

Because of the relocation, Pat and Clark are unsure what the future holds. Because of the pandemic, they are limited in their activities. The future may hold some substitute teaching or many other areas of interest for them.

He graduated GR in 1977 and still has fond memories of the people, the town, the school and all things many who live here take for granted. A real joy to be updated by this good man and his wife.

### **Scout Sunday Service Announcement**

New to this year's worship calendar is the observance of Scout Sunday in our church on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Scout Sunday is historically observed on the Sunday before the birthdate of Boy Scouts of America which is February 8<sup>th</sup>. During this time a scout demonstrates the 12<sup>th</sup> point of the scout law, reverent. While the observed date for 2021 would be the 7<sup>th</sup>, it is allowable for the pastor and session to set a date that best suits the church and its scouts. Pastor Anna and the cubmaster are working on a service for that day and are excited to have this opportunity to worship together.

### *One*

*One tree can start a forest;*

*One smile can begin a friendship;*

*One hand can lift a soul;*

*One word can frame a goal;*

*One candle can wipe out darkness;*

*One laugh can conquer gloom;*

*One hope can raise your spirits;*

*One touch can show you care;*

*One life can make the difference,*

*Be that One this year.*

*In an effort to broaden our knowledge of the Presbyterian Church and its beginning, we have asked Bill Crawford to research and write historical stories about the church. Bill writes of events that happened nearly five hundred years ago and progress has been made since those days. Enjoy the story of our denomination.*

John Knox

John Knox was the founder of what became the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. His exact date of birth is not known and is placed variously between 1505 and 1515 in Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland. His father was a farmer. Little is known of his mother other than the fact that her maiden name was Sinclair. She died while Knox was very young.

Even the early education of John Knox is difficult to determine. He was certainly taught in a grammar school in Haddington. He probably received some university education at either St. Andrews or Glasgow. However, there is no record of him having achieved a university degree. He became a priest and a notary and served in that capacity until the early 1540s when he became a tutor to young Scot noblemen **George Wisheart**, a reformation preacher.

The history of the Christian Church is a long journey from the early believers who met in house churches to the variety of denominations today. After the death of Jesus, the movement of "The Way" grew and there was a need for uniformity of beliefs and doctrine. What evolved was "One Holy and Catholic and Apostolic Church." The first church council was the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. which created the first creed of the church, the Nicene Creed, which declared the divinity of Jesus. The next creed adopted was the Apostle's Creed, though the date is uncertain of its adoption, it was probably 60-70 year later.

The church was based in Rome. Then in 1054 the Great Schism occurred when the Eastern Orthodox Churches (Russia, Greek, and others) split partially over the issue of papal supremacy. The rest of this paper will only consider the Roman Catholic Church, which wielded great power throughout the European countries. With power came the allegations of abuses. Numerous reformers attempted to bring about changes, but they were generally disposed of on charges of heresy. The first successful reformer was Martin Luther who wrote and nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517.

The document challenged the teachings of the Catholic Church on the nature of penance, the

authority of the pope and the usefulness of indulgences (payments to priests to get persons out of purgatory and into heaven). It sparked a theological debate that fueled the Reformation and subsequently resulted in the birth of Protestantism. Luther had two major advantages over previous reformers in that he had a German prince who protected him and the printing press which had been invented so that his ideas could be distributed. Luther developed the doctrine of justification by faith alone based on the book of Romans.

These events led to other reformers such as John Calvin leading believers in new and different directions. Calvin, a Frenchman, was in Geneva, Switzerland and drew others who learned from him. One such person was John Knox. Before going to Geneva, Knox had heard **Wisheart (as his bodyguard)** in his attempt to convert Catholics to the new reformed faith. Following Wisheart's death, Knox began preaching at St. Andrews and speaking out strongly against the Roman Catholic Church. He criticized the selling of indulgences, {the pecuniary (money) aspect was abolished in 1562.}, pilgrimages {journeys to sacred places}, enforced fasts, and clerical celibacy as unscriptural, blasphemous practices in conflict with the doctrine of justification by faith alone.

In 1556, Knox travelled with his wife and mother-in-law to Geneva, the center of Reformation Protestantism, where he had acquired a position as minister to the English speaking population there. Knox spent two years in Geneva where he absorbed the intense surrounding protestant atmosphere. In letters he would state that Geneva exhibited the best possible practice and living of the Christian religion.

Returning to Scotland (1559) John Knox became a leader of a tumultuous uprising determined to replace Roman Catholicism in order to bring the reformation to Scotland based on the model of the Geneva church. Knox preached inflammatory sermons across the country that led to the sacking of cathedrals and some abbeys. Knox soon became a leading minister in Edinburgh. From all this came what is known as Presbyterianism. This was a time of intense political intrigue between the Catholics and the Protestants. As kings and queens changed, so did the official faith of a country.

Although Scotland had been in religious ferment for over a decade, the actual reformation of the church in Scotland did not occur until the latter half of 1560. The Scottish Parliament met, and on the advice of John Knox and other religious leaders passed laws making the **Kirk (Scottish for church)** as the official state faith and outlawing Catholic practices. As in

Geneva the churches would be run by members of congregations. Ministers would be elected which continues today.

The legacy of John Knox is not difficult to find. He carried an austere Protestantism that was infused with a congregational polity from Geneva to Scotland. He was instrumental in the transition of Scotland from a Catholic to a Presbyterian state. Knox was a reformer in the uncompromising tradition of Luther, Calvin, and others.

**PRESBYTERY**,n, A body of elders in the Christian church.

In ecclesiastical government, a judicatory consisting of all the pastors of churches within a certain district, and one ruling elder, a layman, from each parish, commissioned to represent the parish in conjunction with the minister. This body receives appeals from the kirk-session, and appeals from the *presbytery* may be carried to the provincial synod.

The *presbytery* of the churches in the United States is composed in a manner nearly similar.

The definition is from Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language, 1828.

### *Bible Banter*

*Me: So Christ's body is the bread?*

*Pastor: yes*

*Me: and he rose from the grave*

*Pastor: yes*

*Me: because of the yeast?*

*Pastor: no*

### **Finance Committee update**

The finance committee would like to start off our monthly update with expressing a sincere Thank You. A thank you to the members for their generous offerings to the church and its mission. And a thank you to all that have left behind a little something for the church to help it sustain for many years to come. As we round the corner from the annual meeting, we know that the state of the church in regards to finances is very strong. The members can rest assured that we have a very good backing of investments to help guide us through the future. Besides legacy planning, cash gifts and donations of stock, a member can contribute smaller amounts that will add up over time and definitely help better the church. A member who's reached 70 ½ years can take advantage of the IRS rule allowing for IRA mandatory distributions to be given to a charitable organization tax free. This opportunity might be worth a discussion with your financial advisor if you find that you may be in a situation where receiving these mandatory payments may not be necessary at this time.

At the bi-annual finance committee meeting we set forth our missions for 2021. We will be following the same schedule as 2020 meaning February will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> and last month of giving towards Glidden Project Share. Through Project Share eligible households can receive a one time \$50 grant towards the cost of heating their house. The other facet of this program is the meals on wheels program. Our upcoming mission in March and April will be One Great Hour of Sharing. This was our congregations' largest mission in terms of money for the year 2020.

Finally, in closing thank you again. Thank you to everyone here and gone for having supported and maintained our church and its congregation for 150 years. This demonstrates in the utmost of ways just how successful this our church has been and will be for years to come.

## *THANK YOU'S:*

*Several Thank You Notes have been received from the recipients of our grocery certificates.*

*Thank you for the beautiful card and gift card. I'm always grateful to be reminded of the strong support & loving community that my family has been welcomed into. Thank You all for such a wonderful Christmas Eve. Service.  
Anna Fleecs*

*Thank you for the gift card! It will help with food & supplies when I return to school. Whitney Reeve*

*Thank you for the generous gift and for always keeping me in your prayers. Vet school at Iowa State is going well and by May of 2022 I should finally be done with school. I hope all of you are doing well and in good health. Thank you again. Wesley Reeve*

### **Six Little Stores with Lots of Meanings**

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is FAITH.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is TRUST.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. That is HOPE.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is CONFIDENCE.
5. We see the worth suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is LOVE.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." That is ATTITUDE.

***Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.***

### **Something to think about:**

A lady went to the Pastor and said..."I won't be attending Church anymore." He asked, "May I ask why?" She said, "I see people on their cell phones during the service, some are gossiping, some just aren't living right, they are all just hypocrites."

The Pastor got silent and he said, "Ok, but can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?" She said, "What's that?" He said, "Take a glass of water and walk around the Church 2 times and don't let any water fall out of the glass." She said, "Yes I can do that."

She came back and said "It's done." He asked her 3 questions, "Did you see anyone on their phone? Did you see anybody gossiping? Was anyone living wrong?" She said, "I didn't see anything because I was so focused on this glass, so the water wouldn't fall." He told her, "When you come to Church, you should be just that focused on God, so that you don't fall. That's why Jesus said 'Follow me.' He did not say follow Christians. ***Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God. Let it be determined by how focused YOU are on God.***"

## *“Kudos Korner”*

*To Ron Burdine as he just completed two terms on the Session.*

*To the kind people who took down the Christmas decorations – Keith, Marlys, Karla & Gordon Cose & to Karla for re-decorating the choir loft railing.*

*To Lindsey Cose, our organizer, & all who contribute to the church monthly newsletter. Beginning in February of 2013, with a message from Pastor Brian, announcements, Kudo’s and other information, we have now experienced eight years of the newsletter.*

*To Diane Thelin, Marlys Connor, Elaine Crawford, Lora Reeve, and Suzy and Keith Danner for church slides, snow removed, websites updated, and kids taught in Sunday school.*

### February Birthdays and Anniversaries

5<sup>th</sup>-Karla Cose  
7<sup>th</sup>-Heather Mueggenberg  
9<sup>th</sup>-Whitney Reeve  
11<sup>th</sup>-Harry and Judy Reeve Anniversary  
15<sup>th</sup>-Michael Douglas  
17<sup>th</sup>-Emma Flemmig  
18<sup>th</sup>-Will Reeve  
18<sup>th</sup>-Treyvor Cose  
28<sup>th</sup>-Mark Toyne



**To help with member communication, a "Church Event Calendar" has been posted on the office bulletin board. Please post any meetings, special events, showers, weddings, funerals. etc. If you would like to reserve the sanctuary or fellowship center, please contact the clerk of session, Lora Reeve. Thank you.**