

Good morning.

My husband John and I joined Third Church 15 years ago. We were a newly married couple looking for a church to call home after moving from Cortland. I'll admit, at first we weren't "regulars", but once our son Jarr was born 2 years later that all changed. We quickly realized all Third had to offer for families. From the nursery, to Sunday School, Junior Choir, Qabats, Camp Cory, the musicals, the Nativity service, acolyting, and on and on—our children, and I, have done it all. We are so grateful and fortunate for all of these activities and opportunities.

But I think it is the small things, that the congregation doesn't see, that stand out the most to me and ground my faith in God and Third. Like when John traveled to Pittsburgh last April to surprise the Junior Choir when they sang for the Sunday service there. Or Miss Becky taking the time to mail a card to my daughter Bailey when she heard Bailey was reading and taking notes in her Bible at home. Martha teaching a workshop at Qabats about Communion. The Spauldings serving as Table Parents at Qabats and then sending each child at their table a Christmas card. And Mrs. Witt taking the time to sew Bible bags for all of her fourth grade Sunday school students so they could bring their Bibles safely with them each week. My children still keep their Bibles in theirs. These are the moments at Third that make me and my children feel connected and loved.

Third Church staff and members go out of their way to make sure all children and youth feel like they have a place here—to belong and to grow in their faith. My son, being a teenager now, often will ask why we drive so far to church each week—we live in Spencerport—when there is a Presbyterian church near our home. I tell him the same thing every time, Third Church is our home. It's where we have found friends, support, opportunities, and faith, especially for my children.

And, just this past week—my family and I were watching the tv show "Blackish", who's theme was finding the right church for their family, Jarr said out loud, "I love our church." I know that's how my daughter and I feel, too. I wouldn't want my family to be anywhere else.