

What brought you to Plain Community Church?

Space does not allow for the story to be rehearsed in its entirety, except to say that our season of service at PCC was sovereign and beautiful. It is another installment in the lives of the Strong family in which God allowed us the privilege of interacting in healing and life-transforming ways with many who will forever be part of our story. I always felt that I needed PCC more than they needed me. I am blessed.

What are some of your favorite memories?

Seeing kids on the swings in the yard. Baptisms at “The Rock”. Refreshments after church in the summer (“lingering”), VBS, stink-bug plagues in the sanctuary, worship, Sunday afternoon walks to the hardware and the lengthy conversations with folks in the community, chili feed and talent night, Sunday morning hugs from Eli and Teagan. Peace. Friendship.

During your time as Pastor what did you believe was the mission and heart of PCC?

To be the people of God living in healing and restorative community with our near ones in the Plain Valley. To be people who were finding life in Jesus, who were learning life from Jesus, and who were committed to sharing Jesus’ life with others.

What ways did PCC fulfill that mission?

I don’t suppose that we did ‘fulfill’ it. Incarnation gets “messy” and often the best that we can hope for are glimpses of wholeness... partiality. I was pleased that our church had a favorable reputation in the community, because the people of our church would be looked upon favorably.

What were some of your highlights of PCC?

Serving alongside so many who willingly and selflessly gave of themselves for the good of another. The privilege of identifying, calling out, and walking alongside Pastor Zachary, Cassie and Melanie in his ordination. The opportunity to engage the kids who found their way, weekly, into my office for suckers.

What were some of the activities and outreaches of PCC?

VBS and “The Pantry” were always our primary and likely most effective reaches toward the families of our community. It was satisfying to see the demonstration of such compassionate care through relational presence and the commitment the opportunity for families to experience the love of God through those in our faith-community.

What led to your resignation?

Well, I suppose, once again, that this space is inadequate to address all of the prayers, promptings, restless nights, tears, and God-wrestling that were associated with such a decision. Although I will always be given to second-guessing myself in most everything that I do, I am confident that Lynette and I (as well as our family) have always committed ourselves to the pursuit of God’s heart and have relied upon the means by which he has made such discernment available to us all. No audible voices. No candy-grams from God. No fire by night or cloud by day, but the inner witness of the Spirit and our ability to track his paths as he willingly, and often incrementally, makes them known. (10) years of shared-life, shared-experiences--- of God and one another--- and a lifetime of friendships and memories. *“Every time I think of you, I thank God...”* Philippians 1