

“New Member Profile Story”

This week’s feature : Mark and Debra Stewart



Mark and Debra joined Prince of Peace Church on February 9, 2025. Adding their dedication and spirit here will strengthen the foundation that God has given us!

Debra was born in Plainfield, NJ and grew up in Easton, PA. She has 1 brother and 1 sister in her family. Mark was born in Rochester, PA and has 1 sister in his family. He grew up in several places in Western Pa, but his teen and early adult life were spent in the South Hills area of Pittsburgh.

Mark and Debra both attended the University of Pittsburgh. Debra majored in Healthcare while Mark majored in Psychology and

Computer Science. They met in college at a Pitt football game! They have raised their daughter who is now a Partner in a Family Law practice @ KJK. Their son-in-law is an Engineer and has earned an MBA working now at the Cleveland Clinic. They cherish and shower their love on a granddaughter that is 2 ½ years old!

After college, they moved to Columbus, Ohio where they lived for 44 years. Debra's career included 40 years as an acute care physical therapist, and 2 years as a Master Gardener volunteer. Mark worked 40+ years as a software developer and software project manager of large network management systems for AT&T and IBM. In retirement, he worked as a part time tax preparer at H&R Block and more recently as a volunteer tax preparer for AARP.

Debra says she joined POP because it was a friendly church. Dan & Barb Fronczak, Fran Molnar and Sisters in Spirit are her mentors here. Mark joined because it is a welcoming church, close to home and affiliated with the ELCA. Mentors include the Fronczaks as well as the SOAP Bible study group and Habitat for Humanity friends. They have hit the ground running while participating in many of our ministries and missions. Mark enjoys time spent with SOAP Bible study, Habitat for Humanity, & Tables of 8. Debra focuses on Sisters in Spirit, Women's Discipleship group, the Landscaping committee, Habitat for Humanity & Tables of 8.

Mark has hobbies and interests that include Pro Football

(especially the Steelers and Browns - he senses that combination is not allowed ;-) , Pittsburgh Penguin Hockey, OSU Football, software development (especially building apps for Apple platforms and Web development). Debra loves ice hockey, especially the Pittsburgh Penguins and Gardening.

Some things that people may not know is that 30+ years ago Mark participated in a Baseball Fantasy Camp in Columbus. He got brushed back by Catfish Hunter, got a hit off of Ferguson Jenkins and got needled several times by the all-time great lefty Warren Spahn! Debra says it helps her if you wear your name tags.

Debra has a bucket list that includes a plan to visit all NHL Ice Hockey Arenas. Mark wants to digitize decades of still photos, slides, and videos and use them to build an autobiographical pictorial website as a lasting family legacy. With their “get it done” attitude I’m sure they will make it happen. You can meet them at the Contemporary Services most weeks. They will live out our mission to Grow in Faith, Serve in Love, and Live in Peace!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Writer