

“ Member Profile “

This weeks feature : Emily Saunders



Emily was born in Grayslake, Illinois with 2 younger brothers, Lee and Evan in the family. Her parents Dave and Jan moved several times for employment opportunities in Illinois, Minnesota and Ohio. The family settled in North Olmsted where Emily graduated from North Olmsted High School. She attended Cuyahoga Community College for 2 years in General Studies. When brother Lee married his wife Natalie, they became close neighbors in the same development . She is happy to be a loving aunt to their children.

Emily has been employed for 18 years at the Giant Eagle in North Olmsted. Her position as bagger gives her close contact with customers where she offers assistance and solves problems.

Contributing to customer satisfaction gives her much pride in this work. Sometimes it is a hectic pace, but she has a complete knowledge of the store and is a great communicator. Emily also likes the fact that Giant Eagle is halfway between home and church, which gives her the opportunity to see neighbors and church friends while at work.

When the family came to North Olmsted, they searched for a home church . They were impressed with Prince of Peace and its welcoming, friendly environment. The appeal of the strong music programs helped them discover this was the place they could Grow in Faith! Joining in 1998, Emily quickly became involved with the youth/youth group. She participated in a musical here at POP, went on the first canoe trip to Canada with the HS youth and attended the National Youth Gathering in Atlanta, Georgia with her friends here at POP. Emily has contributed much to our missions as well. Her quiet and kind demeanor offers a window into her humble heart.

While speaking with Emily, I learned she started taking piano lessons in grade school and continues to take piano lessons today. In my mind, that is one of the most difficult instruments, but she does enjoy a challenge. She is a big Disney music and movie fan, and Elton John music is among her favorites. Listening to the CrossFire band, she is inspired by “Blessed Be Your Name”, and “Shout to the North”. Members should recall times when she came to the front of the sanctuary during a song to use her hands expressing the energy of the music. It always was well received and prompted all to sing with a stronger Spirit!

You will see her offering communion as a volunteer and has worked in Christian Education with Kathy Kettler and Fran Molnar with the First and Second grade learners. During fundraising events, Emily always will be there to pitch in for a good cause. Reading is another interest she enjoys. Some of her favorite books are “Sisters Grimm”, “Number of the Star” and “Letters for Emily”. The Saunders have an energetic Australian Kelpie, a type of sheepdog, named Indy that Emily often takes for walks and plays fetch with.

Emily is a 32 year brain cancer survivor. She was diagnosed at age 5 with a brain tumor and has received many treatments including radiation, chemotherapy and surgery. She is cancer free and has a strong desire to live life to Glorify God!

By Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter