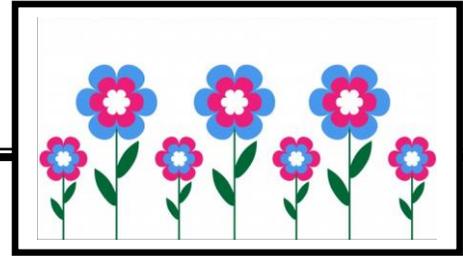


First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

June 2021



Small Talk with Pastor Anna

Friends in Christ:

How does the way we live our lives; our actions and beliefs, affect others? Our words and our actions lead to more words and actions, some we see, some we don't. I started thinking about this as I participated in the funeral for Carolyn Conner. I saw how she took her obligations seriously, helping a seminary student wade his way through ordination exams and other requirements to become ordained in the Presbyterian church. Her love of music and her time as a certified ruling elder were reflected in the service she created for her funeral. I think of her becoming the first woman to be moderator of a presbytery in this part of Iowa and how she led the way for other women elders and ministers. The love of music she shared with her family I saw reflected in a granddaughter who sang to her beloved grandma for an hour in that week before she died.

I think about what I am learning about Frank Sherwin who also wrote what will be read and played for his funeral tomorrow May 29th. Not one to make public the good he did for others, he lived what he believed helping those in his community. How did that help impact those who were in need and received a helping hand. The Westminster Shorter Catechism asks us what is the chief end of humanity and then answers to love God and to enjoy God forever. In these two human beings, these two members of our congregation I see the bounty reaped by the love they showed God and for God's children.

This Memorial Day weekend our country honors those who gave their lives to protect and preserve what this country, at its best, stands for. We have seen our country and the rest of the world go through hard times this past 14 months. May we too love the God who loves us and enjoy God forever living each day, asking how best to show that love by showing love in all that we do, all that we say and all that we are.

May all of you have a wonderful summer. If you need to get a hold of me at any time, you can call me at 503/847-1938 or email me at annadeesmall@gmail.com. I enjoy hearing from you.

Stay safe and Blessings to you all,
Pastor Anna

Where are they now?

Doug & Judy Smid lived in Glidden from 1976-1986 & attended First Presbyterian Church. They raised two boys – Tom & Randy. Randy is our focus for this month's story.

Randy was born in 1973 in Sheldon, Iowa and joined his older brother. After a very short stay in Boyden, the family moved to Pella for the two years. The family was transferred to Glidden in 1976 as Doug was asked to manage the Boomsma Egg Plant. Randy has few memories of his days as a kindergartener but he has always remembered his days as a preschooler at First Presbyterian.

Like many young people, school was okay for Randy but he wanted to be more active than setting at a desk studying. Randy attended school in Glidden-Ralston from kindergarten through seventh grade. Some of his classmates were Sean Soyer, Bill Heuton, Sara Bock, Jill Crawford and Kellie Heuton, just to name a few of them. Randy participated in little league baseball with Randy Schon as his coach. In seventh grade, he participated in football and basketball. Randy attempted to play a trumpet in band in fifth grade but according to Randy, it was soon discovered that music wasn't his calling.

The family relocated to Pella in August of 1986 where Randy finished his schooling, graduating in 1991. Randy did well in his schooling and continued to participate in extra curricular activities. His favorite subject tended to be in the area of history. During his sophomore year, Randy and the Pella team made the state golf tournament and during his senior year, the team made the state basketball tournament. School years seemed to move very slow but in 1991, all of a sudden, it was over. Prom, graduation and out the door to greater challenges.



Randy attended college in Pella at Central College from 1991-1995, majoring in Business Management with a minor in Marketing. While at Central College, Randy played basketball all four years and was a first team starter for the last three years. Summer activities included lifting weights one hour a day - five days a week, shooting basketball for one hour or more and a couple of scrimmages each week. But work came first as Randy helped paint dorm rooms and class rooms his first summer for Central College. His second and third summers, he worked at Pella Corporation assembling windows as an interim summer employee.

Following graduation, Randy worked for a short

time selling life insurance for Prudential Life Insurance. Following this short valuable experience, Randy accepted a job with American Life and Causality Company out of Des Moines, where he worked in marketing and sales support. This company marketed annuities. Randy started working for American Life shortly after college and in 1996 the company was sold to Conseco. That year he relocated to Indianapolis, Indiana where he was employed as a support person for the sales staff. He

continued in that position until 2001.

Opportunity was calling so Randy answered the call as he moved back to Des Moines and began work with the Sammons Financial Group as a project manager working in Information Technology (IT). Randy admits that he does not do programming but he is the middle person between the people seeking an upgrade and programmers that rewrite the programs. He works with developers, planning for adequate resources, budgeting, time management and allowing organized change to happen. So for the past twenty years, Randy has been a part of Sammons Financial Group.

In April 2003, Randy attended a birthday party of a friend and a young lady that Randy had seen on

occasion was also at this party. Randy and Danielle (Dani) officially met at this party and in July of 2004, they were married at the Baptist Church in Monroe, Iowa. Dani grew up in Monroe, which is a stones throw from Pella. Dani received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and her law degree from Drake University. She worked for Brown-Winick Law Firm in Des Moines as an Associate early in her career and later became a partner in the firm specializing in employment law. In 2012 she accepted a position with Alliant Energy for approximately seven years before returning to Brown-Winick Law Firm as a partner.

Careers did not stop this couple from creating their family as Zachary, now fifteen years old, Ava and Henry are now eleven and Cael is six years old.

We asked Randy about his and the family's hobbies or activities and he responded quickly with family activities. The children are just starting in intense school activities. Son, Zac, spent the weekend participating in the State Track meet as he ran in the shuttle hurdle relay and the 400-meter hurdles. Randy still plays golf when time permits.

A memory that Randy still cherishes is his high school basketball trip to Suriname, South American, a country of 600,000 people. The trip last 7-10 days and as a third world country it doesn't have the standard of living we have in Glidden, Pella or Des Moines, Iowa.

Randy did not receive this as advice but learned the lesson from experience and that is "an individual learns much more from one's losses than do from wins".

Today, Randy, Dani and children attend the Hope Lutheran Church at the Grimes Campus. Memories of First Presbyterian Church in Glidden include lighting candles, ringing the church bell, singing in junior choir and church potlucks.

It was a delight touching base with a young friend who is doing very well in business, family, church and serving our Lord.

KUDO'S KORNER

To Will and Leah Reeve on the birth of their son, Rorik Timothy Eldred Reeve, born Wednesday May 19th. Baby & parents are doing fine as well as Grandmother Lora & Great Grandparents, Harry & Judy Reeve.

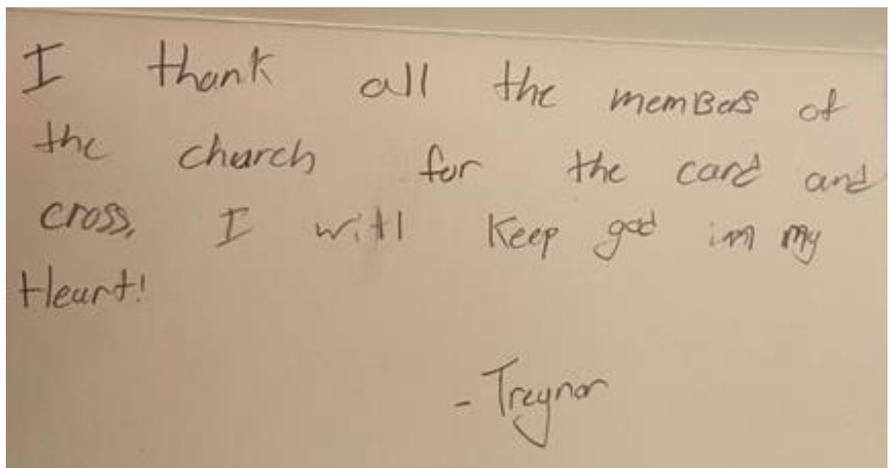
To all graduating seniors on completing this phase of your life's journey. May God watch over each of you.

To all teachers who are completing a very trying year of school.

KUDO'S TO ALL

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

"I thank all the members of the church for the card and cross. I will keep God in my heart!" ~Treyvor Cose

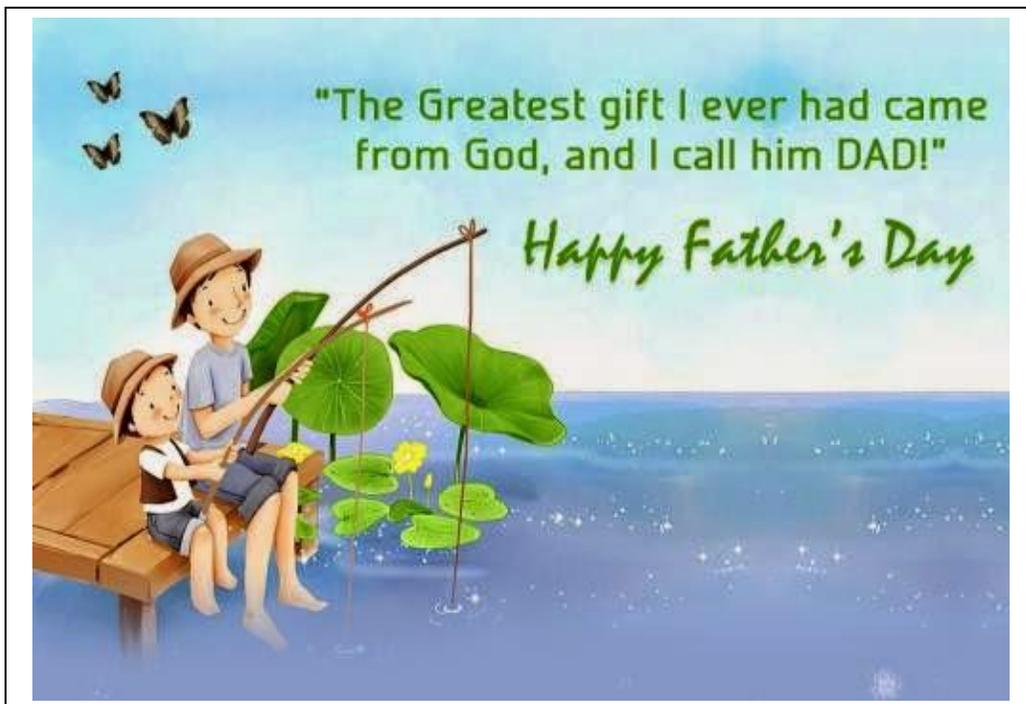


I thank all the members of the church for the card and cross. I will keep god in my heart!

-Treyvor

SYMPATHIES to all families of Carolyn Conner. Services were held for her on May 20th at First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Anna Small & Rev. Kevin Freese officiating.

SYMPATHIES also to Marlene Sherwin & her extended family on the death of her husband, Frank. Memorial service was held at First Presbyterian on Saturday, May 29th.



June Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 3rd-Diane Thelin
- 3rd-Brad & Heather Mueggenberg Anniversary
- 8th-Kevin and Sara Fleecs Anniversary
- 11th-Keith & Suzy Danner Anniversary
- 15th-Matt & Rhonda Conner Anniversary
- 19th-Rick & Tami Burdine Anniversary
- 20th-Russ Draves
- 24th-Duane and Joyce Conner Anniversary

