

Pastor Margaret Laemmel

Pastor Margaret (Peggy) Laemmel was born on Plattsburg Air Force Base, NY, on December 19, 1960. She moved to Riverdale, NY when she was about 3 and then moved to Croton-on-Hudson when she was 7, where she graduated from high-school in 1978. She attended the University of Denver (1978 – 82) where she double-majored in Theater and Philosophy with a minor in Education. After four years of various teaching jobs in Washington State she moved to Japan where she lived and taught English as a Second Language for 16 years. She married Shunsuke Arita and has two children Issei and Masumi. In Japan, she taught in universities, children's schools, community centers, and for Yokohama city. In 2002 she returned to America, with the intention of continuing her teaching career, but was then called to ministry in the United Methodist Church. She graduated from Union Theological Seminary with a Master's of Divinity in 2007. She has also worked for 11 years in administrative/teaching positions with Education First International, in Tarrytown: an ESL school for adults who wish to improve their English in an immersion environment.

This is her second appointment and her first 3/4 (nearly full time) appointment and she is very excited and looking forward to serving the beautiful Lakeville and Sharon Community. In many ways her posting to the state is a bit of a home coming since her family once lived on the Connecticut shore. One of her great hopes for her time here is that she will be able to lead our churches (herself included) into a greater spiritual practice integrated into outreach of our communities. As a people called Methodists, our call in our lives, church, and community, should always reflect the mission of the Gospel of Christ – To love God with our whole beings, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. In her last appointment she was able to establish several ministries: the Exodus Community Clothing Drive; Teddy Bears in the Pews with the Local Fire Department; and a Partner's in Mission Health Campaign.

Pastor Peg is looking forward to fully enjoying her new congregation in the beautiful pastoral hills of Connecticut.

Blessings and Peace as we prepare for our journey together.