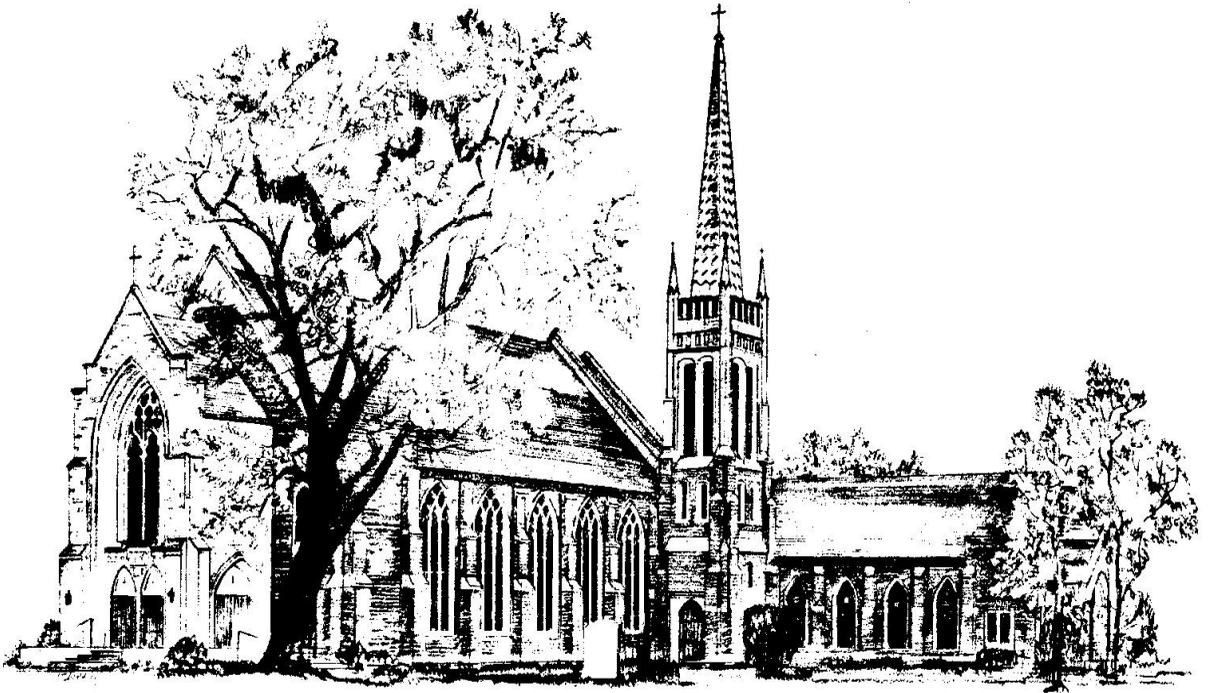


DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Leonard Williams Thibadeau

October 12, 1951 ~ December 16, 2022

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE AND WITNESS
of
Leonard Williams Thibadeau
October 12, 1951 ~ December 16, 2022
on
3:00 p.m., Saturday, January 7, 2023
Sanctuary

PRELUDE

A Hymn of Promise

Matthew McMahan, *organist*
Promise

MEDITATION ON LIFE (from Many Winters, 1974, by Nancy Wood)

“A long time I have lived with you
And now we must be going
Separately to be together.
Perhaps I shall be the wind
To blur your smooth waters
So that you do not see your face too much.
Perhaps I shall be the star
To guide your uncertain wings
So that you have direction in the night.
Perhaps I shall be the fire
To separate your thoughts
So that you do not give up.
Perhaps I shall be the rain
To open up the earth
So that your seed may fall.
Perhaps I shall be the snow
To let your blossoms sleep
So that you may bloom in spring.
Perhaps I shall be the stream
To play a song on the rock
So that you are not alone.
Perhaps I shall be a new mountain
So that you always have a home”

SEATING OF THE FAMILY “Blue” by Joni Mitchell
Ritual of Holy Smoke, Lisa Turner

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Rev. Dr. Todd Speed

**CALL TO WORSHIP (“Green Gulch Farm” by Stephanie Kaza, Zen Buddhist)*

Leader: We live by the sun, We feel by the moon, We move by the stars,

People: We live in all things, All things live in us,

Leader: We eat from the earth, We drink from the rain, We breathe of the air,

People: We live in all things, All things live in us,

Leader: We call to each other, We listen to each other, Our hearts deepen with love and compassion,

People: We live in all things, All things live in us,

Leader: We dedicated our practice to others, We include all forms of life, We celebrate the joy of living-dying,

People: We live in all things, All things live in us,

Leader: We are full of life, We are full of death, We are grateful for all beings and companions.

**HYMN 664*

Morning Has Broken

Bunessan

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4:4-9

Rev. Susan Moore Pinson

Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKSGIVING

Ceci Allen

Hank Samuels on behalf of Stan Samuels

Alex & Catherine Thibadeau

HYMN

Shaker Hymn Compilation

Lord of the Dance/Simple Gifts

I danced in the morning when the world had begun

I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun

I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth

At Bethlehem I had my birth

Dance, dance, wherever you may be

I am the lord of the dance, said he

And I lead you all, wherever you may be

And I lead you all in the dance, said he

‘Tis the gift to be simple, ‘tis the gift to be free.

‘Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be.

And when we find ourselves in the place just right,

‘Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

**Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all, wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance, said he**

**When true simplicity is gained, To bow and to bend
we shall not be ashamed. To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Till by turning, turning we come round right.**

**Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all, wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance, said he**

**Dance, dance, wherever you may be
I am the lord of the dance, said he
And I lead you all, wherever you may be
And I lead you all in the dance, said he**

OLD TESTAMENT READING
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Dr. Speed

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**HYMN*

I'll Fly Away
(featured in O Brother, Where Art Thou)
Joseph Reed, violin

**Some glad morning when this life is o'er,
I'll fly away;
To a home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).**

[Chorus]

**I'll fly away, Oh Glory, I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away (I'll fly away).**

**When the shadows of this life have gone,
I'll fly away;
Like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**

[Chorus]

**I'll fly away, Oh Glory, I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away (I'll fly away).**

**I'll fly away, Oh Glory
I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away).
Just a few more weary days and then,
I'll fly away;
To a land where joy shall never end,
I'll fly away (I'll fly away)**

[Chorus]

**I'll fly away, Oh Glory, I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away (I'll fly away).
I'll fly away, Oh Glory, I'll fly away; (in the morning)
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away (I'll fly away).**

**PASTORAL CHARGE and BENEDICTION*

Dr. Speed

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Royal Oak

† † †

*You are invited to join the family for a reception
at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse
101 East Courthouse Square
Decatur, Georgia 30030*

*Please feel free to remain parked at the church
while you attend the reception.*

Leonard Williams Thibadeau
October 12, 1951 - December 16, 2022

Leonard Thibadeau of Decatur, GA, age 71, passed away from cancer on December 16, 2022, surrounded by his loved ones in the home he cherished.

Leonard was born on October 12, 1951, at Crawford Long Hospital (now Emory Midtown), making him a fourth generation Atlantan. He enjoyed his early years on McConnell and Victoria Falls Drive with his siblings, Billy and Jan, and nearby cousins, often riding bikes and playing in the woods where Toco Hill is now located. He relished the family gatherings at Lake Lanier, trips to Fernandina Beach, cross-country road trips in a pop-up camper, and summers away at Camp Cherokee in North Georgia.

Leonard attended Glenn Memorial Methodist Church for Sunday School and kindergarten, then W.D. Thomson Elementary School. At Briarcliff High School, he held leadership roles in several clubs and student government. He was on the wrestling team and was ranked one of the top competitors in the state all 4 years. He enjoyed many activities and trips with the Boy Scouts, earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

After graduating from Briarcliff in 1969, Leonard attended Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, where he was on the swim and soccer teams, a member of the SAE fraternity, and a photographer and editor for the yearbook.

After graduating with a B.S. in Psychology, Leonard settled in Decatur, where he lived with close friends, some of whom later bought neighboring homes. He spent several years working in residential homebuilding with his brother. He joined his father and uncle's real estate company, Thibadeau Co. Inc., becoming a realtor in 1975 and a broker in 1978. During this time, he took adult classes at Decatur School of Ballet and was a company member of the Decatur-DeKalb Civic Ballet.

In 1980, Leonard met his wife Carolyn at a Halloween party in the living room of their future home, where they were married in 1987. Leonard and Carolyn bonded over their quiet personalities, shared compassion and humility, love of animals and nature, and their enjoyment of athletic activities, such as running, biking, canoeing, hiking and camping. In 1989, they started their family of Alex, Catherine, and Michael.

Leonard loved bringing family and friends together on trips to Cumberland Island and Crystal River, FL, gatherings at the lake house he helped design, the Peachtree Road Race, Bicycle Ride Across Georgia, neighborhood block parties, and local festivals and events. He enjoyed studying and collecting items of historic and natural beauty, including maps, books, folk art, animal bones, feathers, pottery, and antique house

fixtures. He repurposed salvaged materials, pursued carpentry projects, wrote many thoughtful letters, and enjoyed sharing his talents and knowledge with others.

Leonard was very active in the Decatur community and enjoyed walking with Carolyn throughout the City. He greeted everyone he encountered daily with a smile, and for the furry friends, a treat from his pocket. He volunteered for activities and field trips with the City Schools of Decatur for 19 years and served as Secretary of Decatur High School PTSA. He never missed the myriad of school and year-round sporting activities of his children. He also volunteered with the City of Decatur for annual events and festivals and served on committees, advisory boards and task forces. He regularly participated in both Planning and City Commission meetings to weigh in on important issues. Leonard was on the Board of Trustees for the DeKalb Medical Foundation for over 10 years and Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity, DeKalb. He was a founding member of the Tanyard Creek Community Garden, where he spent much of his free time in the last 10 years. Leonard was also a member of the DeKalb, Georgia, and National Associations of REALTORS® for almost 50 years. He served on the Board of Directors for DeKalb and Georgia Associations of Realtors for over 10 years, was President of the DeKalb Association in 1998 and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2020. Leonard's clients appreciated his laid-back attitude, extensive knowledge of the area's history and quality home building, and his sincere desire to help them find the perfect home or office.

One of the hallmarks of Leonard's life was the time, energy and thought that he gave to his communities. He brought his individuality, gentle and kind spirit, and sense of humor to everything he did. His openness was disarming and uncommon, as was his unwavering support of others. He moved us with infectious enthusiasm and sincerity. In his last days, he encouraged us all to support one another and to "keep creating".

He is survived by his wife Carolyn, his children, Alex, Catherine (Katie Colville), and Michael (Kelsey) and his sister, Jan Francis (Doug Bailey). He is predeceased by his parents William C. and Carol W. Thibadeau and his brother Billy. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 3 PM, on January 7, 2023 at Decatur Presbyterian Church, followed by a reception at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse.

Leonard will be returned to the earth in a family plot at the Decatur Cemetery and across his favorite natural locations. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Lifeline Animal Project, or AWARE Wildlife Center.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We accept death as a part of the good life we are given. We are reluctant to surrender life, but we know in the end that earthly death comes to each of us. But death is no match for God. The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death. Death often seems to prove that life is not worth living, that our best efforts and deepest affections go for nothing. But we do not yet see the end of death. Christ has been raised from the dead, transformed, and yet the same person, and in his resurrection is the promise of ours.

We are convinced the life God wills for each of us is stronger than the death that destroys us. The glory of life everlasting exceeds our imagination but we know we shall be with Christ. So we treat death as a broken power. Its ultimate defeat is certain. In the face of death, we grieve, yet no life ends so tragically that its meaning and value are destroyed. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Thus, in hope, we celebrate life.

From A Declaration of Faith, PC(USA)

† † †

*God has told you, O mortal, what is good
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8

† † †



DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

205 Sycamore Street, Decatur, Georgia 30030

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