



Rev. Thomas Mark Letchworth

August 20, 1955 - June 27, 2018

Tom Letchworth, 62, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, June 27, 2018. He was born Aug. 20, 1955 in Dayton, Ohio to Clarence and Billie (Wood) Letchworth. Preceded in death by his parents, Tom is survived by his wife of 37 years, Celesta Lynne (Shaulis); his sons, Sam and Joe; and his big brother Steve (Nancy). Other survivors include his nephew, Dan (Koh); his sister-in-laws, Zola (Will) and Jane (Joseph); and his niece, Mila (Jesse). The son of an Air Force chaplain, Tom grew up in Ohio, France, Maine, Spain, Michigan, Japan and California.

Tom received the call to ministry while he was a student at San Jose State University in 1974. "I discovered that God is Real. And if God is Real, life is meaningful. And if life is meaningful, I wanted to tell everyone I possibly could. From this seed, my understanding of God's love — revealed in Jesus Christ and confirmed through the Holy Spirit — has continued to grow."

Tom graduated from the University of California, Riverside with high honors and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He graduated cum laude from Perkins School of Theology with a Master of Theology degree. Tom was ordained an Elder in the Little Rock Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1985. Tom pastored dynamic churches of varying sizes throughout his ministry since 1980. Twice, Tom received appointments as a full-time General Evangelist, in which he enjoyed adding drama to his sermons. He preached, taught and wrote as a means of fulfilling his call to ministry.

Tom and Celeste wrote full-length plays published by Lillenas Drama:

Mysteries With a Message, Volumes I and II; and Meet Me at Luigi's. Their two favorite "creative collaborations" are Sam and Joe.

Tom's book, War Ain't No Picnic: 30 Civil War Stories & Devotionals, was released by Fermata House in August, 2017. Since the Lectionary calendar cycles every three years, Tom's weekly Bible studies will continue to be posted at soarlectionarybiblestudy.wordpress.com.

Tom earnestly attempted to "speak the Truth in Love." The week prior to his death, the Confessing Movement of Arkansas acknowledged Tom's life work by awarding him the Defender of the Faith award.

We will celebrate Tom's life at 2:00 on Tuesday, July 3rd at Searcy First United Methodist Church. Viewing begins at 1pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to Heifer International are appreciated.

Interment will be in Keene Cemetery, Keene, Kentucky at a later date.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
304 N Main St
Searcy, AR 72143
(501) 268-5896

Funeral Service

JUL 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
304 N. Main St.
Searcy, AR 72143

Tribute Wall

JC

“ I know that no 'man' is as perfect as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But, in my eyes Tom Letchworth was as close as you could get. I have so many memories and he touched my life personally so often... He baptized my husband who was 30 years old and had never been a church member before. Tom also baptized my son, Jeff, who was 7 years old at the time and knew he wanted Jesus in his heart. If Tom held your hand, gave a hug, or just said 'Good Morning' as the congregation was leaving the sanctuary - you felt like you were the most important person in the room. You mattered and got the message - God is love! I still have the clear glass stone Tom used to help us remember our baptism. It is just a silly stone, but it meant so much more to me.

Tom was a gifted man and he always used his gifts to give glory to God. The world has lost someone truly special, but oh the joy Tom must be feeling right now!

Celesta, Joe, and Sam - God bless you and keep you safe. May you find comfort in His word.

Much love,

Joyce Carpenter and family

Joyce Carpenter - July 03, 2018 at 11:07 AM

DA

“ The entire Allbritton family, Dan, Susan, Ben, Daniel, and Matthew along with spouses and grandchildren extend our heartfelt condolences to the entire Letchworth Family on the occasion of Tom's passing. We have many warm memories of Tom, Celeste, Sam, and Joe at Salem Methodist when we were all younger and still "spry". When our oldest son, Ben, who is still serving in the U.S. Navy read about Tom's passing in an e-mail, he replied "Aw nuts! He passed too soon". It is our prayer that the family will be at peace knowing that your whole family is serving faithfully in God's Kingdom. Being assured by God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, and Scripture that we will all see and be with our loved ones in "The Sweet By and By" is surely part of the "peace that passeth all understanding". Agape.

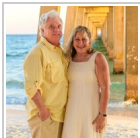
Dan and Susan Allbritton - July 03, 2018 at 09:38 AM

LH

“ Love, Pat Cochrane O'Connell and Nancy Sollenberger Heishman purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rev. Thomas Mark Letchworth.



Love, Pat Cochrane O'Connell and Nancy Sollenberger Heishman - July 02, 2018 at 04:58 PM



“ Debbie Scola purchased the Fruit Abounds for the family of Rev. Thomas Mark Letchworth.



Debbie Scola - July 02, 2018 at 11:55 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Debbie Scola - July 02, 2018 at 10:48 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to the family.*

Carolyn & Maury Joe - July 02, 2018 at 08:43 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rev. Thomas Mark Letchworth.*



July 01, 2018 at 09:22 PM