

SERVICE OF EARTH'S SEASONS

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, October 6, 2024

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

Fantasia in A Major

G. F. Handel

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

GATHERING HYMN

The congregation may stand.
Great Is Thy Faithfulness (ELW 733)



1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
stars in their cours-es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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OPENING DIALOGUE & PRAYER

Generous Creator, you are still creating.

The land has yielded its harvest.

Our covenant God has blessed us.

Generous Creator, you are still creating.

We honor you from the farthest ends of the earth.

Let us pray.

Gracious and everlasting God of the cosmos, we give you thanks for this day. For the turning of the sun to its setting. The shift from warmth of the Summer to the comfort of the Winter's hearth, we celebrate the in-between time of Autumn. The bounty of harvest and the plants who return to the earth. Hear our prayers of lament and our call for joy. Call us to live in harmony with all creation. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

+ LAMENT AND TURNING +

PSALM 67 *Read responsively, the congregation reads the verses in bold.*

¹May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make Their face to shine upon us,

**²that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.**

Selah

³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**

Selah

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

**⁶The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere Them.

Let us go before God with lamentation and confession,

We confess that we have not paid attention to the whole of creation. In our concern for our own species, we have trampled others.

We have considered the wild, beautiful, life-sustaining ecosystems of the world merely "our environment."

With industry, we have not understood how our actions influence the lives of bugs, birds, and fish. With politics, we have not always cared how our policies affect the whole of creation. We have taken for granted clean air, water, and soil.

We have elevated our existence over that of even the largest creatures.
 We have ignored our scientists and pushed aside the concerns of our children.
 We beg forgiveness from future peoples.
 We beg forgiveness from our sibling species with whom we share this planet.
 God of creation, have mercy on us and help us.
 We don't know what we do.

Turn us, change us, and heal us, that we might be good siblings and generous partners with creation. Amen.

HYMN OF LAMENT

The congregation remains seated.
 Abba, Abba, Hear Us

1 "Ab - ba, Ab - ba, hear us," we cry; God's Spir - it
 2 With the whole cre - a - tion we cry, groan as in
 3 As we pray, the Spir - it breathes sighs, sighs far too

cries in us, names us a - dopt - ed and be - lov - ed
 child - birth. Soon all sin, all death's de - cay will be no
 deep for words; God, who search - es hearts and knows the Spir - it's

heirs, the heirs of God. All cre - a - tion
 more; we shall be free. All cre - a - tion
 mind, hears all our prayer. All cre - a - tion

waits, ea - ger and long - ing, for the glo - rious
 waits, ea - ger and long - ing; for the prom - ised
 waits, ea - ger and long - ing. As we live in

free - dom of God's chil - dren soon will be re - vealed.
 glo - ry that we soon shall see we wait and pray.
 hope, we know that in all things God works for good.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
 Music: ARIRANG, Korean traditional
 Text © 1996, 2001 Andrew Donaldson, admin. Augsburg Fortress

+ HOPE AND ASSURANCE +

READING

Romans 8:18-26

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Inspired words for an inspired people,

Thanks be to God

The presiding minister reads a word of absolution:

Beloved of God, hear this word of hope. As people knit into the life of Jesus Christ, change is possible for us. Jesus healed the sick, forgave sinners, and gave aimless people deep purpose. Receive God's forgiveness + for the past and new courage for the future. Knowing God's great love, may we live the way of Jesus.

Amen.

HYMN OF HOPE

The congregation may stand.
God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
3 As grows the hid - den seed, to fruit that
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-34

The gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Pause for contemplation.

HYMN OF THE DAY

*The congregation may stand.
In Sacred Manner*



1 In sa - cred man - ner may we walk up -
2 In sa - cred man - ner may we see the
3 In sa - cred man - ner may we touch the
4 In sa - cred man - ner may we hear the



on the fair and lov - ing earth, in beau - ty move, in
lu - mi - nous and lov - ing stars, with won - der and with
sus - pir - ant and lov - ing green, give hon - or and give
pound - ing waves, the sear - ing fire, the rush - ing wind, the



beau - ty love the liv - ing round that brought us birth. We
awe be - hold their ev - er - new cre - a - tive pow'rs. The
grat - i - tude for shade, for bloom, for gift un - seen. The
sing - ing night, the for - est hymn, the lov - ing choir. The



stand on ho - ly ground. We stand on ho - ly ground.
heav - ens show us God. The heav - ens show us God.
trees shall shout for joy. The trees shall shout for joy.
morn - ing stars shall sing. The morn - ing stars shall sing.

5 In sacred manner may we live
among the wise and loving ones,
sit humbly, as at sages' feet,
by four-legged, finned, and feathered ones.
The animals will teach.
The animals will teach.

6 In sacred manner may we walk
upon the fair and loving earth,
in beauty move, in beauty love
the living round that brought us birth.
We stand on holy ground.
We stand on holy ground.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: SEATTLE, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text © 1990 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

+ WORDS OF INTENTION TO BLESS +

For the sake of Christ and the world,
**we breathe in the generosity of God's love
and renew our minds to bless the earth.**
**With clarity of purpose, we devote ourselves
to the care of all creation.**
**We intend to pay attention to the soil, air,
and water of our neighborhood.**
**We will live as good neighbors to the creatures
with which we share this space.**
**As a community, we choose to live in harmony
with the ecosystems that share their life with us.**
Together, we sound our intention to bless the earth.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



Deep River

arr. Mark Hayes

OFFERTORY VERSE

The congregation may stand



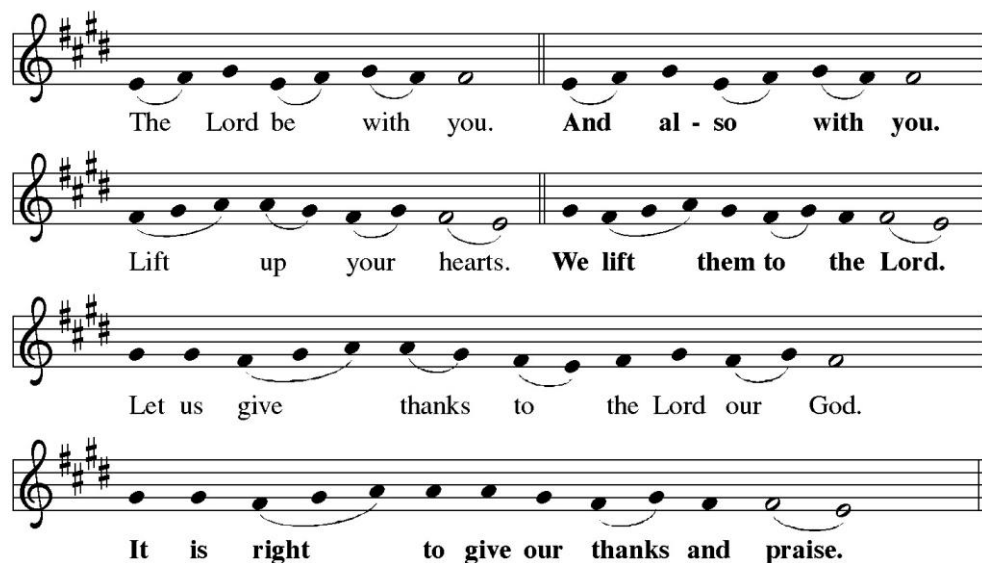
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

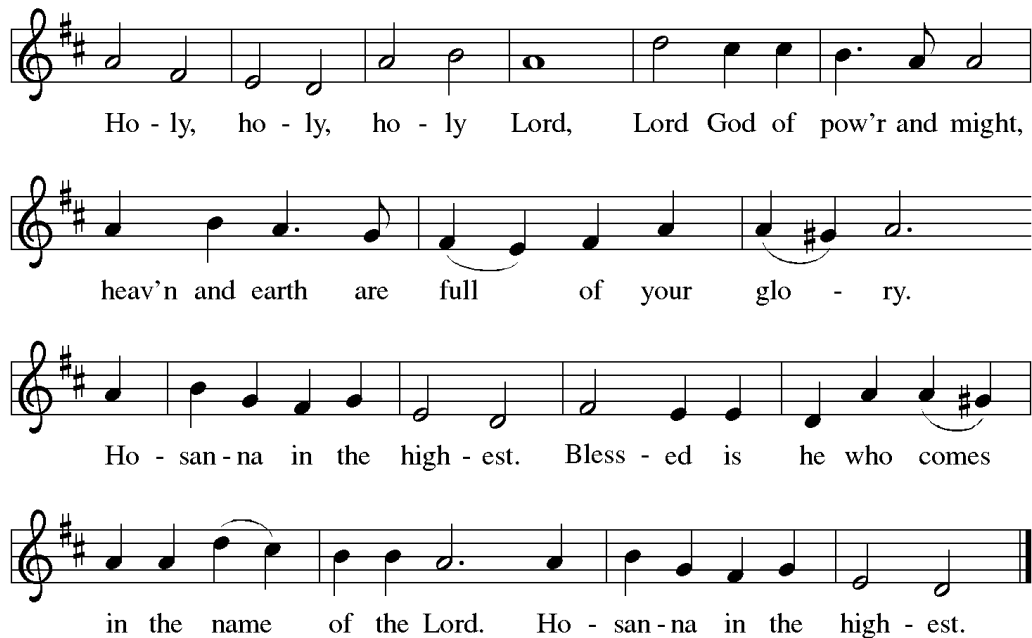
Let us pray together.
**Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.
Day by day you shower us with blessings.
As you have raised us to new life in Christ,
give us glad and generous hearts,
ready to praise you and to respond to those in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE AND PROPER PREFACE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

. . . to whom we offer all honor and praise from this day forth and forever more. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us in the many and varied languages we hold dear...

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! Please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. Please take a glass of wine (dark colored) or a glass of grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heaven (ELW 771)

1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:
flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.
we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;
great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

**Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

+ Sending +

BLESSING OF QUILTS AND HOLY CLOSE OF MINISTRY

God, our neighbors around the world are in need of hope. Your Spirit is a mighty force, your whispers of hope bring light into the world. Open our hearts and hands to see your presence in our neighborhoods and across the world.

Jesus, help us speak words of hope to our neighbors.

We give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, and sewing machines. May their presence be a sign of hope and may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love.

Jesus, help us reach out in hope to our neighbors.

We give thanks for all the hands that fashioned hope into a quilt, for the hands that collected and sorted, for the hands that continually open wider so that no one feels left out.

Jesus, help us see hope in our neighbors.

We ask you to guide the staff and partners at LWR. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.

Jesus, help us share a taste of hope with our neighbors.

God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope. Whether or not we know their names or where they live, they are our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Recognizing God's abundant hope, go and be a sign of hope to our neighbors near and far:
offering hands to hold, sweet scents of justice, and a feast of God's goodness.

In the name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881)

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

DISMISSAL

The worship is over. Now let your service begin.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Carillon Toccata

Douglas E. Wagner

Worship materials adapted this day from multiple ecumenical partners and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2024).

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- Scripture readings from the NRSV

SERVING TODAY

<i>Interim Minister:</i>	Vicar Alex Linn
<i>Director of Youth & Families:</i>	Evergreen Edwards
<i>Interim Music Minister:</i>	Leo Radosavljevic
<i>Cantor:</i>	Angela De Venuto
<i>Worship Assistant:</i>	Cindi Rachowicz
<i>Reader:</i>	Mae Loesel
<i>Usher:</i>	Finny Maglocchi
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Jan Wendel
<i>Livestream Camera:</i>	Luke Rasmussen, Kristen Danielsen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Quilt Blessing

Today is our final quilt blessing as we prepare to send off our last batch of quilts and close this special ministry. These quilts were handmade by a group of very dedicated members and friends as part of a project through Lutheran World Relief.

Calling All God's Creatures

This afternoon, October 6, from 2:00-3:00 p.m., 5 Wilmette churches (Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, & Presbyterian) will gather for the first-ever Wilmette Ecumenical Pet Blessing. Come celebrate under the autumn sun, **on the lawn of First Congregational Church of Wilmette (1125 Wilmette Ave.)** This event honors the legacy of St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is Oct. 4, and was known for his exuberant praise of God in creation. Loving all creatures great and small. ALL pets and pets'-people are invited to come get blessed during this drop-in, walk-through pet blessing and social hour. Light treats for humans and non-humans will be provided. Questions? Contact Vicar Alex.

Family Promise

Our final Family Promise host week for 2024 begins today. We will be hosting two of the families who were guests in September. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be dinner hosts and overnight hosts. Please know how appreciative the guests are.

Pastor Transition

If you were in church last Sunday, you heard that the Synod has made an inquiry to St. Paul's in Evanston. This is basically a "notice of intent" to explore a possible shared pastor scenario with them. Their council will now discuss this. Ours will too when we meet Wednesday, October 9th. We are open to feedback from the congregation, and the Call Committee will continue to host questions and thoughts at coffee hour after church.

If both councils are open to this, there is a process for us to go through to determine the best way to proceed. The Synod has identified a pastor to lead the process. It would involve a series of meetings with leaders from both congregations who would be responsible for mapping what and how this could look like.

This discernment is an important step which many in our congregation have noted and spoken to. Please share your thoughts with Chad and Mylene so all your thoughts, aspirations, hopes and concerns are included.

St. John's Financial Update

Year to date we are doing better than budget and we have a slight surplus of \$1,410.

Why? Our expected pledges have come in faster than expected and we have spent less than expected on our building year to date – no change from last month!

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budgeted</u>
Offerings	135,081	128,766
Other Revenue/Rent	<u>55,560</u>	<u>56,373</u>
Total Revenue	190,641	185,139
 Total Expenses	 <u>189,501</u>	 <u>205,299</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	1,140	(20,159)

IN OUR PRAYERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> † Those who live in and around Asheville and Buncombe County, North Carolina. Friend of Mylene Pollock lives there. † All others who are affected by Hurricane Helene. † Art Wise, recovering from knee replacement surgery † Family & friends of Rena Leinberger, wife of Karl and mother of Shayna, Brandon and Jordan, who passed away 4/26/24 † Tom Fries, friend of Jim Dossa, cracked vertebrae † Family & friends of Lorraine Beutelspacher, who died 3/6/24 † Buckley Crist † Family & friends of Peter Knobel, who died 1/13/24 † Dottie Wolf, sister of Margye Smith † Family and Friends of Hing You Tam Siu, mother-in-law of Jim Dossa, who passed away | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury. |
|---|--|

