GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE

MEMORIAL & BAPTISM SERVICE

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021
7 P.M.

Recorded at First UMC
Lawrence, Kansas
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude
“Prelude on Hyfrydol”
arr. Garden C. Sikes
Dr. Tandy Reussner, organist

Greeting
Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.

Welcome
Sara Wentz
First UMC, Lawrence, Kansas

Responsive Prayer
Sara Wentz and Rev. Kay Scarbrough
First UMC, Lawrence, Kansas

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
People: God has come to God’s people and set them free.
God has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of God’s servant David.
In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor human heart conceived, God
has prepared for those who love God. In the name of Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

Scripture Reading
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33
Rev. Kay Scarbrough

Congregational Hymn
“Great is Thy Faithfulness”
by Thomas O. Chisholm
Video by First UMC Choir, Lawrence, Kansas
Vocalists: Aileen Ball, Barry Frank, Sarah Merriman, Alexis Soby, Sara Wentz
Dr. Tandy Reussner, organist

Scripture Reading
Psalm 91
Rev. Changhyun Kim
Trinity UMC, Leavenworth, KS

Sermon
“The Great Abide”
Rev. Mitch Reece, district superintendent
Wichita East/West Districts

Offering
NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness)
Rev. Hollie Tapley
Great Plains Conference Disaster Response coordinator
The Commemoration
Amarais Towle and Austin Ruiz
Wesley KU

Responsive Reading
Leader: We exalt Christ, our redeemer, the King of Glory.
People: The eternal Son of the Father.
You overcame the sting of death
And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory
We believe that you will come to be our judge. Come then, Lord,
and pour out the living water you promised to the faithful and bring
us with your saints to glory everlasting.

Praying as One
Lord Jesus Christ, you comforted your disciples when you were going
to die: now set our troubled hearts at rest and banish our fears.
You are the way to the Father: help us to follow you.
You are the truth: bring us to know you.
You are the life: give us that life, to live with you now and for ever.
Amen.

Special Music
“Baptized in Water”
by Michael Saward
Alexis Soby, soloist

Baptism
Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.

Children Presented for Baptism
Jean Eleanor Gager, daughter of Rev. Alan Gager and Rev. Claire Gager
Brielle Ayuk Milosi and Gaddiel Robyne Milosi, daughter and son
of Rev. Ivan Milosi Mumba and Rev. Heureuse Kaj Ayukwend

Musical Response
“Baptized in Water”

Benediction
Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.

Postlude
“Festive Trumpet Tune”
by David German
Clergy

The Rev. Don D. Anderson, 83, retired, born September 3, 1937; died November 14, 2020. He served churches in the former Kansas East Conference including Kansas City Wesley, Junction City Church of Our Savior, Ogden Friendship House, LaCygne-New Lancaster, and Topeka East before retirement in 2003. Survivors include wife, Bobbie, children Roger and April, two granddaughters and one great-grandson.

The Rev. Gary Aten, 82, retired born September 4, 1938; died January 7, 2021. He served churches in Nebraska starting in 1963 at Lodgepole, followed by Cambridge, Cambridge-Bartley, University of Nebraska, Lincoln South Gate, Crawford-Whitney, Columbus-Fairview-Silver Creek, Custer Parish, Bloomfield-Verdigre-Crofton, and Sidney and before retirement in 2001. He is survived by wife Caroline, two sisters and a brother.


The Rev. Larry Lee Bowyer, 83, retired, born Nov. 24, 1937, died March 29, 2021. He served churches in Centralia and Church of Our Savior Junction City before moving overseas to study at Ecumenical Institute at Chateau de Bossey. He moved back and served at the Church of All Nations in Boston and then Kansas City St. Marks; Moultonborough-Weirs Beach, New Hampshire; and Enfield-Canaan-West Canaan, New Hampshire. He then came back to Kansas, where he served Gridley-Turkey Creek, Cottonwood Falls-Saffordville-Bazaar, Cherryvale, Moline-Grenola; Sedan-Elgin-Peru, Cedar Vale-Wauneta; Frankfort and Easton. He was preceded in death by brothers and sister. Survivors include wife, Beverly (Randall), daughters Amy McComb (Robert) and Lara Strube (J.T.); step-daughter Kristin Njoroge (Matt); five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.


Pastor Mark Demas, 61, born March 3, 1925; died January 6, 2021. Mark began serving churches in the former Kansas East conference in 2003 at Hamilton-Virgil-Neal, Parsons First, Erie Federated, Galesburg-St. Paul, and was serving Coffeyville First-Edna at the time of his death. Survivors include his wife, Diann, three children, Sarah Lopez (Fernando), Kyle Demas, Trenton Demas, and four grandchildren. Mark was preceded in death by a son, Isaac Demas.

The Rev. Junius Boyd Dotson, 55, born Aug. 7, 1965; died February 25, 2021. After serving 14 years as senior pastor of Wichita Saint Mark UMC, he was appointed as the general secretary and chief executive officer of Discipleship Ministries, an international agency of The United Methodist Church, and was a clergy delegate to the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in 2016 and had been elected as a clergy delegate to the General Conference in 2020. He is survived by his son Wesley and daughter Janelle.

The Rev. Jimmie (Jim) Leroy Fredrickson, 81, retired, born January 20, 1939; died December 14, 2020. He served parishes in Talmage/Willow Dale, Salina University, Leavenworth Southern Heights, Eskridge-Harveyville and Topeka University. Survivors include wife, Annabel; brother, Ronald Fredrickson; sister, Janice Chandler (Tom); sons, Ken Fredrickson (Susan Langr-Fredrickson), David Fredrickson (Lori), Leslie Fredrickson; 10 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Bonnie Marie Gilmer, 96, retired, born September 16, 1924; died January 25, 2021. She served the following churches in Nebraska before retirement in 1990: Wolbach, Diller-Ellis, Juniata-Prosser, Cedar Rapids-Belgrade, Utica-Ulysses, Utica-Ebenezer, Union-Mynard Liberty and Fullerton. Survivors include her sister Betty Mitchell and sister-in-law Iva Gilmer. She was preceded in death by her twin sister Beth Gilmer, brother Don Gilmer and sister Gayle Cornelius.
The Rev. John C. Gingerich, 98, retired, born December 2, 1921; died June 5, 2020. He married Roberta Crow on June 6, 1943. He served congregations in Oklahoma, Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, Kansas and Tokyo, Japan. He came to the Kansas East Conference in 1969, serving churches at Parsons First, then serving in roles as conference program director and in 1973 taking on the role of director of the council on ministries. He retired in 1985 after serving Leawood UMC. He was preceded in death by his wife, Roberta Crow Gingerich, and his daughter, Harriet Gingerich Caplan. Survivors include daughter, Robin Gingerich (Tom Mersmann) son, John Gingerich Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Vernon Goff, 92, retired, born December 15, 1928; died October 26, 2020. He married Alice Goff on September 17, 1949. Vernon served churches in Nebraska: Mount Zion, Omaha St. Paul, and founding pastor at Omaha St. Luke from 1964 until his retirement in 1999. Survivors include wife Alice, four children, Todd Goff (Sally), Vern Goff (Deb), Kandy Duncan (Vic) and Debbie Bonner (Shawn), 7 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren.


The Rev. Jerald “Jerry” Keith Hooley, 86, retired, born December 4, 1933; died September 12, 2020. He served in the former Kansas West Conference: Hutchinson First, Oxford, Plains, Wichita Trinity and Arkansas City First. After retirement, he served Cassoday UMC. Later, he served as an interim pastor for Presbyterian churches in Arkansas City, Derby and Winfield. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mary Ann; daughters Rev. Jessie Zimmerman, Jeri Kay (Rev. Dr. Richard) Reed, and Karen Tingley; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He was proceeded in death by his son Daniel and daughter-in-law Lisa.

The Reverend Doctor Warthen Talmadge “Bud” Israel, 88, retired; born January 30, 1932, died October 5, 2020. He served churches in Palmer, Benkelman, Milford and Cozad, Nebraska; was South Central district superintendent and senior pastor of Hastings First UMC. In 1987, he was inaugurated as president of Vennard College in Iowa. He returned to the Nebraska Conference to serve Sargent and Gretna. He retired in 1998 and moved to Hastings, serving as a part-time pastor of Second Presbyterian Church. Preceding Bud in death was his wife, Ann, in 2019. He is survived by his sons, W. Stephen (Nancy) Israel, David (Sara) Israel; daughters, Deborah (Doug) Israel Wiens, Priscilla (Hamish) Israel List, Elizabeth (Shawn) Israel Hartmann of Hastings; 6 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Jewett, 86, retired, born December 31, 1933; died December 4, 2020. He served churches in Dakota City and Homer before beginning his academic career at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. He went on to serve as theologian-in-residence at American Church in Paris, France; professor of New Testament interpretation at Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois; and coordinating faculty member of the joint Garrett and Northwestern Ph.D. program in religious and theological studies before retirement. He continued his academic career at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.; the University of Montana; Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado; Vancouver School of Theology; and as guest professor of New Testament at the Wissenschaftlich-Theologisches Seminar, University of Heidelberg. Dr. Jewett served as the featured instructor for the annual “Wesleyan Live” Lenten studies in cooperation with Nebraska Wesleyan University and the Great Plains Conference until 2016. Author of numerous published writings, Dr. Jewett was Theologian in Residence at St. Marks United Methodist Church in Lincoln at the time of his death. He is survived by daughter Ellen.

The Rev. Duane W. Lenz, 95, retired, born March 25, 1925; died April 21, 2020. While in seminary he served a church in Gillingham, Wisconsin. He served churches in Crofton, De Bois, Orchard, Kearney (Faith), Aurora, Sidney, Lincoln (Warren) and as Southeast Nebraska District superintendent. He retired in 1991. Survivors include his wife of 72 years, Lucile Deike Lenz; children Nancy (Jack) Armitage, David (Patty) Lenz, Steven (Anne) Lenz, and Barbara Lenz; 27 grandchildren and great grandchildren; sister, Marilyn Lenz Krause, Hurst, Texas.

The Robert Joseph “Bob” Loomis, 91, retired, born November 23, 1929; died November 29, 2020. Bob served the following communities: Langdon-Lerado, Norcatur-Lyle, Quinter-Banner-Collyer before serving as a school psychologist before retirement in 1977. He was preceded in death by wives, Sally Loomis and Phyllis Loomis; grandson, Tyler Loomis; two sisters and one brother. Survivors include son, Monty Loomis; daughters, Terri (Wayne) Wells and Mary (Sherfy) Kemper; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.
The Rev. Aaron Sekwawaedza Madondo, 69, retired, born June 14, 1951; died January 4, 2021. He was united in marriage on July 12, 1976, in Zimbabwe, to Lois Chikara, who preceded him in death on August 6, 2017. He served churches in the Missouri West and Missouri East conferences before beginning service in the Kansas West conference in 2003 at Hill City-Bogue-Morland and Kingman before retiring in 2019. Survivors include children Praise, Tapiwa Ferries (Fatima) and Pamela (Enock) and eight grandchildren.


The Rev. Paul George Mugler, 89, retired, born on March 20, 1931; died November 10, 2020. He married Marjorie Davis on December 23, 1953. He served churches in Wakefield, South Hutchinson, Plainville, Winfield, Liberal and Salina. He is survived by his children Donna (Tim) Surles, Greg (Patty) Mugler, Marcy Cone, and Jeff (Sonja) Mugler, 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Marjorie.

The Rev. Robert “Bob” William Nowling, 91, retired, born October 14, 1929; died November 27, 2020. He served as the head chaplain at Swedish Medical Center in Englewood for more than 20 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Jackie, his sister Marilyn Moore, and brother David. Bob is survived by his wife Maria; sister Sandra Krueger; children Kenneth (Louise), Mary Hartman (Dan), Jenny Martin (Aaron) and David (Roxane), five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Pastor Gary C. Parsons, 85, retired, born April 20, 1935; died August 18, 2020. He married and enlisted in the Air Force in 1955. He began ministry at a United Methodist Church in Gridley, California and served churches in White City-Wilsey and Howard-Severly, Kansas. He retired from his full-time pastoral duties in 1999, then served as part-time pastor at Moline United Methodist Church. He is survived by his brother Wayne Parsons, his wife Jean Parsons, children Susan Parsons Klein, Joseph Parsons, Gary Halverson and Hank Halverson, and seven grandchildren.

The Rev. Dr. Ivan D. Richardson, 88, retired, born February 8, 1932; died September 6, 2020. He served churches in Nebraska including Douglas-Burr, Omaha Rockbrook, Hay Springs, Wahoo, Nebraska Omaha Cooperative Ministry, Kearney Faith Parish, Lincoln Havelock, South Sioux City, St. Paul and Murdock-Eagle before retirement in 1997. He is survived by his wife Marlys Richardson; children, Steve (Lisa), Deb (Erv) Havranek, Mike, Tim (Mary) Richardson; 12 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.


The Rev. Wayne Leroy Schreurs, 92, retired, born August 17, 1928; died November 1, 2020. He married Caltha Rhoads on August 29, 1948. He served churches in Texas, and in Nebraska: Geneva, Norfolk, Seward and Beaver Crossing-Salem, before retirement in 1994. He is survived by his sons Major Greg (Sharon) Schreurs, Chaplain Les (Karin) Schreurs, daughter Anita (Floyd) Meyer; seven grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, a brother and a sister. He was preceded in death by wife Caltha.

The Reverend LaRoy Edward Seaver, 99, retired, born September 21, 1920; died July 6, 2020. In 1943, he married Pauline Roberts of Lewellen, Nebraska, and together they had five children. Beginning in 1953 he served as a Methodist pastor for Exeter-Milligan, Big Springs, Hebron-Belvedere, Wahoo-Ithaca, Omaha Pearl Memorial and Lincoln Southminster. He also served the Nebraska Conference as director of ministries. His retirement was in 1987. Pauline died February 2, 1979, and on December 21, 1981, he married Mary (Stoffel) Newman. He was preceded in death by his three sisters and one son, David A. Seaver. He is survived by his wife, Mary Seaver, daughters Judi Seaver and Miriam Seaver, sons Mark Seaver and Tim Seaver, four stepchildren, six grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.
The Rev. Dr. Donald James Snyder, 89, retired, born September 6, 1930; died July 28, 2020. He married Dixie Darlene Dodson March 16, 1952 in Pratt, Kansas. He served congregations in the Kansas West Conference, including Hicks Chapel-Arkansas City First: Arkansas City First (associate); South Haven; Kanorado-Neville; Quinter-Grinnell; WaKeeney-Prairie Home; Abilene First; Ness City; and Rose Hill before retirement in 1997. Don and Darlene were united for 68 years. They had two sons, Robert Eugene (Robin) and Alan Lee (Beth), seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Susan Montgomery Stover, 71, retired, born February 18, 1949; died July 28, 2020. She served Kansas West Conference churches: Fowler, Mayfield Federated, Nickerson, Salina Trinity, Wichita First and Clearwater before retirement in 2013. Survivors include husband, George; sons, George (Trisha) Stover of Lyons, Sterling (Sarah) Stover; a brother, and four grandchildren.


The Rev. Armin E. Vogt, 92, retired; born February 9, 1928; died September 24, 2020, in Lincoln. Armin married Mary Hahn in Le Mars, Iowa, in 1951. He served EUB and Methodist churches in Nebraska at Eustis, Orafino, Marquette, Archer Zion, DeWitt, Papillion, Grand Island Faith, Wahoo and Ithaca. He also provided leadership on the conference level as coordinator of the camping program for the EUB Church. In 1993, he was the clergy recipient of the Harry Denman Award for Evangelism. In 1989, he was an exchange pastor to Ulverston, England, where he shared in pastoring 12 small churches in the area. After his retirement to Lincoln in 1993, he served as a visitation pastor for St. Paul UMC for 14 years. He is survived by sons David (Kirsten), Timothy (Debby) and Daniel (Kathy); five granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

The Rev. Thomas Wallrabenstein, 83, retired, born July 31, 1937; died December 13, 2020. His ministry began in California and Arizona before serving in Kansas beginning in 1963 in the Development Office of Southwestern College, followed by Oswego and Monticello before retirement in 1990. He is survived by his wife Mariana (Mari) of the home, son Russell (Trish), three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, and sister Dr. Jan Cone.

Diaconal Ministers

Darlene Moore Montgomery, 90, retired, born October 27, 1929; died August 24, 2020. She served at Susanna Wesley UMC and the United Methodist Home, both in Topeka. She has been involved in the UMC at the District, Conference, Jurisdiction and General Conference levels, including District UMW President, Conference UMWW Secretary, Study Leader and Dean of the Conference School of Christian Mission, delegate to three Jurisdictional and General conferences, eight years on the General Board of Church & Society and four years on the South Central Jurisdiction. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sterling Montgomery Sr. She is survived by her children, Sterling Montgomery Jr., Terri Montgomery, Phillip Montgomery and Michelle Montgomery; 10 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, one great-great grandchild.

Spouses


Betty Jane Bandy, 91, born May 4, 1929; died November 30, 2020. She was preceded in death by her spouse Rev. Thomas Alvin Bandy; and great-grandson Emmett Bandy. She's survived by her sons, Philip (Deborah), Bruce (Leatte), Brad and Kirk (Jiia); 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

George Berlin, 99, born July 15, 1921; died March 17, 2021. He married Rev. Dee Ann Mezger on March 19, 1988. He is survived by his wife, son Randy Berlin (Carol Imwalle), daughter Jeanne Berlin Roberts (Bob), 6 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren.
Euna Vaye (Ukena) Brant, 98, born March 16, 1922; died August 19, 2020. She married Rev. Walter R. Brant on June 10, 1943. Preceding her in death were her husband and daughter, Joan Barhydt, in 2016. She is survived by her children and their families, Marilyn Spatz; Elaine and LeRoy Schrader; son-in-law Bob Barhydt; Nita and David Zeit; and David and Deba Brant; 14 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson.

Madge Buehler, 97, born March 6, 1923; died August 8, 2020. She married Rev. Clarence Wesley Buehler after graduating from Asbury University. She was preceded in death by her sister Jo, her brother Ed, grandson Andy, and her husband Clarence. Survivors include son Gary (Duncan), daughter Judy, two grandchildren and one great grandson.

Terry Lynn Clugston Sr., 72, born October 29, 1947; died Friday, July 31, 2020. He was married to the Rev. Pauline McDougal on May 17, 1989. She survives. Additional survivors include sons Terry L. Clugston Jr. (Brenda) and Roger Aaren Marshall, daughter Jennifer Leeper, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by parents, one daughter and two brothers.

Annetta LaRue “Neta” Conway, 82, born July 1, 1938; died January 20, 2021. She was united in marriage to the Rev. Robert Conway on July 3, 1960. Survivors include her husband, children Selah (Scott) McBride and Kevin (Brenda) Conway, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Jerry A. Friesen, 87, born January 22, 1933; died September 11, 2020. He married Donna Voth on December 27, 1955. He is survived by his wife, the Rev. Donna Friesen; children, Janelle Albertson, Sharon (Keith) Penner and Kent (Dawn) Friesen; sister, Paula Sauder; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Schatzie K. Gillming, 64, died Saturday, June 6, 2020, in Kimball, Nebraska. She married Roger Gillming at Trinity United Methodist Church on Oct. 9, 2004. She was proud to serve as a lay minister for the Melbeta United Methodist Church until moving to Callaway. Survivors include her husband, the Rev. Roger Gillming; sons, Karl (Jacqueline) Ayers, John (Alicia) Pearce, and Josh (Jennifer) Gillming; daughters, Desiree (Bradley) Kelly, Bonnie Ayers, Maeghanne Eyers and Jessica (Connor) Cooper; 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death one brother, Richard; and one sister, Karla.

Catherine “Cate” F. Hayen, 92, born March 24, 1928; died January 12, 2021. She married Rev. Leon Hayen on August 17, 1948 in Minnesota. She is survived by her husband Leon Hayen, children, Robert (Sheila) Hayen, Marlene (Dave) O’Neal, Scott (Kelly Jo) Hayen, and Janet Diemer; 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Betty Jean (Laurence) Holdridge, 89, born June 14, 1930; died April 17, 2020. She married the late Rev. James R. Holdridge, March 2, 1953. She was preceded in death by her husband, James. She is survived by her daughters, Cynthia Smith, Linda Kohler, and Cheri Holdridge (Kurt Young); six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Marilyn Morgan Hunt, 91, born August 31, 1929; died July 1, 2020. She married the Rev. Billy M. Hunt on April 10, 1947. She is survived by her son Rick Hunt (Marcia); daughter-in-law, Jacki Hunt; four grandsons and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Billy, her husband, and her son, Ted Hunt.

Beverly “Bee” Bernise Johnson, 97, born February 17, 1923; died June 3, 2020. She married Paul J. Johnson on August 30, 1942. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband the Rev. Paul J. Johnson, two sisters, a daughter, son-in-law and two infant grandchildren. Bee is survived by sister Ann Turrie, daughters Oralee Volwiler, Marie (Al) Zimmermann, Sandra Johnson and Jacque (Joe) Hamelin, 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, eight great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Ruth Esther (Reeves) Kemling, 91, born February 23, 1929; died December 3, 2020. She married the Rev. Dwight Kemling on February 18, 1951. She is survived by four children: Mark, Heidi Heidemann, Jon and Neal, a brother and a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Luella Jean (Minter) Martin, 90, born July 13, 1929; died June 5, 2020. In 1949, she married the Rev. Gerald Martin. Luella is survived by her five children: son, Ken Martin (Melinda); daughters, Faye Martin, Vonda McKenna (Phil), LaDona Martin, Shauna Martin; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by husband of 67 years, the Rev. Gerald Martin and grandson Ramsey Martin.
Marjorie Mae (Walter) Miller, 93, born May 13, 1927; died October 8, 2020. On September 12, 1947, she married the Rev. Robert Leland Miller. She is survived by her children, Ronald Lynn Miller (Margaret); Sherilyn Reynolds (William Keith); Joy Ellen Sodders (Daniel Richard); Lou Ann Colborn (Mark Douglas); and Jon Marc Miller (Teresa Lynn); nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband Robert and a grandson.

Katherine Mohlstrom, 83, born July 6, 1937; died October 24, 2020. She married the Rev. Carl Mohlstrom on August 24, 1958. She was preceded in death by her husband and son Eric. She is survived by daughters Donanne Kasikci (Ali) and Carla Mohlstrom and one granddaughter.


Patrick Lee Norris, 75, born March 17, 1945; died August 23, 2020. Patrick married the Rev. Pat Norris on June 8, 1985. Patrick was a former director of youth ministries of the Nebraska Conference. He is survived by his wife Pat; children Leslie and Troy and two grandchildren.

Jane Pope, 95, born June 24, 1925; died February 9, 2021. She married Al Pope, a retired associate pastor of Prairie Village Asbury UMC, in 2006. She is survived by her husband Al; her three children: Mark (Darcy) in Denver, David (Carol) in Zionsville, Indiana; and Melissa in Overland Park; a sister, brother and three grandsons.

Barbara P. Schmidt, 86, born May 10, 1934; died January 15, 2021. She married the Rev. Jay E. Schmidt in 1956. She was preceded in death by her husband on March 19, 2020, and two brothers. She is survived by her children, Rachel (Jim) Garver, Philip Schmidt and Michael (Brenda) Schmidt, and four grandsons.

Dorothy Mae Stagner, 92, born February 20, 1929; died February 21, 2021. She married her husband Giles in 1949. Survivors include children; Cynthia (Ron) Myers, Curtis (Kay) Stagner, Cathryn Laird, Cora Stagner; nine grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

James L. Stapleton, 73, born April 13, 1947; died June 20, 2020. He married Pastor Carol Jean Jackson on July 9, 1967, at Allen United Methodist Church. He is survived by wife Carol Jean; son, Greg (Chantel) Stapleton; daughter, Carla (Rusty) Dickens; six grandchildren: sisters: June Stapleton and Lori (Dale) Jackson; brother, John (Sue) Stapleton.

Zelda “Tag” Swartz, 88, born November 3, 1931; died June 30, 2020. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. Warren C. Swartz; children, Cynthia A. Hodges and Lloyd C. Swartz, eight grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Susan L. Knight.

D. Jean Thuma, 90, born August 30, 1929; died May 17, 2020. She married the Rev. Lowell Thuma in 1947. She is survived by her daughters, Janet Herndon (Robert) and Joan Clary (Buddy), one grandson and two great grandsons. She is preceding in death by her husband Lowell and one sibling, Phil Kissling.

Nina VanVerth, 94, born February 4, 1926; died January 6, 2021. She married the Rev. LeRoy VanVerth on September 15, 1946. LeRoy preceded her in death, as well as her son David. Survivors include daughter Diana Lee (Jim) Myers, son Steven (Lynn) VanVerth, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

M. Christine Vogt, 84, born May 27, 1936; died December 8, 2020. Survivors include husband, the Rev. Dr. Jerold W. Vogt; sons, Sheldon (Paula) and Clifton (Brianna); daughter, Sharla; four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a step-granddaughter, three step-great grandchildren and two brothers.

WORSHIP COORDINATION

Sessions and Rules Worship Team
Rev. Nathan Stanton, director of congregational excellence
Rev. Melinda Harwood, pastor of Valley Falls, Coal Creek and Ozawkie UMCs
Rev. Kay Scarbrough, senior pastor of Lawrence First UMC
Rev. Jeni Anderson, associate pastor of Lawrence First UMC
Sara Wentz, minister of music at Lawrence First UMC
Todd Siefert, director of communications
Eugenio Hernandez Rodriguez, multimedia production specialist
Jayna McFarland, web and social media specialist
Lisa Soukup, communications administrative assistant
Julie Kohr, clergy excellence administrative assistant
Barb Black, administrative assistant to the bishop

Recognition and gratitude is extended to the congregations, staff and pastors of Lawrence First who made the recording of this worship service meaningful with their attention to details and hard work.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Tandy Reussner, organist
Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.
Sara Wentz, minister of music at Lawrence First UMC
Rev. Kay Scarbrough, senior pastor of Lawrence First UMC
Vocalists: Aileen Ball, Barry Frank, Sarah Merriman, Alexis Soby, Sara Wentz
Rev. Changhyun Kim, pastor of Leavenworth Trinity UMC
Rev. Dr. Mitch Reece, Wichita East/West district superintendent
Rev. Hollie Tapley, disaster response coordinator
Amarais Towle, connections minister of Wesley KU
Roman Austin Ruiz, lay young adult
Chancel Choir and friends, Lawrence First UMC
Alexis Soby, soloist

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The 2021 Annual Conference Memorial Service was recorded May 6, 2021 at First UMC in Lawrence, Kansas.
The worship theme was based on Psalm 91:14:

“Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.”

We commended the spirits of Great Plains clergy and spouses who have died since April 15, 2020, to God’s care. We entered into the Sacrament of Baptism with children of conference clergy, sharing with them the royal priesthood of Christ.

The bottles displayed throughout the worship space represent us, followers of Christ, who are holy vessels.

“Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work,” 2 Timothy 2:21

Small bottles of the baptismal water were sent to the families of the deceased as a reminder of the life we share in Christ.