



JILL DRAKE

FAITH, FAMILY, & FINDING A CHURCH HOME

Jill grew up in a lively household as the youngest of nine children—three boys and six girls. Surrounded by siblings, family was always at the center of life. That love of family carried into adulthood as Jill raised two sons, Chris and James, and later welcomed a stepson, Dustin, when she married her husband, Tim.

Jill describes Tim as more than a husband and provider—he was her best friend, and they were married for 11½ years when Tim passed away at the age of 56. Their time together was filled with love, laughter, and building a life centered around family.

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GROWING IN FAITH

Since becoming part of the church community, Jill says her relationship with God continues to grow. After losing Tim, prayer became part of her daily life.

“Most days are good and well. Some are not,” she shares honestly. “But I will get through this with God. My relationship with God is a learning process every day.”

Her favorite scripture passage is Luke 2, the story of Jesus’ birth. It holds special meaning for her, especially when it is read during the Christmas Eve service.

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Some of Jill’s favorite moments at church are simple but meaningful. She especially loves the joy and energy of Children’s Time during Sunday worship and the warmth and beauty of Christmas Eve services.

She also finds joy in watching the church grow. “I enjoy seeing the new babies and families,” she says. “I love seeing the children grow up and graduate.”

FINDING STRENGTH THROUGH LOSS

When Tim passed away, Jill faced one of the most difficult seasons of her life. Grief brought many hard days, but it also became a time when her faith began to deepen in new ways.

On the weekend of Tim’s death, Dr. Chamberlain invited her to visit Franklin First UMC. Jill says she has never regretted coming. “It is very welcoming,” she says. “Thanks to being here, I began to learn and accept God back into my life.”

Though she was raised Catholic, Jill admits that when she was younger she didn’t fully understand church. Today, worship has become something she truly looks forward to each week.

FINDING COMMUNITY

One of the things Jill appreciates most about church life is the sense of community she has found. Whether volunteering or simply sharing conversation, the relationships she has formed have become an important part of her life.

While recovering from shoulder surgery, Jill enjoyed helping the Women’s Circle that makes homemade noodles for the Fall Marketplace. “It’s a great group,” she says. “I enjoyed talking and laughing while we worked.”

Even with long Mondays at work—helping patients and making nurse visits—Jill still values the chance to serve when she can.

“The church community has impacted my life in a wonderful way,” she says. “When I had surgery, I had help getting to church, making noodles, and even getting my haircut. I enjoy sitting next to wonderful people each week.”

A PLACE THAT FEELS LIKE HOME

Today, Jill says the church has become more than a place to worship—it’s a place where she feels welcomed, supported, and at home. “I want to thank everyone for accepting me into the fold,” she says. “It feels like home.”

LIFE BEYOND CHURCH

Outside of her church community, Jill’s greatest joy is her family; she treasures every moment spent with her children.

She is a gardener who loves getting her hands dirty in her vegetable and flower beds throughout the spring, summer, and fall. When the weather clears, she looks forward to spending more time hiking and horseback riding. She has also recently started working out at a gym.

An eclectic reader, Jill enjoys everything from the thrillers of Tom Clancy and Stephen King to the romances of Nicholas Sparks and Johanna Lindsey. She enjoys all genres of music, but her favorite weekly ritual is on Sundays when she can cook a hot breakfast and ditch her nursing scrubs for the day.

