



Our pastors, Gwyneth and Jamie Arrison are a clergy couple with a young family and have served as the co-pastors at Peoples Church since July 2005. They alternate preaching and share other ministries, each bringing their unique gifts to the church. They share one full time position, so each work half time.

The Arrisons graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary (www.asburyseminary.edu) in Wilmore, KY in June 2005, but had both worked

as engineers in the Rockland area before that. Gwyneth had worked as a Mechanical Engineer for FMC, and Jamie as a Computer Engineer and then President of Avocet Systems in Camden. But after about nine years, both of them experienced calls to ministry, at the same time but from different places, and began the ministry process within the United Methodist Church. They were appointed by the New England Conference (www.neumc.org) to Peoples as their first church.

The Arrisons have three young children, Faith, Dena and Alex who are very much part of the Peoples family. The job-sharing arrangement enables both Jamie and Gwyneth to spend significant time with their children. Generally both of them have some work time each day. They are easy to reach by phone (619-1509) since they carry a cell phone with them at all times, and they encourage people to leave messages if they can't get to the phone. Each of the pastors tries to return phone messages within the day, and emails within a few days.

This is obviously a busy schedule for them, so to ensure the health of their family and marriage, they take a date night each week without the kids, and a Sabbath day each week as a family. During the school year, many weeks their family day falls literally on the Jewish Sabbath, Friday dusk to Saturday dusk. During the summer, they prefer to take time off Monday instead. *“Even Jesus didn't work 24-7, and He is our model for passionate yet healthy ministry. We can't take care of the church if our family is falling apart, and we can't take care of our family if our marriage is falling part. So our marriage and family are important priorities as we serve as shepherds of the church,”* the Arrisons said.

On the other hand, since the Arrisons carry the phone with them at all times, they can always be reached in an emergency even when they are away from home. If it's something that can wait, they return messages when they are back. If it's urgent, they return the message immediately, and sometimes emergencies mean missing a family day, and that's okay with them. As the pastors at Peoples, they place a high priority on pastoral care.

Gwyneth and Jamie would be happy to meet with you or talk with you at any time. Please feel free to contact them.

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