

Dear Lillian Methodist Church family,

It has been a while since I last updated everyone on my wife, Elaine's condition. For those new to the church, Elaine Cunningham is the beautiful woman in the wheelchair who sits near the back of the church every Sunday at 10 AM. (I am the one with the beard) In 2022, Elaine underwent two back surgeries to relieve a congenital condition known as Tethered Cord Syndrome. Today, the surgery is considered routine for children. It is a lot more complicated for older adults.

Her surgeries were successful, and she was making good progress in rehab. She was out of the chair, using a walker and all was looking well. Then she began having unexplained full-body spasms. Rehab therapy came to a screeching halt. In 2023, we resumed physical therapy. The neurologist could never provide an answer for the spasms. She began receiving in-home massage and physical therapy four times per week. She has continued this therapy ever since. The painful spasms have stopped, but she is still unable to stand or walk.

Yet God has remained faithful. He has met every need. In 2024, she had a severe bowel obstruction. We took her to the ER and discovered her appendix had ruptured. God's hand of mercy was upon her as she felt no pain. She spent ten days in the hospital receiving antibiotics. In God's providence, she needed no surgery at all. While in the hospital, her shoulder was injured, requiring additional therapy. Her shoulder injury has not been resolved.

Even though she has endured many unforeseen and often unexplained setbacks, her faith in Jesus Christ has not wavered. For a while, Elaine had to miss being at church in person. God was faithful and made it possible to obtain our handicap van. She has rarely missed a Sunday since then. She especially enjoys the

closeness of our Sunday School class. In her 72 years, Elaine has been a member of many churches in many towns. Without hesitation, she says that Lillian Methodist is the most biblical, most encouraging, most friendly, most spiritual, most generous, most unified body of believers she has ever known. She knows that this church loves her and prays for her unceasingly. I wholeheartedly agree.

We want to say thank you to Pastor Daniel and Tay for spiritual leadership and Godly friendship. Thank you to Blake and the choir for encouraging music and providing a setting to "worship God in Spirit and in Truth." Thank you to the men's group for continued welcome and support. Thank you to the Adult Sunday School Class for unfailing friendship, flowers, unconditional love, leftovers, encouragement beyond words, a sense of family and weekly faithfulness that far exceeds all that we could hope for. But most of all, we say thank you to the church as a whole, for simply being there for us. The cards are greatly appreciated. The smiles, the waves, the handshakes and the hugs mean more than we can express. Elaine and I are truly blessed. We know exactly what David meant when he said, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."

With much love,  
Elaine and Perry