



Dear Friends in Christ:

As people who are made in God's image, we are connected to God and each other through our relationships. Human science has shown how our bodies and minds go through physical changes when we lose someone we love. Anyone who has lost a loved has experienced those changes, has felt the terrible toll grief takes on a person's body, mind, and spirit.

Thank you for the gift of time you gave that I might begin to grieve after the untimely death of my daughter Amiee. The hard work of grief takes time and space for prayer, reflection, and for rest. Connecting and reconnecting with family and being a mutual support for each other helps the process of healing. It was very important to me to be able to spend some significant time to provide comfort and support to and with my family, especially my grandson Alex, who lost his Mom.

I am grateful for clergy colleagues for caring for members in need during my absence and for the support of our District Superintendent who was in frequent contact ensuring that the needs of the church and my needs were cared for. I am grateful to the leadership of our charge, who stepped in to cover everything that needed to be done in my absence. It took a great deal of coordination and communication for all that to happen so smoothly.

Most of all I am grateful for your generous outpouring of the love of Christ to me and my family as you have ministered to me in ways both tangible and intangible. I am especially grateful for your prayers. You have been and continue to be a comfort to me and I am so glad to be your pastor. Peace be with you.

Pastor Marianne