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Minister of Congregational Care

I grew up in the church, a preacher's kid, and I absorbed the music of the church and the stories of the Bible right along with the ABC song and Mother Goose. During my childhood, the Civil Rights and anti-war movements were reshaping the nation. I learned that the church could be a powerful force for healing and for social justice. I learned that compassion and love could transform individuals and the world in ways that bullets and bombs never would. I also learned that the church, in trying to preserve itself, could close its eyes to the struggles of the world and close its heart to God's suffering children.

The good news is that God still loves the church. And God is still in the business of bringing healing and hope and peace and forgiveness and new life to individuals, communities, and the world. The church reminds us that, no matter how good or bad our lives have turned out, no matter how much we have succeeded or failed, no matter how terribly we've been hurt or how lucky we've been, God already loves us. And God invites us to grow, all through our lives, to be more loving, more compassionate, more hopeful, more filled with joy, and more at peace with ourselves and one another. In the church, we get the amazing opportunity to join with our sisters and brothers in the community of faith in going about God's business.

Love God. Love other people. We can't do one without the other. And the church is where we practice that love – love of friends, love of strangers, love of folks we agree with and folks with whom we disagree, love of the Christ we meet in the other.

As the part-time Minister of Congregational Care, I have the privilege of working with people who care about really important things – reconciling broken relationships, connecting with loved ones, knowing God, seeking peace and healing and wholeness, nurturing generations yet to come, wholeheartedly loving God and other people, and navigating the way toward the horizon that marks the end of our lives on earth.

Over the years, I have worked in and through the church with older adults, immigrants and refugees, and students. I have served on the staff of two large churches and as the sole pastor of others. I am a graduate of William and Mary and of Candler School of Theology at Emory University. At WUMC, in addition to visitation and work with Congregational Care, I enjoy teaching and helping lead worship when I have the opportunity. And I enjoy playing (frequently with more joy than skill) in the church orchestra. I did not grow up in Williamsburg, but my father did, and I grew up visiting my grandparents here and spent my college years here. It is a joy and a privilege to be in ministry here in this town with the extraordinarily caring and talented folks at WUMC.