

A Tribute to MaryAnn Conrad



Pictured: MaryAnn tossing her children/youth minister hat to the wind.

MaryAnn Conrad is stepping down in April as the Children and Youth Ministry Associate at Albuquerque Mennonite. Even though she will no longer be in that role, she will continue to participate as a member of the congregation.

Here are some things AMC congregants are saying about her wonderful ministry:

“MaryAnn has a real heart for children and puppets. We appreciated how she kept track of each child and helped them to feel part of the congregation through art, crafts, puppetry, storytelling, and play. She will be missed.” --Andrew Clouse, Amanda Lind, Samuel Clouse (11 years old)

“MaryAnn joined us here at AMC a little while before her husband, Dan, as he was still working in Chile. She promptly set to work developing a children’s education program and displayed considerable enthusiasm, energy, and creativity! Then, Boom! COVID-19 hit and the church went virtual. But MaryAnn tackled this head on with Zoom storytelling, coloring pages to send in, and hand puppet skits featuring Earnest Sam and his menagerie of friends, delighting young and old alike. They (the puppets) conveyed the importance of God’s loving care as well as the values of charity and kindness, all with a dash of humor. MaryAnn’s efforts will be sorely missed but fortunately she and Dan will remain as treasured members

of our faith community.” —Linda Mawhorter

“I’m so grateful for the energy that MaryAnn kept exerting for the children in our community, especially during the difficult time of pandemic! Speaking for myself, I pretty much checked out during the pandemic and was constantly amazed at her commitment to stick with it, regardless of the number of kids involved. More recently, [my daughter] Lali has enjoyed working with her on puppet shows. Thank you so much, MaryAnn, for all the time and love!” —Steve Miller

“MaryAnn Conrad accepted the role of minister to children just before the COVID pandemic shut us down. That first spring, she did an amazing job of reaching out to parents and kids of all ages through engaging children’s stories and puppet shows on Zoom. Several of the children became primary characters like Skunk and Pig. In the summer we tried worship services in the park where we could be together safely. She always had activities for the children.

“When we were shut down again in the fall, she equipped children for celebrating Advent in their homes by providing Advent candles and readings, and she featured a different family each week lighting advent candles. Then she delivered costumes and scripts to the children so that they could do a Christmas pageant via Zoom.

“It has been an incredibly difficult time to be a children’s minister. MaryAnn found engaging storytellers within the congregation for children’s story time, and she had a puppet theatre built which has been a popular feature in Sunday morning services. Her creativity and dedication have been a real blessing to Albuquerque Mennonite Church.” —Katie Cunningham

“Thank you for all you have done for the families at AMC, MaryAnn! You had the very difficult task



of engaging kids during a pandemic and you met that challenge with so much creativity and dedication. We appreciate you!"

Laura Shank and Paul Swanson

In a note to AMC, MaryAnn said that she thanked God for the opportunity to serve the kids, and that "in truth, I'm not going anywhere. Neither are the children of our church. I remain committed to them, even as I step down from this official position. Our congregation's able storytellers are already signing up, and my name is on the list."

Thank you so much, MaryAnn, for your faithful and creative service to the next generation! Blessings in this transition time.

