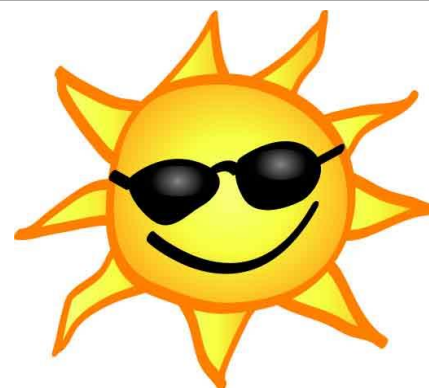


First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

March 2022



NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Friends in Christ:

On Wednesday, March 2nd we leave behind the season of Epiphany and observance of Ash Wednesday. On this day many Christians from many denominations choose to attend Ash Wednesday services in which the mark of the cross is placed on their foreheads with ashes made from palms used on Palm Sunday, usually from the previous year. This tradition started in the Roman Catholic Church, but has only been observed in most Protestant Churches in the last several decades. Why do we do this as Christian and as Presbyterians? It is a time to remember our mortality and to repent, to seek forgiveness. But Ash Wednesday is only the beginning of Lent.

The season of Lent lasts six and half weeks. During this time we prepare for Easter. Many do this by fasting, giving up something, as a way to show penitence which is to show regret and/or sorrow for the wrongs we've committed against God. This is why on Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, so many celebrate and have fun knowing the next day they begin fasting for Lent. However, another way to observe Lent is to set aside time, time to reflect on Christ's presence in your life. This could be reading the gospels, or other scriptures in the Bible, taking time to pray, to journal or to think about the ways you can reflect Christ's love in your everyday life. Another possibility in Lent is to be intentional, giving thanks every day for the blessing of Jesus in your life, taking time to put away the to-do list and relax and re-create. No matter what you do, remember Jesus walks with us each and every day. Let us all give thanks for the love he shares with us by sharing that love with others.

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

annadeesmall@gmail.com, 503/847-1938

Where are they now?

Baby sister of Judy Reeve, Kristi (Conner) Ruckstaetter, took time to write for the newsletter this month. Youngest daughter of Esther and Louie Conner, she joined siblings Jerry, Judy, and Carol (Ewald), growing up on Early Dawn Farm north of Glidden on Hwy 286.

Her following story will either help you reconnect with her or introduce you to one of our church family who now lives in a suburb of Chicago:

Glidden is a great community, and I feel blessed to have been able to grow up here. Our Glidden-Ralston school gave me a solid education with lots of opportunities to participate in many extra-curricular activities. I believe that is a real advantage I had in growing up here.

My class was one of the larger ones at the time (graduated in 1973). We had 50 people that I went to school with for 13 years. With a smaller school and so many activities available, we were able to try many different things and discover and develop talents that we might not have known we even had if our school had been larger.

For example, we had an FHA chapter (Future Homemakers of America) in high school. Our advisor was Mabel Oxenford, the Home Economics teacher then. Under her guidance, I was encouraged to run to become an officer in the state organization and was successful. After a year of going to Des Moines for officer meetings and fulfilling my duties in helping run the state organization, I was selected to become Iowa's candidate for president of the National FHA. I got to go to Los Angeles to participate in the national convention that summer after my junior year. Although I didn't win that election, what great learning experiences I was able to have!

I gravitated to the Fine Arts, music and drama, and got a good foundation even though we had quite a turnover of music teachers during my years there. I did have a lot of extra motivation to

work hard and do well in school with two older sisters who were excellent students and gifted musically. In fact, Judy was my piano teacher after Mom strongly encouraged her to start teaching piano lessons with me as her first student!

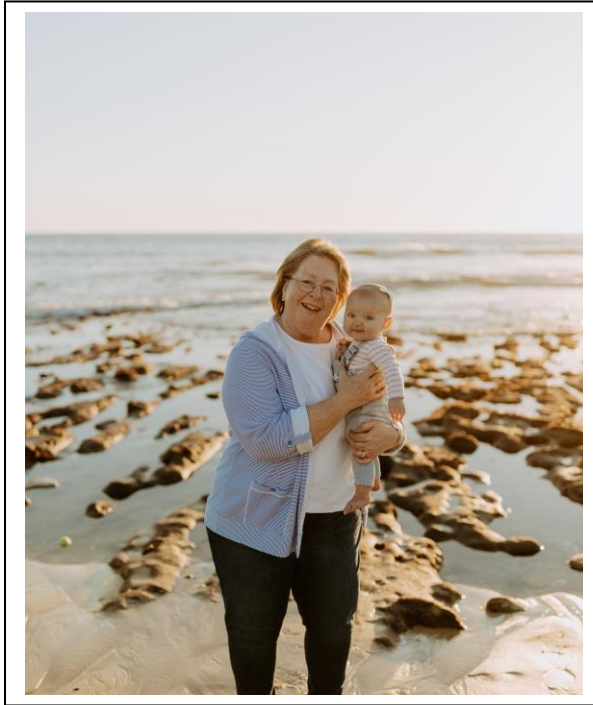
My elementary and high school education experiences were much different from my husband's. Out here in the northwest suburbs of Chicago where my husband grew up, hardly any school districts are K-12. Most of the districts are K-8 with an umbrella High School District

overarching them with very large high schools - 500 to 600 in each class 9-12. When sharing high school stories with my husband Charlie, I could not even imagine when he related the story of walking in for his graduation ceremony partnered with someone he had never even met in his four years in his class of 600.

After high school, I followed my sister Carol to major in music education as she had done, at Drake University in Des Moines. I graduated with a degree in Music Education and taught my first year in Newton, Iowa, at three K-6 elementary schools, one located in nearby Kellogg in a

small school with only one section of each grade where I shared the gym for my music space. I knew it was for only one year as I filled in for a teacher who worked on her Masters degree that year at Drake.

That ended up to be a good thing as I became engaged that year to my Charlie, whom I very fortunately met at Drake. He was a finance major who came out to Iowa from a suburb of Chicago. Charlie loved music and had been involved with singing in choruses throughout his elementary, middle school and high school years. He wanted to continue with that at Drake, took voice lessons, and even beat out some music majors to become a member of the Drake Choir our sophomore year. Let's just say that our choir tours each year when we'd travel out to Illinois or down to Missouri performing in area churches along the way were much more fun with Charlie in the group, too.



Fast forward to a wedding at our Presbyterian church in August, a move out to Arlington Heights, Illinois, where we got our first apartment, and landing a K-5 music job two weeks before school started in Arlington Heights District 25. It was a great way to start our marriage.

It ended up to be a wonderful fit with both Charlie and my school district. We were happily married for almost 42 years before he passed on. I ended up teaching K-5 music for 32 years in District 25 with a five-year break at home with our son Andy.

I got my Masters Degree in Educational Leadership, my certification in the Orff-Schulwerk method of teaching music and my National Board Certification in Early and Middle Childhood Music before retiring in the spring of 2015.

Since then I've been teaching private piano lessons and preschool music classes in one of our community preschools. Being involved with church has been very important in our lives where Charlie and I have been members of First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Palatine, Illinois. There I've been a 2nd Reader, Executive Board member, and served on many committees over the years.

I have such fond memories of our Presbyterian Church in Glidden, starting with Mrs. Mereness as my first Sunday School teacher and Wayne Seaman as my last one. All of my teachers there helped to give me a strong spiritual foundation, along with my mom and dad.

I enjoyed singing in the choir, getting to play my trumpet for some special services such as Easter, attending joint meetings with the United Methodist church youth group, being a part of many Christmas Eve programs, and being super nervous about remembering my lines or singing a solo. Also, I remember being very relieved when the festivities were done and we could go home and open up our presents on Christmas Eve, so Dad could get up early and milk the cows in the morning.

Andy is married and now living in Carlsbad, California, with my wonderful daughter-in-law, Brooke, born and raised in Santa Barbara. She put up with many cold, Chicago winters before a job opportunity took her back to California and Andy along with her.

I'm now experiencing the joy of being a grandma to my 7-month old granddaughter Romi. I've been to California twice now: just after Romi was born July 1, and now back from spending the holidays with them. They don't have to twist my arm to get me to come visit, especially with the

cold winters we get here in Chicago, just like in Glidden.

Growing up in Glidden with its strong community bonds and neighbor ready to help neighbor, a solid public school system with dedicated teachers, and our First Presbyterian Church giving me a good spiritual foundation, along with my wonderful family there, prepared me well for where life took me. I will always feel blessed and grateful for growing up in Glidden!

Therapy Dog Tesky Update

Tesky continues to be a regular guest during church on Sundays. If you remember from a prior newsletter article, his owner, Treynor, started bringing him to church earlier in 2021 to continue his Therapy Dog training. Well we are happy to announce that it worked! Tesky with handler Treynor passed their Canine Good Citizen Exam in December (picture below). Treynor and Tesky started visiting residents at a local nursing home this past month. Tesky totally rocked it and they both had a lot of fun. The team plans to visit the nursing home once a week and hopes to visit other nursing homes or schools in the future as well.

Thank you, Glidden Presbyterian Church, for your continued support of all the young members.



March Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 11th-Ron and Jane Burdine Anniversary
- 13th-Kevin Fleecs
- 23rd-Mark Adams
- 24th-Jamison Stevens
- 26th-Rhonda Conner
- 26th-Sara Fleecs
- 28th-Kali Nelson
- 30th-Judy Littlefield



SYMPATHIES to Betty Peterson, a former member of our church, on the loss of her son, Chad. Chad died of cancer on Sunday, February 13th. Chad and his sister, Stacie, sang in our church junior choir for Marlys Conner.



Kudo's Korner

To Jeremy Douglas and the Scouts for leading worship on Sunday, February 13th. Jeremy gave a brief history of scouting and a charge to all to let your light shine and pass it on to others. Scouting will have a big impact on these young scouts.

(See picture above.)

To Braylee Cose and team for winning all but one of their basketball tournaments this season.

To Stuart and Becca Conner on the birth of a son, Fletcher James, born January 25th. He joins a brother, Flynn, and sister, Reagan. Matt and Rhonda are the proud grandparents and Duane and Joyce Conner, great grand-parents.

To Gordon Cose and Mark Toyne for getting the old refrigerators out of the church basement.