



Chatham United Methodist Church

*104 West Chestnut
CHATHAM, ILLINOIS 62629
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Rev Sara Isbell, Directing Pastor

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN ABBOT, CHAIR, STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

After a number of weeks of waiting and anticipation, I want to inform you that following considerable thought and prayer on the part of Bishop Beard and the cabinet, the Bishop has appointed Rev. Miriam Snider to become the next pastor at Chatham United Methodist Church.

Miriam is a graduate from Greenville College and a 2006 graduate of Duke Divinity School.

She is completing her 12th year of parish ministry. She began in July of 2006 as the pastor of Armstrong and Dunlap United Methodist Churches near Marshall, IL. Since 2011 Miriam has been the Associate Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church on the campus of the University of Illinois.

She and her husband, Justin, currently reside in Danville and have two children, 9 year old Samuel and Katie who turns 6 in June. Justin Snider, who is also a pastor, has recently been appointed to serve as an Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Springfield. Upon their move, the family will reside at our parsonage in Chatham.

In appointing Rev. Snider, Bishop Beard said she possesses the gifts, skills, and abilities to carry Chatham UMC on into the future. "Miriam has a heart for preaching, vibrant worship, teaching, spiritual formation, discernment, prayer, service and equipping of lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ who are growing in faith."

Soon after our new pastor is settled in we will be organizing a number of small setting gatherings where everyone will get a chance to meet the new pastor and get better acquainted.

After meeting Rev. Snider this past weekend, I can tell you I am very happy with the Bishop's selection and came away from our meeting with a very good feeling.

I look forward to welcoming our new pastor and supporting her as she begins her service here at Chatham United Methodist Church, and I hope that you all join me.

REV. Miriam Snider



Pastoral and Theological Formation

Miriam enjoys learning and opportunities for growth, with interests in the areas of Bible study, spiritual formation, and preaching. She's been shaped by the work of many writers, poets and theologians, including Ellen Davis, Stanley Hauerwas, NT Wright, Samuel Wells, Christine Pohl, Brene Brown, Kate Bowler, Mary Oliver, Will Willimon and many others.

Education

Miriam graduated from Greenville College in 2002 with a major in Communication: Public Relations. She is a 2006 graduate of Duke Divinity School where she earned her Master of Divinity degree. Miriam is an ordained elder in the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference. She was recently accepted into a Doctor of Ministry program in Church Revitalization through Dubuque Theological Seminary. She will begin studies in May 2019.

Bio

Miriam grew up in the central Indiana town of Boswell (near West Lafayette) and graduated from high school in 1998. She met her husband, Rev. Justin Snider, while a student at Greenville, and they were married on October 12, 2002. They both attended divinity school at Duke and entered parish ministry shortly after graduating. They are a clergy couple who enjoy supporting each other in their ministries. Justin is a newly-appointed Associate Pastor at Springfield First UMC.

Miriam and Justin have two children, Samuel (age 9) and Katie (who turns 6 in June). They also just welcomed a puppy into their lives; her name is Penny. Miriam enjoys sewing, hiking, running, reading, and travel.

Ministry Experience

Miriam is completing her 12th year of parish ministry.

She began in July of 2006 as the pastor of Armstrong and Dunlap UMCs near Marshall, IL. Since 2011 Miriam has been the Associate Pastor of Wesley UMC on campus at the University of Illinois in Urbana working alongside Rev. Dan King Crede.

Miriam has a heart for preaching, vibrant worship, teaching, spiritual formation, discernment, prayer, service and the equipping of lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ who are growing in faith.