## STORIES OF FAITH

### Hope is a Village

### Heather Minemann

Heather is a Hope member who successfully wears many hats. Her biggest and favorite hat is being a loving mother to her three wonderful children. Other popular hats include being a faithful friend, dedicated Preschool teacher, singer with a beautiful voice, in our Praise Band, a member of VOCE – a non-profit community choir based in Harrison, Ohio, and currently she is wearing the hat of a college student! Needless to say, she is a very busy and talented woman.

A couple of years ago Karen Schweinfest invited her to a fellowship event at Hope, and Heather shared that there was a moment that evening that vividly stood out to her. After the event was over, she was washing dishes and looked around, and everyone was busy helping. No one was complaining, people were working together, happy to serve. That was a unique moment for her – something she hadn't previously experienced at a church. She visited Hope to worship and recalls that on that first Sunday she was sitting in the pew, near the Praise Band and the next thing she knows, our dear Praise Band director, Karen, was waving to her to come up to the Praise Band area to sign the song. Amen!

Her grandparents taught her about plants and horticulture and as a result she developed a love for plants, herbs, and nature. Not surprisingly, she is a member of The Herb Society of Greater Cincinnati.

She teaches 17, preschool age, special needs children every day. Ask about her daily schedule – it is jam packed! God gives her the energy to greet each day with a smile on her face and the desire to make a difference in the lives of her children, her students and everyone that she meets. Her faith in God is a big part of her success and the reason for her tender heart and smile.

Heather recently had the opportunity to return to college to obtain her Bachelor's Degree and teaching license. She is taking classes with Ivy Tech. Her dream is to teach sign language. At Hope we are blessed to have her signing many of the songs that we sing on Sunday mornings. With our live-streamed service, perhaps her signing will be beneficial to some folks who are hearing impaired. God works in wondrous ways.

At Hope she and her children have a support system, a family to lean on, and people who are present for each other – praying and understanding. They are a village for her family, always ready to help when needed. The people of Hope are REAL! They share God's love, grace and patience in countless ways and love you as you are. Hope is a healing church, a safe place for all.

Heather is grateful for Hope and the opportunity to serve, sing, sign, love, worship and grow closer to God. Thank you Hope Lutheran!

Karen Schneider