

July 19, 2022

Dear Church,

I have come to the point in my life that I am having to “Retire” two of the three hats that I have worn for about 15 years at Long Memorial UMC: those of the Children and Youth Ministry Director.

As many of you know, I will be a Grandmother soon and wearing three hats at this church is a lot. Many weeks you will find me at the church seven days. It is time that I free up my weekends so that I can go and Love on my grandbabies. Those Twin Girls – they already have our hearts. #itsa**LOVEY**and**GRAND**day (I have already created us a hashtag. 😊 )

I have LOVED every minute serving this church, and I will continue to faithfully serve as the Long Memorial Preschool Director. I am super proud of the reputation we have created in our community.

I have LOVED working with the children and youth, even though I have often felt inadequate; not confident that I was really the right person. I just wanted the kids to learn so much of what the Bible teaches and to live that out in their lives. I know I was led to this children and youth ministry role by God (...and way back when, by Terry Allen) 😊.

The Bible tells us that God can pick the most random people to carry out his Word and perform his service. I have always felt that I was one of the most random people He could have picked.

I have followed my heart and went into this job (it never really felt like a job) with an abundant amount of LOVE. It was my hope to create a space for the children and youth where they would feel LOVE, ACCEPTANCE and find COMFORT. Honestly, I do feel that was accomplished, and for that, I am THANKFUL and PROUD. I LOVE these children/youth and I’m excited to continue to watch them grow. WE HAVE THE BEST KIDS and FAMILIES! My office door will always be open, just like usual **(and full of candy)!**

Thank you for the opportunity and for trusting me.

I have so many stories over the years. I smile when I think about all the mission trips, ski trips, youth trips in the beloved Church Van (if only that Church Van could talk!), Hinton Rural Life Center, Lake Junaluska, Pilgrimage (since 2002), and all the Starbucks stops along the way, Church Lunches, Busch Gardens, New York City, The PARENTS and GRANDPARENTS, many years of Vacation Bible School, **WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY (and/or TERRIFIC TUESDAY** –we changed year to year), picking up all those children from Earl Bradsher and then Stories Creek, Acolyte training, Confirmation classes, Sunday School, the Children’s Messages, Endless Christmas Programs, the Preachers that I’ve learned from over the years....these are just a few things. I could keep going. The list goes on and on....

We have loved each other, LAUGHED so much and cried together. I’ve endured plenty and my patience was tested quite a bit. 😊

I could name so many people (I won’t list them because I’d be afraid of leaving some out) who have supported me and were willing to jump in at a last minute notice. Nothing went unnoticed.

Much will be missed but the church is about to start the next 200 years. As I think about the future, it makes me **so excited** to see where the next 200 years will take us. It will be beautiful and good –because God will lead the way.

As Bob Morgan said at church – It is time to PASS IT ON.

I will be around to help in the transition.  
I LOVE Long Memorial United Methodist Church.

“I’ll see you at Church.”

Peace, Love & Prayers,  
Pam Day