



Focus on Faith

Dave and Kathy Jennings are regular fixtures at Faith—Dave served previously as Council president and Kathy is currently Council secretary. Among many other things, Kathy often prepares the altar and communion, while Dave helps with the Powerpoint and the collection plate. Their devotion to service is evident in all that they do and it comes from their life experiences and some influential family members.

Dave and Kathy moved to Oxford in 1982 when Dave started as the head swimming coach at Miami after having coached at Upper Arlington High School for three years. Kathy started as a Special Education teacher at Edgewood Middle School (a position she held for 40 years). Dave retired from Miami in 2013 and Kathy retired from Edgewood in 2021.

Kathy was raised in Avalon, Pennsylvania and attended a traditional Lutheran church—her grandmother was second generation German and church was “just part of what you did as a family.” Her family would typically head to Granny’s house after church for the traditional big Sunday lunch meal (usually a roast and all of the fixings). Kathy’s grandmother would always be doing things for others, like driving around to deliver bulletins to those who couldn’t make it to the service that week, and Kathy was raised in this spirit of giving back to others. As she recalls, her granny “didn’t talk religion, she lived it.”

Dave grew up in Lexington, Ohio. He and Kathy met at a floor party at Ashland College where they were both undergraduate students. Dave was raised Presbyterian and was influenced by his grandmother’s experience when she was spiritually saved at age 29. Dave’s parents helped to take care of his grandmother’s house and Dave was impressed by his grandmother’s ability to make real connections between current events in that day’s newspaper and passages in the Bible. This early experience with learning about the Bible’s prophecies had a big influence on Dave and his faith.

Faith Lutheran Church serves as another kind of family to Dave and Kathy Jennings today. They both speak about the really good people they have met and come to know at Faith and they love the closeness of the congregation. Kathy recalls how so many Faith members helped when her mom, Nancy, was ill and her father was in the nursing home. And both Dave and Kathy speak fondly of watching families of children grow up at Faith.

Today, Kathy and Dave take the lessons they learned from their grandmothers and strive to apply those to their own grandchildren, Easley and Ailyn, whom they watch when their parents are at work.

