

Carol Damonte
Director of Sacred Spaces and Youth Choirs

Youth n. The appearance, freshness, vigor, spirit, characteristic of one who is young.

God n. Supreme Being, the creator and sustainer of the universe.

Family n. A social unit consisting of parents and their children, considered as a group, whether dwelling together or not. "Family" is also described as a community and a global village.

Love n. A virtue representing human kindness and compassion. For over thirty years I have had the incredible joy of weaving these four words into the tapestry of LAUMC's ministry. As Director of Ministries and Music for Youth, my life is filled with young people, powerful conversations around faith, journeys through scripture at youth fellowship, and rehearsals where we discover how words of profound meaning are linked to phrases of beautiful music. My ministry is filled with bursts of creativity as my husband, Dirk, and I write and produce musicals around challenging faith issues. The ministry also deals with the pain and hope that comes when we delve into issues of social justice. And, of course, there are the ah-hah moments where we "get" what it means to live out Christ's call with head, heart and hands. Youth ministries at LAUMC offer young people the chance to understand what it means to "launch and find safe landing." We celebrate bold dreams right alongside challenging realities, and always stand poised and ready to leap at any moment into God's unlimited joy. As one who loves the word family, it is not surprising that you will often find me with a cup of coffee talking "ministry, music, and meaning" with my husband, Dirk, "life and mystery with our youngest son, Dylan, and "opera and all that brings joy" with our oldest son, Dustin. And together, the four of us can be seen redefining the word family as we open our arms to our church family, our community, and God's world. We are all readers of books, care takers of the outcast and marginalized, travelers of the world, makers of music, believers in the human connection, and keepers of faith. In the end, it is the word love, that virtue of human kindness and compassion, the word that Jesus lived for and lived out, that finds me, holds me, knows me, drives me, and fuels my living each and every day. Welcome to my ministry. Graduate of the University of Puget Sound- BM in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. Co-Founder of LAUMC's Anti Human Trafficking Group.