

JUNE MARING

Member since 1975

June Maring

Birth Date:

August 3, 1939

Place of Birth:

Gettysburg, PA

Did You Know?

June's parents purchased a 212-acre farm in Adams County, which came to be known as the Daniel Lady Farm. Her parents were only the fourth owners of the land since it was granted to William Penn by King Charles II of England as payment for a large debt the king owed to Penn's father.

The German bank-style barn on the farm was used as a Confederate field hospital after the Battle of Gettysburg occurred on July 1-3, 1863.

Daniel Lady Farm is now owned and maintained by the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association.

Favorite Hymns:

Amazing Grace

How Great Thou Art



June has always been part of a very close-knit family. Her parents purchased Daniel Lady Farm in 1944, and June grew up there along with three siblings and three of her dad's younger brothers. June feels blessed by the parents she had. She says she grew up thinking that married couples never fought because she never saw it happen between her parents. "I was proud to be a Simpson. I almost never had a bed in the summer, because I was always sleeping on the floor when people dropped in to visit. I never once heard my mom complain about that. And at Christmas there might not have been many gifts, but we sure did have fun."

It's remarkable that June's dad was able to manage the work of the farm, considering the fact that he had lost his arm at the age of 12. His gun had gotten stuck in barbed wire and briars, and it fired accidentally while he was trying to get it loose. The lower portion of his arm had to be amputated, when the wound became infected. But June never remembers the injury holding her dad back. And she recalls fondly his love for the orphaned deer that would be dropped off at their farm for him to raise.

Growing up, June's family attended Gettysburg Church of the Brethren. She says there was never a question about whether or not the family would be attending worship services and Sunday School each week. The only reason they would miss was if the weather that made it dangerous to travel. June was baptized at

Gettysburg Church of the Brethren around the age of 12, and she married Frank there shortly after her high school graduation.

When June and Frank got married, June's dad gifted them a piece of land on the farm. Here, they built their first home and began to raise their six children: Carol, Frank Jr., William, Robert, Laura, and Anna. Later, their family moved to a home on Second Street in Chambersburg when Frank became the produce manager at the A&P in town. They eventually transferred their membership to First United Methodist Church because it was more conveniently located for them.

One of June's earliest memories of FUMC was of how much her children loved Marian Angle. Marian taught Sunday School and always went out of her way to give each of the kids a hug every morning. June says that her kids would line up at the end of the pew and wait patiently until they had each received their hug for the week.

Since those early days, June has been involved in the ministry at FUMC in many different ways. She has often helped out with childcare during worship services and special events. And she continues to help with setting up for funeral luncheons and serving the Thursday Night Meal, something she has been a faithful part of for the past 17 years.

One of the greatest challenges of June's life was the loss of her youngest son, Robert, to cancer when he was 33 years old. June later faced the challenge of walking alongside Frank as he slowly succumbed to diabetes-related health issues. Yet, June talks about the blessings she experienced in the midst of the struggle. Frank had purchased a new truck just before failing eyesight prevented him from driving it. This led to June taking him out for a drive each evening. Another one of June's favorite memories is of the last Thanksgiving of Frank's life. The family had gotten together for dinner, and afterward Frank said that it was the best Thanksgiving he could ever remember. The family felt inspired to put the Christmas Tree up the following day, far earlier than they usually did their decorating. When it was finished, Frank proclaimed it to be the nicest tree he had ever seen. Within the week, he had been admitted to the hospital. Frank would never experience another holiday celebration at home with his family, but the memory of how much he enjoyed his last Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas tree continues to be a comfort.

June has also faced challenging health issues of her own. In 1991, she had to have a 13 by 6 inch tumor removed from her abdomen. This was followed by two surgeries for breast cancer, and another to remove a tumor on the artery next to one of her kidneys. Through it all, June says she felt the calm and reassuring presence of God: "I never felt scared about any surgery I went into. I always knew God was with me."

June also talks about feeling the presence of God through music. Some of her favorite memories of FUMC are times when she has been touched by the words or melody of a certain song. Sometimes a song will bring her to tears during the worship service, even though she can't really explain why.

As the dynamics of June's family have changed over the years, they have remained close-knit. June is proud of the fact that her children continue to value family and that they all get along with each other and enjoy spending time together. And she loves the fact that her kids visit her on a regular basis. June attributes this, at least in part, to the fact that their family always had dinner together when the kids were growing up. Nightly dinners provided them with a regular opportunity to connect with each other. This is something June wishes families would continue to make a priority today. Her other advice is: "Don't fall for the idea that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. You'll find it's never quite as nice over there as it looks." And June passes on the reminder she remembers hearing so often from her own father: "Always make sure you treat others the way you want to be treated."