

Volunteer Spotlight



Rev. Larry Dettner

Care Ministry | GriefShare Team Leader

As part of the Canton First UMC Family, Larry Dettner leads the GriefShare Ministry. GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who walk alongside others who are going through life's most difficult experiences. Our GriefShare group meets weekly to encourage those who are struggling with loss and grief.

Larry also participates in the Men's Wednesday Morning Prayer Breakfast group that meets weekly and serves as Chaplain for the Canton First Veterans Ministry.

Larry was ordained a Deacon in 1975 and an Elder in 1979 in the United Methodist Church. He retired from full-time pastoral duties in 2003. Larry lost his wife of 43 years on Thanksgiving night in 2015. His roommates are two Shih Tzus who just celebrated their sixth birthdays.

We asked Larry:

“Why is it important for you to volunteer at our church?”

“When I was ordained, I pledged my life in service to the Lord. The last several years I was my wife's primary care person and served her. When she passed, I was able to come back to the most comfortable place on earth I know of ... God's church ... and will continue as long as I can.”

“Tell us what is especially meaningful for you as a volunteer at our church.”

“Seeing people heal and grow through their personal journey of grief by strengthening their faith in the Lord and His love.”

“What do you enjoy most about volunteering in your area of ministry?”

“As a pastor, I preached the Word to hundreds of people at a time in large groups. In GriefShare small groups, it enables me to do so much more one-on-one ministry and to see differences in smiles and attitudes as personal relationships with the Lord develop and blossom.

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“How has volunteering at our church had an impact on you (spiritually, emotionally, etc.)?”

“I believe my personal faith and relationship with the Lord has grown tremendously. I look forward to the day Jesus says to me, “Well done, good and faithful servant...”

“If you could encourage someone else to volunteer at our church, what would you say?”

“Whatever you are willing to give of yourself to and for His name, you will receive so much more back into your life.”

A Few Fun Facts about Larry:

Favorite ice cream: Chocolate & Mint Chocolate Chip!

Dream Vacation: A sandy beach with palm trees in the Caribbean

Favorite Sports Team(s): Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the NFL and the University of Florida Gators

Favorite board game: Monopoly!