

Our Connectional Stories



BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Resident in Ministry Program

A year ago, I began serving my first appointment as a provisional elder, pastor of an amazing congregation called Buechel United Methodist Church. A few months after I arrived, we held a special service to celebrate the baptisms of six people and receive several new members. One of those being baptized was Jessica*, who is in her early thirties like me. Jessica is a walking miracle, overcoming abandonment, abuse, addiction to drugs and alcohol, a felony on her record and raising her four children and infant granddaughter as a young single mom. Several years ago, Jessica enrolled her oldest daughter, Patricia*, in a Christian mentoring program at the Lighthouse Center near our church. Patricia invited Jesus to be the Savior of her life, and started encouraging her mom to come to church with her.

When I lowered Jessica into the water, Patricia, now a teenager, stood by her mom's side, weeping with joy. Jessica was weeping tears of her own when I raised her up as a new creation, marked by God as His daughter. Then Jessica handed me her two youngest children, to be baptized in the same sacred water as their mom. It still gives me goosebumps to recall that holy moment, standing dripping wet with Jessica and her three children, an entire family experiencing the sanctifying grace of God together, and our whole congregation bursting with the joy and expectation of the Kingdom of God at hand. Jessica is the first person that I've ever baptized, for which I will forever be grateful.

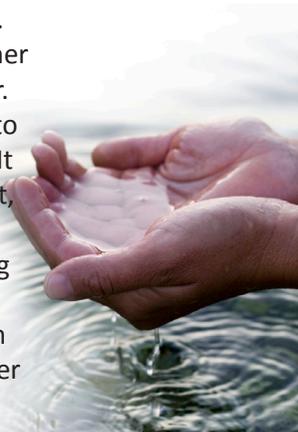
(*real names have been changed)

✠
IN MINISTRY
TOGETHER
*Your giving through
Our Mission Covenant
makes connectional stories
like this one possible.*



**“...for all of you who
were baptized into
Christ have clothed
yourselves with
Christ.”**

— Galatians 3:27



Our Connectional Stories



BOARD OF ORDAINED MINISTRY

Resident in Ministry Program

A year ago, I began serving my first appointment as a provisional elder, pastor of an amazing congregation called Buechel United Methodist Church. A few months after I arrived, we held a special service to celebrate the baptisms of six people and receive several new members. One of those being baptized was Jessica*, who is in her early thirties like me. Jessica is a walking miracle, overcoming abandonment, abuse, addiction to drugs and alcohol, a felony on her record and raising her four children and infant granddaughter as a young single mom. Several years ago, Jessica enrolled her oldest daughter, Patricia*, in a Christian mentoring program at the Lighthouse Center near our church. Patricia invited Jesus to be the Savior of her life, and started encouraging her mom to come to church with her.

When I lowered Jessica into the water, Patricia, now a teenager, stood by her mom's side, weeping with joy. Jessica was weeping tears of her own when I raised her up as a new creation, marked by God as His daughter. Then Jessica handed me her two youngest children, to be baptized in the same sacred water as their mom. It still gives me goosebumps to recall that holy moment, standing dripping wet with Jessica and her three children, an entire family experiencing the sanctifying grace of God together, and our whole congregation bursting with the joy and expectation of the Kingdom of God at hand. Jessica is the first person that I've ever baptized, for which I will forever be grateful.

(*real names have been changed)

✠
IN MINISTRY
TOGETHER
*Your giving through
Our Mission Covenant
makes connectional stories
like this one possible.*



**“...for all of you who
were baptized into
Christ have clothed
yourselves with
Christ.”**

— Galatians 3:27

