

## **A Brief Biography of Pastor Deanna Geiter**

Pastor Deanna Geiter is a native from Lancaster County, PA. She is married to Robert who is an amusement ride mechanic at Dutch Wonderland in Lancaster, PA. Some couples have been blessed with children; however, they have been blessed with cats. Music has always been a huge influence on Deanna's life since her childhood. She plays the piano, organ, and violin. She has performed in various venues in addition to teaching private piano lessons to students of all ages and levels. Currently, Deanna has been playing violin with the Hershey Symphony Orchestra since Fall 2015. Her love of music is what drew her to Wesley UMC in Strasburg, PA in 1995 where she served as the Music and Youth Director.

At Wesley UMC, Pastor Deanna worked extensively with adults, teens, and children in a variety of music settings, as well as, directing community choirs. In addition, Pastor Deanna built a youth program for teens which was originally non-existent as well as she was the lead person in the development of an ecumenical community youth center with its own non-profit status. During her tenure at Wesley UMC, Pastor Deanna also led worship, proclaimed the Word, taught Bible studies with people of all ages, visited parishioners, and led a Café ministry as an outreach program of the church, among other ministries in which she was involved.

In July 2013, Pastor Deanna was appointed as pastor to St. Luke's United Methodist Church in West Lebanon, PA. Through her ministry at the church, many lives were changed through the power of the Holy Spirit. Outreach programs were organized such as Community Day which was located in a local ball field in order to get to know the community and to identify ministry needs in the area. Children's programs, in addition to Sunday mornings, were organized to reach the children in the community. Bible studies began under her leadership and she equipped other people to lead Bible studies. Pastor Deanna met with and provided pastoral counsel to persons in the church, as well as in the community, seeking discernment, spiritual guidance, and pastoral care. People of all ages are equipped and empowered to do ministry by doing mission work, leading worship, leading outreach events, serving as a leader in the church, and so much more.

In August 2013, while Pastor Deanna was serving St. Luke's UMC, she entered the chaplain residency program at Penn State Hershey Medical center for specialized training in the clinical field. During her chaplain residency, she earned three units of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) where she worked as part of an interdisciplinary team in order to provide pastoral care to the patients, to their families, and to the medical staff. When her residency finished, she continued to serve as a chaplain associate where she worked on a very part-time basis covering a shift a couple times a month, as needed.

Pastor Deanna was appointed to Trinity United Methodist Church in Lickdale in July 2017. While serving in ministry at this church, she continued to provide pastoral care and counsel for the church members and the members in the community. In addition, she revitalized the worship team, led Bible studies and equipped other people to lead those Bible studies. She

was instrumental with having a private daycare use space in the church building. Outreach ministries and events were created and implemented. During the time of the health pandemic, Pastor Deanna worked hard to update the technology in the church to livestream the worship services while still reaching out to the members in the congregation on a regular basis through phone calls and recorded daily devotions. She created a tech team who has been equipped to livestream the worship services and other tech needs in the church. She has equipped and empowered other people to serve in various ministry areas. With the absence of a pianist for worship, she has also been leading worship by playing the piano and organ and working with soloists and ensembles.

Pastor Deanna graduated from Lancaster Bible College in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Bible. She also served as Chaplain Intern at Lancaster General Hospital receiving one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education in summer 2011. In May 2013, Deanna graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity. Deanna received three units of CPE from the Penn State Hershey Medical Center in August 2014.

Pastor Deanna's passion is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Her mission is to help all people find hope and meaning in their life through the good times and through the most difficult times. She finds great joy in equipping and empowering people to serve in whatever ministry they are called. The sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism are essential elements to Deanna's faith and to her call to ministry. It is through the sacraments where we respond to God through faith and where we are called to live a new and abundant life through Christ. Deanna's mission is to share the love of God in order to bring hope, peace, and healing to all persons.

**Committees I serve in the EPA conference, West district, and Community:**

- Assisting elder in the West District.
- West District Committee on Ministry. I serve as secretary on this committee.
- Mentor for a candidate in the candidacy process for licensing and ordination.
- ICARE team at the conference level.
- Congregational Development Team at the conference level.
- Professional Advisory Committee the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Penn State Hershey Medical Center.
- Musician in the Hershey Symphony