

A Thanksgiving for the Life of Meredith Louise Gieseler

July 25, 1942 – January 29, 2026



First United Methodist Church of Palatine
123 N Plum Grove Rd. Palatine, IL 60067
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The Rev. Scott Barron, Celebrant
Linda Camp, Organist

February 7, 2026

11:00 A.M.

A Service Celebrating the Life of

Meredith Gieseler

Saturday, February 7, 2026, 11:00 A.M.

Air on the G String

J.S. Bach

Jacqueline Fisher, Violin

Hymn #77

How Great Thou Art

Hine

(please stand as you are able.)

Celebrant:

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.

Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die.

And everyone who has life, and has committed herself to
me in faith, shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives and that at the
last he will stand upon the earth. After my awaking, he will
raise me up; and in my body I shall see God.

I myself shall see, and my eyes behold her who is my friend
and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in herself, and none becomes his own
master when he dies. For if we have life, we are alive in the
Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord.

So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
possession.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

(Please be seated)

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Read by Brook Burtnett, Jeremiah Pugh, grandchildren

Psalm 23

*Reader: Please pray with me in reading Psalm 23.
Led by Brian Glickauf, grandson*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

Precious Lord

Barbershop

The Epistle

1 John 3:1-2, 11

Read by Marinelle Glickauf, daughter

Hymn #191

Jesus Loves Me

Warner-Bradbury

The Gospel

please stand as you are able.

John 14:1-6

Words of Remembrance

The Homily

The Rev. Scott Barron

The Apostles Creed

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism,
let us proclaim our faith and say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader: For our sister, Meredith, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life." Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Meredith, and dry the tears of those who weep.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend;
comfort us in our sorrow.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: You promised paradise to the thief who repented;
bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with
the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant
her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister; let
our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence

Leader: Father of all, we pray to you for Meredith, and for all
those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to her eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of
all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People: Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Please kneel as you are able to do so.

The Lord's Prayer (said in unison)

**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 and ever. Amen.**

Precious Lord

Barbershop

The Closing Prayer and Blessing

Edelweiss

Rodgers and Hammerstein

Jacqueline Fisher, Violin

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go in peace.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

Winter from the Seasons

A. Vivaldi

Jacqueline Fisher, Violin

The Gieseler family expresses sincere gratitude for your prayers, support, and taking this time to honor Meredith's life with us. We also thank our church and all who helped in preparations.

*As Meredith would always say, as we leave today;
"God bless you!"*

Meredith Louise Gieseler

7/25/1942 - 1/29/2026



Meredith Louise Gieseler (nee Fletcher), born July 25, 1942 in Bay City, Michigan, and resident of Palatine, IL since 1969. At 83 years old, she passed away peacefully on January 29, 2026 in Barrington, IL.

Meredith was the beloved wife of James W. Gieseler; loving mother of 5 children: Marinelle Glickauf (Scott), James Gieseler (Devonna), Susan Luanna Gieseler (deceased), Deirdre Pugh (Jeremy, deceased), and Carol

Bellinder (Ed); and loving grandmother of 12 grandchildren: Jeremiah Pugh, AJ Glickauf, Abigail Dyer (Brock), Elora Foley (Logan), Brook Burtnett (Peter), Caroline Glickauf, Owen Gieseler, Bradley Bellinder, Leah Pugh, Brian Glickauf, Kyle Bellinder, and Madeline Pugh: loving great-grandmother to: Brielle Burtnett and Eiley Foley.

Meredith was preceded in death by her father and mother: Fred and Mary Edith (nee Fluckey) Fletcher, her sister, Susan Overholt, son-in-law, Jeremy Pugh, daughter, Susan Luanna Gieseler.

Meredith grew up in Midland Michigan with her sister, Susan and brother, Fredrick in a tight-knit neighborhood they called F.B.I; Fletchers, Bass and Irish families. Playing in the woods behind their homes and forming lifelong friendships and memories that she held dear throughout her life.

She attended Michigan State University (Go Green!), and by God's design, she met the Gieseler family. Meredith was roommates with Janet Gieseler, who introduced her to her brother, Jim. Their love story began there. Meredith and Jim were married on June 20, 1964, in Midland, Michigan, at the First Presbyterian Church, shortly after Meredith graduated from college.

As a wife and mother, Meredith devoted herself wholeheartedly to her family. Her love extended beyond her household to her extended family,

friends, and community. She found joy in music, swimming, nature, traveling, especially visits back to Michigan, watching sports, and her involvement with the Palatine Women's Club, United Methodist Women, Bible studies including FROGS and Higher Grounds, and the First United Methodist Church Choir.

Meredith never missed a music recital, sporting event, play, or activity involving her children or grandchildren. She was a constant source of encouragement, pride, and unconditional love.

Music was one of Meredith's lifelong passions. A gifted viola player, she performed with the Michigan State University Orchestra and later with various orchestras in Illinois, most notably the Harper College Symphony Orchestra. She also shared her love of classical music as the beloved "Music Mom" at Virginia Lake Elementary School, where she introduced students to classical composers and their music.

Meredith's love of swimming spanned decades. A nationally awarded swimmer on a Masters Swim Team, she also taught swimming at the Buehler YMCA for 25 years, helping children and adults alike build confidence and skills in the water.

Her heart for service extended into education as well. Meredith served for more than 15 years as a teacher's aide at Palatine High School, supporting physically and mentally disabled students with patience, compassion, and dedication.

Meredith Louise Gieseler will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, unwavering devotion to her family, and her lifelong commitment to serving and uplifting others. Her legacy of love, music, faith, and service lives on in all who knew her. Her encouraging spirit and love of life were grounded in her faith. She lived with hope, joy, and quiet strength, trusting in the promise of Scripture:

*"You make known to me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy"
(Psalm 16:11).*

*In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to
First United Methodist Church of Palatine Memorial Fund*