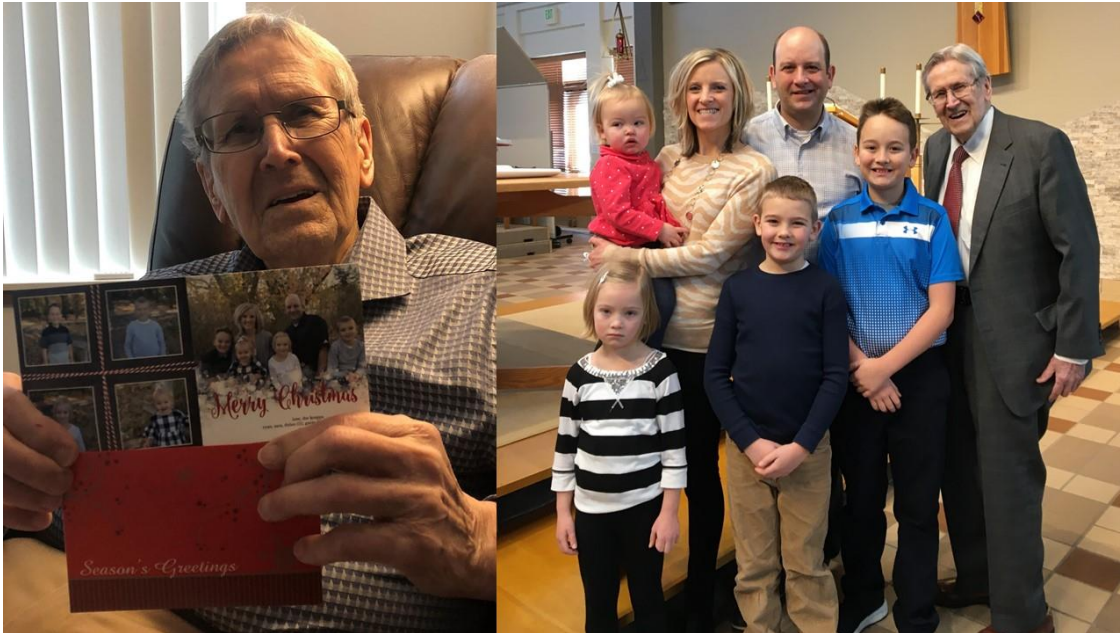


# FaithBIT



## Front Row Church Buddy

Reflection by Glen Person and Sara Koepp

Glen Person, a 96-year-old, regularly sits in the middle of the second row on the right-hand side of the sanctuary, sitting immediately behind Ryan and Sara Koepp with their four kids aged 2-10.

Sara said, "We started to sit in the front row so our kids (and us) could see and pay attention better in church. Glen has been sitting behind us for quite some time, and we always noticed he would catch our kids' eyes, shoot them a smile, and get their attention for even just a couple minutes during and after church. Soon we would visit for a bit after church, and we got to know Glen a little better. He really took an interest in our family which was so heartwarming! He would ask about the kids and tell us how he enjoyed watching them and seeing their personalities develop over the years. He always tells us how great he thinks it is that we're in church with them."

This Christmas Glen received a Christmas card from the Koepps, it read, "Seasons greetings and Merry Christmas, to our front row church buddy." Upon receiving the Christmas card Glen said, "I've been getting Christmas cards for years, but this would be in the 99th percentile because I've got to love the family."



**"I've been getting Christmas cards for years, but this would be in the 99th percentile..."**

**- Glen Person**

Overtime they have developed a caring friendship. Glen said, "I sit there because of my hearing aids...but I get great joy...when you see the little one, Amelia, smiling at you, you have to smile back! You can't just frown! As her personality has grown, she looks back at me, and she kinda peeks back at me, and I wave. She's got almost as much personality as I have! I talk to the parents, too, and I ask what they're doing...we make connections. My faith has been solid, and it continues to be solid. It is wonderful to see a family worshipping together."

In closing, Sara said, "As parents of 4 kids it's nice to know that others appreciate having kids in church even when they might not be the most focused or the quietest! Glen's definitely a part of our church family, and we look forward to seeing him every week...in the front row!"

