

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

April 2022



SMALL TALK WITH PASTOR ANNA

Friends in Christ:

Spring is a time of renewal. There are only two more Sundays of Lent as I write this note. Days are getting longer and there are less chances of snow. We have had several gray days accompanied by much needed rain. Here's hoping more rain is on the way to green up the land and aid the farmers and all of us.

Our last Sunday of Lent will be Palm Sunday, April 10th, also known as Passion Sunday. We will have a special program on this day where we start with hosannas, waving palms and end with Jesus on the cross. There will be various readers young and older leading us through the service. I hope you join us then for worship at 10:30 a.m. The congregation from the Methodist Church will join us for worship this day.

As has been the custom we will have communion at 7:00 p.m. as part of our Maundy Thursday service on April 14th. At this time we reflect on all that Jesus did for us, to show us how much we are loved by him and the God who sent him. Come and join us as we remember him. Church members from First Presbyterian Church in Carroll have been invited to join us for this service.

We will joyously ring in Easter, Sunday, April 17th at 10:30 a.m. celebrating that not the cross nor death itself can keep Jesus from rising, leaving the tomb empty. Come and join for this glorious service.

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

"I think at the end of the day, what's going to define us all is how much goodwill and good work you put back into the community."

~Coach Fred Hoiberg

Where are they now?

Our church has been fortunate to have some of our young members actually answer God's calling to minister, and this month Pastor Darin Seaman has been willing to share his story.

Born June 6, 1970, to Wayne and Shirley Seaman in Carroll, IA, he joined brother David, and later, youngest brother Derek joined them. Darin grew up in Ralston and attended school at Glidden-Ralston, graduating in the Class of 1988.

Darin now reflects that he didn't realize then what great experiences he had the opportunity to pursue by attending a small school. He played and lettered in all the major sports of football, basketball, track and baseball. He also played (and still plays) the trumpet in the band, and participated in FFA and Science Club. He likes that he has a class that has continued to bond through their class Facebook post but really misses Luke Gregory, who passed away last year. "Luke was our glue who kept us all together," said Darin.

Memories of church include his youth trip to South Dakota with Mrs. Burdine as chaperone. "I don't know if she remembers, but it was meaningful to me getting to see the Passion Play while we were there." He also recalled having Mr. DeVries as his confirmation teacher, and I have a feeling the boys must have had fun with Larry by the way Darin also chuckled. I didn't pursue the rest of that story!

After high school, Darin attended University of Iowa. He felt it was a better fit for him than Iowa State, and he said he could focus on academics well while enjoying some of the intramural activities; he wanted to achieve good grades for future goals and acknowledged his education would provide more opportunities for him. He did love his freedom in college and did try out student government, as well. On a side note, he did get to attend school at the same time as Kurt Warner. He also met and became good friends with a "high-school opponent" from Paton-Churdan, which, when he was at G-R, didn't seem like a possibility at all!

After receiving his Bachelor's degree, he moved to Burlington, where he worked for State Farm for 5 years, and, more importantly, met his wife Shauna in 1996, marrying her in 1997. Shauna was an auto

adjuster, and Darin was a homeowner's adjuster. Shauna, originally from small southwest town Stanton, IA, did attend UNI, also, but they didn't meet until they both moved to Burlington and worked at the same place.

Burlington First Presbyterian Church members also happen to be the ones who asked him if he would ever consider being a minister, which did encourage him in the direction of the next phases of his life, along with Shauna's influence.

Shauna had always wanted to try mission work, so the two moved to Appalachia and shared mission

work with 8 other young adults for one year. While there, the young adults took on a variety of duties like transportation; they both took on adult education, which taught them as much about other ways of life here in America as they were teaching to the underprivileged adults living in Appalachia.

Another bonus, Shauna fell in love with teaching, and after Darin finished his three-year Seminary

in Austin, TX, she then earned her Business Teaching degree; Shauna is still teaching in St. Cloud to high school students.

After Seminary, the two lived in Omaha, NE, where Darin was pastor for nine years. They now live in St. Cloud, MN, where he ministers in First Presbyterian Church.

They have added 3 children to their family along their journey: son Landry (born June 2001), junior at Iowa State University; daughter Brynn (born May 2003), freshman at St. Thomas University, (St. Paul); and daughter Bailey (born April 2007), freshman in high school. He said that Bailey was the only one to have their mother for a business class because the high school does have three choices of business teachers. It must have gone well because Bailey has also participated in Business Club and just finished State contest.

Darin did say that raising his children in a large school is when he regretted that the kids had lots of extra activities to choose from, but that in large schools they can choose only a few because of the time and dedication required to participate in them, unlike small schools where the activities directors have to allow time for the students to participate in more things. He is proud of his children choosing



and doing well with their activities and would never take that away.

The last couple of years were also a struggle for him and his church, just like for the rest of us, but they've survived reasonably well. Minnesota laws did take away the stress of making decisions, though. His church had to remain remote for almost a year, so Darin would record his sermon, someone else recorded the music, and then someone else put it all together for viewing. Then the next year until just recently, he and congregation could meet but had to wear their masks. He had to deal with two COVID deaths with his members during the Pandemic; one was able to say goodbye to family, and one couldn't. I could tell that both were touching for him, especially the person who couldn't be with family.

In dealing with building his sermons, Darin does appreciate all that Pastor Scott Burkley taught him during children's sermons when he was really young. He still remembers many of them, and when he incorporates them in his children's sermons, he always tells the little ones that his pastor presented this lesson to him— what a legacy to continue.

Darin definitely cares deeply about relationships and is thankful for all the families who share how their lives are going with him, whether families from his childhood or families he has met along the way. He marvels especially at all the people his parents know and keep close, and he is slightly jealous of their having chosen to stay close to home, which has helped them maintain their connections easier. He has been blessed, too, with living in more places and building friendships that have positively influenced him and his family, as well as all the many folks that he has blessed with teaching them about God and accepting and hopefully sharing God's love.

This is their year to celebrate their 25th Anniversary, and we wish them a long happy life together.

SYMPATHIES to Ron & Jane Burdine and family on the loss of Ron's mother, Doris Burdine. She passed away three months after her 100th birthday!

"The happiest people I know are people who are doing nice things for other people."
~Gov. Robert D. Ray

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

-2nd-Mark and Marlys Conner

Anniversary

-3rd-Gordon and Karla Cose

Anniversary

-17th-Madison Douglas

-18th-Suzy Danner

-18th-Keith Danner

-29th-Matt Conner



March and April mission

With all the disastrous events happening around the world we can all help to bring some light to those in need with our missions. During the Lenten season we are again helping to support One great Hour of Sharing. Throughout this mission we can help to provide hunger and disaster assistance as well as help curb oppression. So please remember to feed your fish as the fish can swim the world and help deliver our gifts to those in need.

We the committee would like to take the time to say thank you. Thank you to everyone for all that you do to support the needs of the church and its members.

On behalf of the Finance committee- Jeremy Douglas

From the Finance Committee

First off, we would like to thank everyone for your gifts and tithes to the church. It is because of your generous support that we can sustain the first church of our great city.

As many of you may be aware, the conflict in eastern Europe has begun to strain the global markets and some are seeing a negative impact to their retirement savings and investments. We the members of this church can rest assured that our investments are carefully managed to minimize the risk or loss we encounter when these events happen. At the time of this writing our investments are showing positive returns when compared to February 2020. This was the last month before the market took a dive due to covid 19. We have made an exceptionally good comeback since then and have seen impressive gains prior to this small set back. We have weathered many storms, and this too shall pass.

For those who have been able to attend in person and online lately you have become aware that our heating and air conditioning units have been replaced. The old units were no longer serviceable and had not been running at capacity for a while. As with everything else today, the cost of these units bears a heavy price tag. As previously mentioned, we are a fortunate and stable church, but need to look to the members from time to time to help with these larger capital projects. Yes, we do have a strong bottom line, but at the same time need to focus on securing our endowments as well. We would like to encourage the members to help us in this important campaign to cover the \$26,000 price tag of the heat and a/c units, and please be mindful that our church may have other maintenance and repair events in the future.

Kudo's Korner

To the kind people of this congregation for donating \$360.00 to Project Share.

To the building & grounds committee for taking care of and seeing that our furnaces needed to be replaced. We have been the beneficiaries of these two new furnaces now in place the last two Sundays.

To Braylee Cose & Marlys Conner for the duet played before worship on Sunday, March 6th.

Note from Lutheran Services in Iowa

Open your heart and home to a child

Can you help meet the growing need for foster homes in Iowa? Children experience a great deal of loss when they have to be placed in a home far from their parents. Can you help keep the area's children in their community or near by? If every church in Iowa had at least 1-2 foster and /or adoptive homes, there would no longer be as many children waiting in shelters for homes that could provide the safety, love and security they need while they are temporarily separated from their family.

For more information or to inquire please visit www.LSIowa.org/foster or attend our orientation session being held April 28th, 2022 @ 6:00pm via online (zoom)