

A Celebration of Life Honoring
Amanda Kay Sayle Kelly

October 5, 1980 - October 31, 2022



January 28, 2023 ♦ Dyer Hall

First United Methodist Church McKinney

315 N. Church St. | McKinney, TX 75069 | 972-562-8556

SharingTheHeart.org

Sharing the heart of Christ from the heart of McKinney

A Celebration of Life Honoring
Amanda Kay Sayle Kelly
October 5, 1980 - October 31, 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

WORDS OF GRACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We have gathered to remember Amanda, known affectionately as friend, wife, daughter, teacher, and mom.

Response: She touched us and others with love, laughter, art, and beauty and we are thankful.

Pastor: We have gathered to affirm faith in the living God.

Response: The faith Jesus witnessed in life, death, and resurrection is our faith.

Pastor: It was Amanda's faith, too. We thank God for receiving her into the heavenly home.

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

*HYMN

"Because He Lives"
By William J. Gaither

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

VIDEO REMEMBRANCE

SONG

"Holy Spirit"
by Francesca Battistelli

SCRIPTURE

WORDS OF GRACE

*SONG

"Reckless Love"
by Cory Asbury

CLOSING PRAYER

*Following the service, you are invited to join the family for a reception at The Hub,
the church's Youth center at Lamar St. & N. Wood St.*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Thomas O. Brumett, Senior Pastor
Dr. Abe Smith, Wellspring Pastor
Rev. Kris Melvin, Wellspring Worship Pastor
Amanda Baker Talley

**You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.*

BIOGRAPHY

Devoted wife and mother, elementary art teacher, theater mom, and community and church volunteer, Amanda Sayle Kelly passed away suddenly in the early morning hours of October 31, 2022. The heart and soul of her family, her life touched thousands through her kind and caring service to the McKinney community.

Amanda Kay Sayle was born on October 5, 1980, to Carla and Frank Sayle in Lafayette, Louisiana. Proud of her Louisiana roots, Amanda called Morgan City (LA) home for her first eighteen years. She was graduated from Berwick High School in 1998 as one of three class valedictorians.

An “easy A” high school art class sparked a lifelong interest in art that led her to Waco, Texas, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and Museum Studies (double major) at Baylor University.

In Spring 2001, while Amanda worked on a school art project from her apartment balcony, Brad Kelly, a Sigma Tau Gamma acquaintance, passed by and said hello. They started talking and became friends. A few weeks later, he invited her to attend a Latin Rome lecture at Armstrong Browning Library. She joined him, and the pair were almost kicked out for laughing and passing notes.

Five years later, the library served as the backdrop to Brad’s marriage proposal the day after Amanda’s birthday. The couple married in McKinney on October 27, 2007, and welcomed a precious daughter, Parker Grace, in 2010.

Over the past twenty years, Amanda taught life lessons through art to people of all ages.

From 2003-2007, she worked at the Art Institute of McKinney, teaching art classes and serving as the Assistant Executive Director, Studio Coordinator. She co-organized the Downtown McKinney’s Krewe of Barkus Mardi Gras Parade with Blynda Christian for nineteen years.

In 2008 Amanda joined Valley Creek Elementary, McKinney ISD, as the K-5 Art Specialist. She earned an MA in Art Education from the University of North Texas a year later. A member of the National Art Education Association (NAEA) and the Texas Art Education Association (TAEA), Amanda served as the VCE Specials Team Lead from 2018-2022, writing curriculum and teaching professional development.

Amanda believed that, as a teacher, it was her responsibility to create an environment where students would feel safe and loved, trusting that their teachers have their best interests at heart. She partnered with other teachers and community organizations to show students that art can be a powerful tool for kindness and change within their community, even as elementary students. In recent years, her first graders created clay bowls for Empty Bowls, an annual community event that raises money to fight hunger in McKinney. Often her students’ art would be showcased throughout the community, including the Children’s Medical Center, the Heard Craig House, and even on the side of a city recycling truck!

For her enthusiasm, work ethic, collegiality, and dedication, Valley Creek Elementary recognized Amanda as their 2020 Teacher of the Year.

Outside the classroom, Amanda loved coffee dates, Common Grounds, the Dallas Stars, her Baylor Bears, King Cake, and Gumbo. She supported her husband’s hockey team and her daughter’s passion for theater. For three years, Amanda shared her artistic talents with McKinney Youth on Stage, volunteering wherever needed, from costumes to set design work.

Amanda especially shared her love of art with Parker at home and at school. She looked forward to Parker’s daily whiteboard messages in her classroom and the ability to snag a passing hug each school day. The two enjoyed watching Mama Mia and attending theater musicals together.

A beautiful woman who preached the Gospel daily through her love and service to others, Amanda and her family attended Wellspring services at First United Methodist, McKinney. She loved fiercely and unconditionally with a heart on fire for Jesus. Always willing to help wherever she was needed, she served as an usher and prayer partner, participating in Bible studies and VBS.

An Easter gift from her husband introduced her to Bible Art Journaling, a unique way of leaning into scripture. In 2016 she invited others to adopt this artistic style, co-teaching a Bible Art Studio class at First United Methodist (McKinney) for four years. Her own Bible artwork appears in “*Then Sings My Soul*,” available online at “The Sketchbook Project” in Brooklyn Art Library.

Amanda is survived by her husband, Brad, and daughter, Parker Grace; her mother, Carla Sayle; two nieces, Cameron & Brenna Kelly, and a nephew, Douglas Kelly; also, her two best friends, Kristi Ackel Thronburg and Jennifer Hardaway Arsaga. She was predeceased by her father, Frank Sayle, in 2016

* * * * *

CARE and SUPPORT MINISTRIES available at FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Stephen Ministry
www.sharingtheheart.org/stephen-ministry

Grief Support
www.sharingtheheart.org/grief-support

These pictures are from
Then Sings My Soul,
Amanda's submission to
the Sketchbook Project in
the Brooklyn Art Library.

