

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

January 2022



Small Talk with Pastor Anna

Friends in Christ:

What a joy it was to see the church filled on Christmas Eve with glorious music played by Marlys and Judy and young children making their own joyous noise as we heard again the story of Jesus' birth in Luke chapter two. Thanks to Madison and Jayden for their help; Madison for leading us in the lighting of the Christ candle and to Jayden for lighting all the Advent candles and the Christ candle. I would also like to thank Jayden for ringing the bell and to all the young people who helped me find and put each baby Jesus in the correct Nativity set. Thanks as well to Mark for making sure we all had candles to light as we shared the light of Christ and sang Silent Night and Joy to the World together.

Equally nice though was the service on Sunday, December 26th. Though small in number we had the joy of others with lifelong connection to our church family watching the service on Facebook. If you go to the church Facebook page you'll find comments from Margaret Ann Foster and Maxie Grundmeier Semmens who both grew up in the church. Margaret thanks us for live streaming the service with those who are unable to come back home and Maxie comments on how the church of her youth still looks so good. As much as we would love to have them worship with us in person, the ability to live stream gives us new ways to stay connected as a community of faith.

May we all ring in the New Year with the love of God warming us, the light of Christ's grace guiding us and the Holy Spirit binding us together. Thanks be to God for all of you.

I want to remind you that I have office hours at the church Wednesday and Thursday, 1:30 pm - 4:30 p.m. However, the third week of the month my office hours will switch from Wednesday to Tuesday. Friday is my day off. Remember if you need to get a hold of me, you can reach me at 503/843-1938 or email me at annadeesmall@gmail.com.

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Anna Small

Pastor Anna would like to thank everyone
for the Christmas gifts and card!

Quotes of the Month

Don't try to be perfect, just try to be better than you were yesterday.

Life always offers you a second chance. It's called TOMORROW.

SAVE THE DATE!

January 30, 2022

**Congregational
Meeting**

Kudos Korner

To Diane Thelin, for interviewing & writing the article "Where are they now?" She will continue to write this article. February 2022, the Newsletter will start it's ninth year of publication.

To Marlys Conner for presenting the children's program for worship on December 12th & giving of her time for our youth throughout the year. Diane Thelin is her willing assistant. To Jen Flemmig and Mark Conner for narrating this presentation & all the children who participated.

To our Sunday School children, for their part in presenting the "Christmas Gifts" to God & sharing their wonderful voices in song.

To the gracious people who donated to our holiday gift certificates for those in need. Just under \$500.00 was received. Also, for donating warm winter gear for the young people in need at the GR school.

To Deb Adams, ARNP of St. Anthony Hospital was honored with the Daisy Award for extraordinary nurse leaders. The ward is part of the Daisy Foundation's program to recognize the super-human efforts nurses perform every day.

To the Session for their years of diligent service in leading this church and especially their effort in working an agreement with the Manning Presbyterian Church.

Building and Grounds Update:

The elevator has been repaired. The key switch to the elevator on the main floor has been replaced with a switch. To operate you must hold the switch the same as the key to activate the elevator. The switch will be replaced with an original styled keyed switch at a later date.

Because both air conditioners must be replaced, and the furnaces are older than the air conditioners, the session has decided to get quotes to replace both the air conditioners and the furnaces.

Where are they now?

Our community and church were blessed to have the Barry Brandt family as members from August 1971 through June 1984. Barry and Lora had quite a journey before they joined us and have continued a busy, spiritual, enriched life since.

Barry was born to Marvin and Beth Brandt in Hartley, Iowa, in 1947. He has a brother Lanny. He grew up on his family's farm northwest of Lake Park; they could view Spirit Lake and had the best sledding hill close by that provided abundant fun for him and his many cousins and friends. He said his childhood was filled with more fun and let him experience more activities than most kids get to experience now.

It's no surprise that he played all the sports he could back then; as we all know, the sports didn't overlap in high school or college like they do nowadays. He claims he wasn't really a standout player, but he did letter in all his sports all four years, earning him 16 letters by graduation between football, basketball, track and field, and baseball.

One of his finest memories growing up was being able to get to his grandparents' house only a few miles from theirs. He could go across country by going down the hill behind their house, around through a wooded area and then back up another shorter hill to see his grandparents. Holidays were filled with lots of relatives, and he and the cousins played together in the wooded area on their grandparents' land a lot, helping keep their large family close.

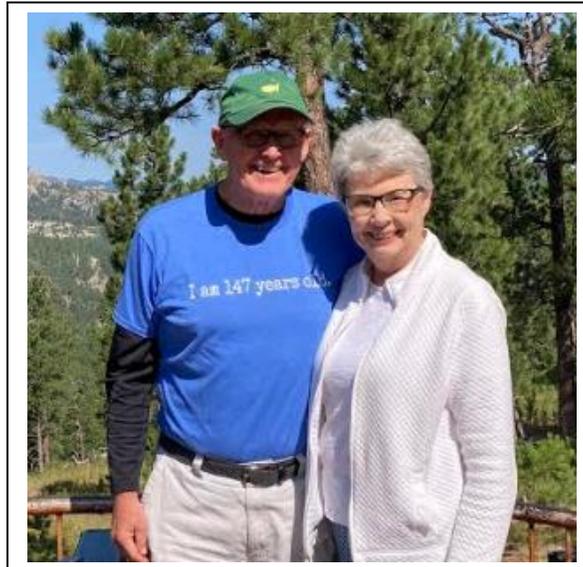
Lora started her life also in 1947 with parents Ray and Grace Willemsfen. She has four sisters: Phyllis, twins Mary and Marla, and Rhonda. She found her life changing frequently with her father's calling as a minister. Lora's father was studying at the University of Dubuque, in the Presbyterian Seminary when Lora was born. After he completed his degree, they moved to Avon, South Dakota, for a year. Lora experienced her first year of school that year, also, in a little country school. Her father received a calling the next year in Rushmore, SD, where she attended 4 more years of school. Rev. Willemsfen ended up going back to Avon, then, through Lora's sophomore year. At

this time, he led his family to Lake Park where she not only finished high school but also ended up meeting her life-long partner Barry.

It was fun listening to Lora talk so nonchalantly about how, "Yes, Barry asked to me to one of those events, you know, like Homecoming, or something, and then we just started seeing each other." Lora did acknowledge they made it through a very nontraditional beginning of their married life because they chose to get married between their sophomore and junior years of their college years. Lora said, "Barry was going to school at Northwestern in Orange City while I was working on my nursing degree in Rochester, MN. We just decided we needed that bond even though we wanted to finish our degrees in our respective towns. Both sets of parents were nothing but supportive of us, and they opened their homes to us on weekends so that we could stay together. We were very blessed that they didn't try to discourage us from getting married before we finished our college careers."

Lora's courses were crunched so that she could complete her studies in three years. She and Barry were able to live together in Orange City, and their son Cory was born in March of Barry's senior year at Northwestern. Their daughter Jennifer was born 19 months later, and Jill was born while the Brandts lived in Glidden.

Barry's career continued to develop during the birth of his children. He and Lora actually moved to George, IA, after his graduation in December, where he taught sciences and elementary physical education for one-and-a-half years. They then moved back to Orange City where he coached at Northwestern and worked on and received his Master's degree from University of South Dakota. Then in 1971, they found their way to Glidden where Barry taught sciences and coached football and track and field until June 1984. Throughout all of Barry's teaching, coaching and studies, Lora worked as a nurse in hospitals or nursing homes, as well as raising their children. She said she did work part time so that she could be home with the kids more. During Glidden years, Lora worked at Stewart Memorial Hospital in Lake City.



Barry's memories of G-R include not only great kids to coach and the 1975-76 football State Championship game, but also Superintendent Dale Johnson's encouragement and support. "I will always treasure how Dale supported me those first couple of years when my football coaching didn't go really well, and people wanted him to let me go. He told them I was a good teacher in the classroom, and let's just give me some time. With his progressive views of education and changing to the modular system, I was able to offer Anatomy, Physiology, and Ecology and still teach Life Sciences and Biology. Those were fun teaching years for me. I will never forget that or him and all he did for me."

Both found our Presbyterian church family a major highlight for them and their children. They both said the great people like Seamans, and the minister at the time, Scott Berkley, built relationships that will last forever, as well as helped them continue to grow spiritually. Barry said, "The church did more than they will ever know in my life and the life of my family. I am eternally thankful how much they've meant during my life."

Lora said, "The church is where we found community. It is where we did 'life'. I shall always remember the fun times preparing and serving at the Homecoming bazaars and Dickson Timber services in the summers. We loved the bike rides as a church around Swan Lake and the fellowship and discussions. During Lent we held Bible Study with the Methodists, and it was a special time to gather with people we didn't know very well to share our beliefs."

They both remember either being an elder or a deacon, singing in the choir, getting the kids to youth group, and teaching Sunday school and Bible school, as well. They both said Jennifer had to go to Sunday school as the only girl with 6 boys in the class, and she never made a fuss about it!

They left Glidden so that Barry could teach and coach at Northwestern in Orange City where he once again had winning teams and was awarded high honors, also. Just look him up on the InterNet, and you can find out more about his stellar career. I won't do him justice by trying to highlight them here. Lora did continue her career in nursing until she retired, too.

They naturally have continued leading roles in their church, First Reformed Church in Orange City. Barry has agreed to the position Executive Director of Operations (HR) now since he retired. He works with 15 employees, and the

church has 900 members. Of course, their church has also dealt with creating policies for safety and security while dealing with the COVID pandemic. Lora is currently a chairperson of one of the circles and is active in many other aspects of the church, as well.

Their children are all married and, yes, they have grandchildren. The oldest is 26; the youngest, 14 years old. They also have their first great-grandson who is 17 months old.

Lora did get a fall recently and had surgery on her right shoulder, so they both are working on getting her healed. We wish her good luck on her recovery, and we thank both for all that they gave our church, as well. They touched more lives than they will ever know.

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

