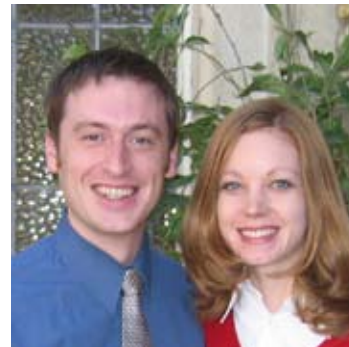


Faith In Action

A new series profiling members and friends of SMCC

Noel Snyder

Noel Snyder is San Marino Community Church's Worship and Music Assistant as well as a member of the congregation. One of his main responsibilities is planning and helping execute the 11:15 service. He frequently preaches at that service. Besides his music and worship skills, Noel also brings a younger perspective to our staff and a connection with the latest theological thinking.



Noel grew up in a United Methodist family in Michigan. Two things contributed greatly to his faith development. One was summers spent at a Christian Camp where he experienced passionate adults sharing their spiritual experiences. Also, during a family devotional, Noel's mother pointedly asked him to make a faith commitment, which has continued to this day.

Noel began to feel God's call while in high school. At Hope College, he fashioned his undergraduate studies to prepare him for the ministry, majoring in Music and Philosophy. Noel also met his wife Heidi there, who has been a wonderful supporter. Noel and Heidi moved to Southern California in 2005, where Noel enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Fuller Seminary earning his degree in 2008. He is now in the Ph.D. Program. He has finished all his coursework, although exams and a dissertation remain before completing all the requirements.

Noel and Heidi have been going through a challenging life experience since their twins were born in December, over 12 weeks early. After spending several weeks in the hospital, babies Hazel and Jude are home now. They require various interventions and treatments such as breathing apparatus and countless visits to multiple specialists to care for their special needs needs. Even feeding is a continual process. Although it is an exhausting experience, there is joy too. Many neighbors, friends, and SMCC members have provided generously through the gift of meals, shopping, babysitting, laundry services, moral support, and prayer. It has taught Noel and Heidi a lot about receiving care and love. They've been overwhelmed and their faith has been strengthened to see people giving of themselves.

Noel's career goal is to utilize his gifts of preaching, teaching, and music to help people find God in their lives. Nothing excites him more than to see people's eyes light up when they've made a discovery. His message to all is one of hope: that there's a new world coming, that God is bringing about redemption through Jesus Christ.

Noel's message to students: if you have the idea that Christian faith will restrict your opportunities for adventure in life, think again. God's world is immense; his children represent all cultures and regions of the world. So remain open to God's leading. Keep seeking, keep asking questions, and be ready for God to surprise you!

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