

In Memory, 2023

“On this Memorial Day Weekend, we take time to remember, with deep gratitude, the many who have left us in this past year and have lighted or supported the light within us.”

Opening Music: Samuel Barber, Adagio for Strings <https://youtu.be/Hc8gYoXkLZ4>

See the current Weekly Update for Fellowship News:

We Gather and Invite

Greetings from the Whole Congregation

Bell Chime

Call to Worship: “At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person.

Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”

Albert Schweitzer

Welcome:

Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato, where some of our space is virtual, but all of our worship is not. All you here today, you are all welcome in this time we make sacred together. All—all—are loved, worthy, and needed. Our human differences are sacred and make us strong. Here, you can bring your whole self.

Before European colonization, the Dakota peoples were stewards of the land on which our Fellowship building sits. In Dakota language, Ina is the word for both mother and land, a word reminding us that we are all relatives. The land does not belong to us, though it holds the history of our conflicts and our attempts at reconciliation. We are committed to understanding our shared history, accepting responsibility for restoration, and building relationship in the here and now. We seek to be good relatives.

I am the Tony Filipovitch, a member of this congregation and honored and humbled to lead you in today's worship.

We Center Ourselves to Worship/Shape Worth

Chalice Lighting:

We are a welcoming people of diverse beliefs who commit to nourish the spirit, broaden the mind, nurture the earth, and build community. May this flame we kindle remind us to strive, today and every day, to love beyond belief.

Sorrows & Joys: As we gather here today, we each come as we are, bringing with us into this space our own joys and sorrows. Some of those are so deeply felt that you wrote them down as you came into this place to share with all of us. This is what you wrote:

Singing Prayer: To the tune of #1002 (teal hymnal) by Mimi Borstein

Comfort me. Share my joy.

Comfort me, oh my soul. (2x)

Giving: We are a religious community because we share meaning, identity, and purpose. We sustain our religious community because we share our financial resources. It is a true mark of Unitarian Universalist polity to voluntarily gather as a people and to support ourselves without dependence on any higher authority.

Burt Bacharach died this year at age 94. Composer and songwriter, he is considered one of the most influential pop composers of his time, and he won 6 Grammy Awards, 3 Academy Awards, and 1 Emmy. His jazz-influenced work is known for its unusual chord progressions and time-signature changes. His hits include "This Guy's in Love with You" (Herb Alpert, 1968), "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" (BJ Thomas, 1969), "(They Long to Be) Close to You" (the Carpenters, 1970), "Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do)" (Christopher Cross, 1981), "That's What Friends Are For" (Dionne Warwick, 1986), and "On My Own" (Carole Bayer Sager, 1986). As we collect the Offering, let's listen to "On My Own," sung by Carol Bayer Sager, Burt Bacharach, and Michael McDonald (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UyFcCSZG0A>). And as you enjoy the offertory, consider your monetary gift to our community, that we may grow and flourish, increasingly able to spread compassion and make justice in the larger world.

Story for All Ages: Another who died this year was **Ian Falconer**, 63. A stage designer by trade, he is better known as the creator of the *Olivia the Pig* children's books. The character of Olivia was inspired by his niece (Olivia) and her antics growing up. Listen to the first of the stories, read by our Children's Faith Director, Macey Forsyth.

Reading: This reading is a from the novel, *A Little Paris Bookshop*, by Nina George. It is taken from the final journal entry of one of the fictional characters, Manon, who is dying as she dictates these lines to her mother:

"In the end, I'm only going next door.
To the end of the corridor, into my favorite room.
And from there, out into the garden.
And there I will become light and go wherever I want...
I see you... roaming through some rooms... You're searching for me.
I'm no longer in the sealed rooms, of course.
Look at me! Out here.
Raise your eyes, I'm here!
Think of me and call my name!
None of this is any less real because I am gone.
Death doesn't matter.
It makes no difference to life.
We will always remain what we were to one another."

Meditation:

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse—Pestilence (in COVID), Famine (in the starvation in Syria and Turkey after the earthquake), War (in the Ukraine and Sudan), and Death (mass shootings in schools and stores)—continue to be regular features on the news these days. And yet, amid all that darkness and pain, we have cause to remember, with deep gratitude, the many who have lit a spark within us. Memorial Day began as a day to remember those who died, first in the Great War, and then in addition all those who died in all those wars after the “War to End All Wars.” In time, it has come to be a time to remember all those who have died before us. “All those who have died before us”—and we will, all, die and join that great chain of all those who prepared the way for those who came after. As the song says, “So is life... We come from the fire... Go back to the fire...”

But today we are focused, not on death, but on memory. Memory is what we leave behind. As Nina George has Manon say, “Death makes no difference to life; we will always remain what we were to one another.” In the Disney film, *Encanto*, the dead are not gone as long as someone alive still remembers them. Their memory reverberates through the generations, like the ripples from stone tossed into a pond. In fact, I think, the ripples continue on even after the name of the stone is gone. Olivia will continue to delight children and bemuse their parents long after the connection to Ian Falconer’s niece has faded. Yet for all of that, the memory we carry can be only a small part of the life that each has led; as the saying goes, “It’s complicated.” When we die, one of the infinity of parallel universes dies with us.

For some of us, those who have died this year are not just names we heard in the news, nor even some celebrity or public person whose life we have followed in some detail. For some of us, the life of someone very close to us has ended recently. Sometimes, maybe oftentimes, our memories of those we’ve loved are full of grieving. And the grief never goes away. But, with time and grace, the grief steps down a bit and the hot tears mingle and melt into warm memories. As Burt Bacharach wrote, “This wasn't how it was supposed to end/I wish that we could do it all again... I've got to find where I belong again... And I have faith that I will shine again... On my own.”

So, today is a time to hold in memory, if only briefly, a few (only a few) of the people who, for better or ill, have brought us to where we are today as we, all, build on the memories that will carry forward those who are coming behind us. Let us take a moment to each recall some of those who have done this for us.

In Memory, 2023

We have a tradition at UUFM that goes back to 1999 when our part-time minister then, Rev. Sarah Oehlberg, celebrated Memorial Day by remembering those who had died in the last year. While she would deliver her sermon at Nora Church in Hanska, I would read it to us on Pohl Road. After she retired, I continued the practice on my own, clipping and compiling obituaries starting the day after this service. It is too long to deliver the whole memorial—it will be available on our website, if you are interested. Instead, I will pick and choose a few to highlight from each Generation.

Lest we forget, this was, yet again, a year marked by violence—

- We don't have a decent count of the number of innocent bystanders killed in the war in Ukraine, nor of the number of combatants killed on both sides. And civil war has broken out in Sudan, and violence in Israel.
- 196 people killed in mass shootings in the first three months in the US this year, in 135 incidents in 90 days. And that doesn't count the people shot or killed for knocking on the wrong door.
- And, while Covid has been weakening, so far Covid 19 has claimed almost 7 million people worldwide, over 1.1 million in the US, and 14,000 in Minnesota. Over 1,000 people are still dying from Covid each week in the US.

From the “Greatest Generation,” (1901-1924) those born in the time of “The Great War” and the Spanish Flu Epidemic (yes, there are still a few of them around): They include

- *world leaders* like **Jiang Zemin**, 96, the first of China's “third generation” of leaders who led China's transition from state-run business to private entrepreneurship;
- *scientists* like **James Lovelock**, 103, who developed the Gaia theory that the earth is a living organism threatened by human activity, and **Sophie Freud**, 97, the last surviving grandchild of Sigmund Freud who criticized psychoanalysis as “narcissistic indulgence”;
- *WW II heroes* like **Benjamin Ferencz**, 103, the last surviving prosecutor at the Nuremberg war trials and **Andree Geulen**, 100, a teacher at a Belgian girls' school who hid 300-400 Jewish children from the Nazis, **Samuel Sandoval**, 98, one of the last of the Navajo Code Talkers who used their native language to talk in code in World War II to evade Japanese eavesdropping, **Hershel “Woody” Williams**, 98, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II (he fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima), **Col. Harold Brown**, 98, one of the last of the Tuskegee Airmen (and a graduate from North High in Minneapolis), and **Bradford Freeman**, 97, the last survivor of the US Army unit nicknamed “The Band of Brothers”;
- *community leaders* like **Esther Cooper Jackson**, 105, who helped establish the Southern Negro Youth Conference (the predecessor to SNCC), and **Polly Mann**, 103, co-founder of Women Against Military Madness; and
- *artists* like **Ned Rorem**, 99, composer of art songs and operas.
- *Closer to home*, **Dan Duffy**, 100, Director of Housing at Mankato State College in the 1960s and **Alda Wicklund**, 98, who was Deb Fitzloff's aunt. There are great stories behind each of their names.

From the “Silent Generation,” (1925-1945) those who were born in the Great Depression and the Second World War (and as you might expect, the largest number I will mention today):

International Affairs

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, Queen of the United Kingdom and 14 Commonwealth Realms, 96. Second-longest reigning monarch in history (but Louis XIV had a head start—he was 4 when he began his reign). Touring southern Africa with her parents on her 21st birthday, she declared "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong." She kept her word.

Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, 95. A professor of theology by training, he was appointed Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Dean of the College of Cardinals in his 50s, where he was known for his conservative defense of Catholic tradition. Elected Pope at age 78, he served 8 years before retiring—the first to do so in 600 years.

Mikhail Gorbachev, 91. Last President of the Soviet Union. His reforms, known as *perestroika* and *glasnost*, led to the easing of Cold War tensions and the nuclear disarmament treaty with the United States. They also led to the downfall of the Soviet Union, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, and Boris Yeltsin's defeating him for the presidency of Russia.

Pervez Musharraf, 79. Pakistani army general who led a bloodless coup in 1999 and ruled for the next 9 years. An ally of the West, he sided with Washington against the Taliban which fueled violent terrorist groups in Pakistan and led to his eventual ouster. He died in exile in Dubai.

David Trimble, 77. Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party from 1995 to 2005, he became a key architect of the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement reversing his long-held opposition to negotiating with the Irish Republican Army-linked party Sinn Fein. He shared the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

National Affairs: People Whose Contributions Changed the Way We Live

Ann Turner Cook, 95. The Gerber baby. Her neighbor, Dorothy Hope Smith, submitted a charcoal sketch to a contest for the face of the new baby food company. She said the sketch was preliminary, and she would finish it if they liked it. But the judges loved it just as it was, and for 90 years it was the company's logo. Ms. Cook, an elementary school teacher, kept her identity secret until she was in her 50s—she didn't want to distract her students. In her retirement, she wrote mystery novels.

Paul Ellwood, 95. A professor of pediatric neurology at the University of Minnesota and the Sister Kenny Institute, he left the practice of medicine to found InterStudy, a health policy thinktank. There he took the Kaiser model of prepaid health plans and developed it into the HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) model which influenced national health care policy ever since.

Gordon Moore, 94. Co-founder of Intel, the microchip manufacturer. He was also the author of "Moore's Law," which observes that the number of transistors (in other words, the processing power) in an integrated circuit doubles about every two years.

Barbara Walters, 93. Known for her interviewing ability and popularity with viewers, she appeared as a host of numerous television programs, including *Today*, the *ABC Evening News*, *20/20*,

and *The View*. Throughout her career as a working journalist from 1951 until her retirement in 2015, she paved the way for the many women who came up behind her.

Carl Croneberg, 92. Linguist who helped write the first comprehensive dictionary of American Sign Language and carried out research that established the idea of “Deaf Culture.” He specialized in regional and subcultural dialects in the use of sign language. He was educated and then taught at Gallaudet University for his entire career.

Dave Durenberger, 88. US Senator from Minnesota for 17 years, filling Hubert Humphrey’s seat upon his death. In the Senate, Durenberger led Reagan’s New Federalism efforts and came to be known for his expertise on national health policy, a role he maintained after leaving the Senate. In 2005 he broke with the Republican Party over Bush’s health care policies and later supported Hilary Clinton and Joe Biden in their presidential bids.

Mark Shields, 85. Early in life, he helped manage state and local political campaigns in 38 states, including national campaigns for William Proxmire, Robert Kennedy, Edmund Muskie, Morris Udall, and Sargent Shriver. He then joined the editorial desk at the *Washington Post*. For more than 30 years he was a regular commentator on PBS NewsHour. He was known for his humor, his kindness, his generosity, and his optimism.

Herman Daly, 84. Father of Ecological Economics and theorist of Sustainable Development, and senior economist at the World Bank. He is best known for his 1973 book, *Toward a Steady-State Economy*.

Pat Schroeder, 82. For 24 years, she represented Colorado in the US House. She was an advocate for women and families, and helped author the Family and Medical Leave Act. Known for her sharp wit, when she was criticized for running for Congress when she had small children she shot back, “I have a brain and a uterus and I use both.”

Writers—Some told the tale of our lives in Minnesota, some drew a wider net

Tim Giago, 88. A journalist who covered Native American affairs for 40 years. In 1981 he and his wife founded *The Lakota Times* (later renamed *Indian Country Today*), the first Native American newspaper in the country, with a \$4,000 bank loan with his cousin’s old Ford sedan as collateral. He had been reporting for the *Rapid City Journal* when he asked to cover tribal stories on his beat. The editor told him that he would not be able to be objective in his reporting. Giago replied, “All of your reporters are white. Are they objective when covering the white community?” He also published four books.

Howard Mohr, 83. Professor of English at Southwest Minnesota State, writer for “A Prairie Home Companion,” and author of *How to Talk Minnesotan*. He explained the Minnesota good-bye, the art of waving, the intricacies of hotdish and the difference between “not too bad a deal” and “a heckuva deal.” You betcha.

Thomas Cahill, 82. As a Jesuit seminarian, he earned his first degree in Greek and Latin and classical literature and philosophy. Deciding against ordination, he earned a Master’s in Film and Dramatic Literature. He wrote the popular history, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*—the manuscript was rejected by 5 publishers before Doubleday picked it up. It eventually sold 2 million copies. It

was the first of a projected 7-volume series, “The Hinges of History.” He finished six of the volumes.

Barbara Ehrenreich, 81. Although she earned a PhD in immunology, she was an author, activist, and “myth-buster.” She challenged conventional thinking about class, religion, and even the American Dream in books like *Nickel and Dimed*, *Bait and Switch*, and *Bright-Sided*. She wrote that “Positive thinking has made itself useful as an apology for the crueler aspects of the market economy. If optimism is the key to material success, and if you can achieve an optimistic outlook through the discipline of positive thinking, then there is no excuse for failure. The flip side of positivity is thus a harsh insistence on personal responsibility.”

Performers on Screen and Television

So many whom we know from their roles, if not their lives: Irene Pappas, Gina Lollobrigida, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Jean-Luc Godard, Louise Fletcher, Chaim Topol, Raquel Welch, James Caan, and Jerry Springer. Of particular note,

Angela Lansbury, 96. Irish-British and American actress and singer who played various roles across film, stage, and television. Her career spanned eight decades, and she was one of the last surviving stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood cinema. She received six Tony Awards (including a Lifetime Achievement Award), six Golden Globe Awards, a Laurence Olivier Award, and the Academy Honorary Award, and was nominated for three Academy Awards, eighteen Primetime Emmy Awards, and a Grammy Award. Her first film roles were in *Gaslight* (1944), *National Velvet* (1944), and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1945). She had a leading role in *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962) and *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* (1971), and then starred and produced the TV series, *Murder She Wrote*. She did voice work for the animated films *Beauty and the Beast* (1991) and *Anastasia* (1997), and her last film role was *Glass Onion* in 2022.

Bob McGrath, 90. Actor, musician, children’s author, he was a founding cast member of Sesame Street playing the friendly neighbor Bob Johnson and played that role for almost five decades. He also sang in the ‘60s series, “Sing Along with Mitch.”

Nichelle Nichols, 89. Lieutenant Uhura, fourth in command of the Starship Enterprise, on TV and film. She broke TV barriers portraying a Black woman in a position of authority. A singer/dancer (she sang for Duke Ellington and Lionel Hampton and played in *Porgy and Bess* in New York), she initially saw *Star Trek* as a stepping stone to Broadway. But then she was introduced to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who told her he was a fan and she could not leave the show because of her influence as a role model for so many children. She and William Shatner also shared the first interracial kiss portrayed on television in one of the last segments of the series. She also volunteered with NASA in a special project to recruit minorities and women into the space agency.

Barrie Humphries, 89. Australian comedian, actor, and author, he was the voice of Bruce the Shark in *Finding Nemo* and portrayed the Great Goblin in *The Hobbit*. But he found much more fame as Dame Edna Everage, described by the *New York Times* as “a stiletto-heeled, stiletto-tongued persona who might well have been the spawn of a ménage à quatre involving Oscar Wilde, Salvador Dalí, Auntie Mame and Miss Piggy.” When asked if he explained to his children why he dressed as a woman, he replied “No more than when I play Hamlet I explain to them that I don’t speak Danish.”

Patrick Henry “Adam” Wade, 87. In college on a basketball scholarship, he dropped out after 3 years to work as a lab tech for Dr. Jonas Salk who encouraged him to pursue his dream in music. In 1961, he had three consecutive Top 10 hits in a single year (“Take Good Care of Her”, “The Writing on the Wall” and “As if I Didn’t Know”). He also appeared in scores of films, plays and TV productions, and in 1975 became the first Black host of a network television game show, “Musical Chairs.” The show was cancelled after 5 months and got a lot of hate mail, including a letter from a man “saying he didn’t want his wife sitting at home watching the Black guy hand out the money and the smarts.” 40 years after dropping out of college, he earned a bachelor’s degree from Lehman College in the Bronx and a master’s in theater history and criticism from Brooklyn College, and taught speech and theater at Long Island University in New Jersey.

Paul Sorvino, 83. Actor, opera singer, and sculptor. He started acting as a teenager and had his Actor’s Equity card by age 24, but his first break (in “That Championship Season” on Broadway) didn’t come until he was 31. “Most of the time I was just another out-of-work actor who couldn’t get arrested,” he quipped. He eventually landed movie roles, including as Henry Kissinger (complete with German accent) in Oliver Stone’s “Nixon” and Fulgencio Capulet in Baz Luhrmann’s “Romeo and Juliet,” but he is best known for his role as Paulie Cicero in “Goodfellas.” He said that, as he was preparing for the role, he looked in the mirror one day as he was adjusting his tie and saw “that lethal Paulie look.... I knew at that moment I had embraced my inner mob boss.”

Music & Art

So many who gave the tunes and sights that accompanied our lives—Ahmad Jamal, Loretta Lynn, Jerry Lee Lewis, Sam Gooden, Gordon Lightfoot, and Kristi McVie. Of particular note:

Claes Oldenburg, 93. Sculptor known for his monumental sculptures of everyday objects, including a steel clothespin in Philadelphia’s Centre Square; a 20-ton baseball bat in front of Chicago’s Social Security Administration building; a 38-foot-tall flashlight at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas; and a giant typewriter eraser at the National Sculpture Court in DC. And the Spoon Bridge and Cherry at the Walker Art Center.

Tina Turner, 83. “Queen of Rock ‘n Roll,” she had 12 Grammys, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and a Kennedy Center Award, and sold over 100 million records. Her songs included “Proud Mary,” “We Don’t Need Another Hero,” and “What’s Love Got to Do With It,” recorded when she made a comeback in her ‘40s after her much-publicized break-up with her abusive husband, Ike Turner. It made her the oldest female solo artist to make Billboard’s Hot 100. Having lived in Los Angeles, Cologne, London, and the French Riviera, in 1994 she settled into Switzerland near Zurich. In 2013 (at age 74) she became a Swiss citizen after passing a rigorous test on Swiss history and the German language. She also married her boyfriend of 27 years, Erwin Bach. Four years later, when she was living with kidney failure and considering assisted suicide, he donated one of his kidneys to her. In religion, she referred to herself as a “Buddhist Baptist” (her father was a Baptist deacon). She was a woman of many parts.

David Crosby, 81. Singer, songwriter, guitarist and member of The Byrds and Crosby, Stills & Nash (and, later,Young). Influenced by jazz, his folk styling played around with close harmonies and alternate tunings and inspired the “freak folk” movement of this century. He was also

notorious for his drug offenses, weapons charges, prison stints, and clashes with almost every bandmate he worked with.

Richard Enos “Butch” Thompson, 78. Jazz pianist and clarinetist, known for his ragtime and stride styling. He is probably best known for his performance for years on *Prairie Home Companion*.

Sports

Bud Grant, legendary coach of the Minnesota Vikings; **Vin Scully**, Hall of Fame broadcaster for the Dodgers; **Maury Wills**, base-stealing shortstop for the Brooklyn Dodgers; **Jim Brown**, arguably the best running back in football history; **Bill Russell**, of the Boston Celtics and the first Black head coach in any major US sport; **Gaylord Perry**, spitball master; **Bobby Hull**, hockey’s “Golden Jet”; **Joe Pepitone**, Yankees first-baseman; **Willis Reed**, of the NY Knicks.

Of particular note,

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, 82. Universally known by his nickname, “Pele,” he was considered the greatest athlete of the century. As a forward for the Brazilian National Football Team (“soccer” to us gringos), he won three world cups and scored on average one goal in every game he played throughout his career. He was able to strike with either foot, and was a master at anticipating his opponents’ moves.

Regional

Many were local folk who made their mark among us. Among them, **Willard Vetter**, co-founder of Vetter Stone; **Helen Depuydt**, owner of Granny’s Café in St. Clair; **John Todd** co-founder of Layman-Todd Realty; **Jim Manahan**, Mankato attorney; **Mary Jo Surprenant**, co-founder of I&S Engineers (now ISG); **Doug Johnson**, longtime MN Senator from the Iron Range; **Kay Jacobson**, co-owner of Katolight.

Of particular note,

Jean-Nickolaus Tretter, 76. LGBTQ archivist, activist, and historian. His collection of books, periodicals, personal records, zines, pamphlets, artifacts and ephemera, the largest in the Upper Midwest, is now housed at the UofM in a library named in his honor.

Local

Schools—MSU

Ken Polzin, Director of Institutional Research in the 1980s; **Mary Zimmerman**, Manager of MSU Bookstore; **Donald Sofchalk**, Professor of History; **Merrill Frydendall**, Professor of Biology, and Ornithologist extraordinaire; **Neala Schleuning**, Founding director of the Women’s Center; **Mary Jane Bair**, Administrative Assistant for 27 years.

Schools—K-12

Bill Mickelson, Teacher and coach at Mankato High School; **Carol Broughten**, first grade at Roosevelt School; **Roger Stouffer**, Teacher and ISD77 School Board member; **Steve Braun**, custodian at West High School.

UUFM Members, Relatives & Friends

Kay VanBuskirk, 95. Social Work professor at MSU and longtime member of our congregation.

Arthur Evans, 92. Laurie Evans father.

From the “Baby Boom Generation,” (1946-1964) those born in a time of economic growth in the US and rebuilding from the tragedy of war abroad:

A personal note here: Mark Twain once remarked that when he gets up in the morning he opens the paper to the obituaries to see if he is in them. The Boomers are my generation, but I’m on the older end. So these days I read these obituaries of people who are younger than me, and think “They had a good, long life.” For many of you, perhaps, this does not compute. But don’t worry; someday it will.

International Affairs

Ayman al-Zawahri, 71. Egyptian surgeon who took over leadership of al-Qaida after Osama bin Laden, killed by a US drone strike in Afghanistan.

Shinzo Abe, 67. Japan’s longest-serving prime minister, he was assassinated apparently for his ties to the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon. Abe’s politics have been described as conservative and Japanese nationalist.

National Affairs

Ken Starr, 76. Former federal appellate judge who led the criminal investigation that led to the impeachment of Bill Clinton.

Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, 73. Civil rights icon and pastor of New York’s Abyssinian Baptist Church. In 1989 he established the nonprofit Abyssinian Development Corporation to develop moderate-income housing, retail, schools and other projects in Harlem, and mobilized church leaders to support AIDS programs in the 1980s and COVID-19 clinics recently. He also preached against the violence and misogyny in rap lyrics.

Dave Smith, 72. Engineer who invented the first programmable polyphonic synthesizer (its predecessor, the Moog synthesizer, could only play one note at a time) and the MIDI cable which allows different musical instruments to communicate in ensemble.

Klaus Teuber, 70. Creator of the hugely popular game, *Settlers of Catan*. He started out as a dental technician, and turned to game design as a refuge from the frustrations of his workaday life.

Ashton Carter, 68. He began his career as a PhD Physicist, but went on to become Secretary of Defense under President Obama. He ended the ban of transgender officers in the military and opened all military occupations and positions to women without exception.

Writers

Anne Garrels, 71. International correspondent for NPR. She covered both Chechen wars, despite a Russian ban on outside journalists. After 9/11, she reported from the Anti-Taliban Northern Alliance in Afghanistan.

Hilary Mantel, 70. British author of 15 works of fiction, historical fiction, short story collections and memoir, she is best known for her trilogy on the life of Thomas Cromwell. When she won the Booker Prize at 57 for the first in the trilogy, *Wolf Hall*, she joked she was going to spend the prize money on “sex, drugs, and rock-and-roll.”

Rhagavan Iyer, 61. Nationally and internationally honored chef, his cookbooks won the James Beard Award. Born in Mumbai, he came to the States to study Hospitality at Southwest State University, and opened restaurants in Minneapolis. His final book, *On the Curry Trail*, was published a month before his death.

Dom Phillips, 57. British journalist, he was murdered in Brazil while researching a story on deforestation in the Amazon.

Actors & Film

Robbie Coltrane, 72. Scottish actor best known for his role as Hagrid in the Harry Potter movies. He also starred in the British TV crime series, *Cracker*. In case you were wondering, he was born Anthony Robert McMillan but renamed himself in his 20's after John Coltrane.

Kirstie Alley, 71. She won an Emmy for her role as Rebecca Howe on *Cheers*, another for her role in the miniseries *David's Mother*, and starred in movies, including “Look Who's Talking.”

Lisa Loring, 64. Actor, best known for her role as Wednesday in *The Addams Family*, a role she played when she was 6. She continued acting in film and TV, best known for her roles in soap operas.

Music & Art

Keith Reed, 76. Lyricist for *Procul Harem*, he wrote the lyrics for “A Whiter Shade of Pale.”

Anita Pointer, 74. Lead singer and songwriter for The Pointer Sisters, who had such hits as "Fairytale", "Yes We Can Can", "Fire", "Slow Hand", and "I'm So Excited". They won 7 Grammys in the 70s and 80s.

Dame Olivia Newton-John, 73. Actress and singer, 4-time Grammy winner, with 11 singles and 14 gold albums (several of which went platinum). She is probably best-known for her role as Sandy in the musical *Grease* and as Kira in *Xanadu*. She lived with breast cancer much of her life, and was knighted for her charitable work and advocacy for cancer research.

Artis Leon Ivey, Jr, 59. We knew him as “Coolio,” and for his rap songs “Gangsta’s Paradise” and “Fantastic Voyage.”

Sports

Dick Fosbury, 76. Originator of the “Fosbury Flop” high-jump technique, which won him Olympic Gold. Before him, high jumpers used “scissors kick” in which they followed the leading leg up and over the bar. Fosbury led with his head with the legs following last—the standard form still today.

Franco Harris, 72. Running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers for 12 years, he was selected nine times to the Pro Bowl, won four Super Bowls and Super Bowl Most Valuable Player (MVP) honors in Super Bowl IX against the Minnesota Vikings. He was the first African-American and the first Italian-American to be named Super Bowl MVP. His "Immaculate Reception" (in his rookie year) gave the Steelers their first ever playoff win in 1972.

Regional

Jim Miller, Lakota spiritual leader and founder of the Dakota 38+2 Memorial Ride; **Mark Shult**, “Mark the Barber” on Belgrade Avenue in North Mankato; **Al Fack**, Blue Earth County social worker and driving force behind the Eclipse crisis counseling center. He also was a force behind the River Bend Folk Festival; **John Sheran**, Friend to many in our congregation, he spent his early years in Mankato and then returned to practice law for many years at the Farrish Law Firm; **Dave Tomassoni**, Iron-Range legislator, he served in the House and Senate for 29 years. He chaired the Senate Economic Development Committee and the Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Committee and served briefly as President of the Senate. Most of the time he served as a member of the DFL, but after the 2020 election he and fellow-Ranger Tom Bakk left the DFL to form an Independent caucus. He also played professional hockey in Italy for 16 years and played on the Italian team in the 1984 Winter Olympics, and served as Vice-Chair of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission.

Local

Schools—MSU & SCC

Ann Widness, Adjunct instructor in the MSU Art Department; and **Doug Midthun**, Taught Accounting at SCC for 26 years.

UUFM

Jane Schostag, 76. English teacher at West High, YWCA Woman of Distinction, and past President of UUFM.

Mark Spangler, 59. KEEZ radio and Moondogs announcer, Paraprofessional at West High, and member of our congregation.

From “Generation X,” (1965-1980) those born in the “baby bust” in the times of the Viet Nam War and the first energy crisis (remember Jimmy Carter’s cardigan?):

Actors & Film

Anne Heche, 53. American actress. She started her career portraying twins in a soap opera (for which she won a Daytime Emmy, and went on to critical acclaim in film, TV, and the stage. She is probably best known for her roles in *Donnie Brasco* and *Wag the Dog*.

Jason David Frank, 49. You probably don't recognize his name—or even his face—but you knew him as the Green Power Ranger, Tommy Oliver.

From “Generation Z,” (1997-2012) those born in the 21st Century:

Sports

Alexander, aka “Technoblade,” 23. American YouTube and internet personality known for his Minecraft videos and livestreams (and, so Esports, which is why I put him in this section) died of metastasized cancer. He first registered his YouTube channel at age 14, and it grew to more than 14 million followers. His signature phrase was “Technoblade never dies!” His death was announced on his channel by his father, who read a letter written by Technoblade 8 hours before his death, designating that any future proceeds from his merchandising and videos would go to the Sarcoma Foundation. His personal identity has never been revealed, other than his first name.

There are many others whose names I have not read—some known to most of us, some special to one of us. Speak aloud the name of those have died this year who hold a special place in your memory.

We Turn to the Larger World with Renewed Commitment

Final Song: Finally, **Harry Belafonte** died this year at age 96. Singer, actor, civil rights activist. He is one of 12 who have earned an EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony). He was the first Black male leading man on film (in *Carmen Jones* and *Island in the Sun*, among other films) and the first to record an album that sold a million copies. He was best known for calypso music (“Day-O,” “Mama Look at Bubu,” “Jump in the Line,” “Jamaica Farewell,” and “Mary’s Boy Child”), although he recorded blues, folk, gospel, show tunes, American standards, and international music. He was instrumental in introducing young talent, including Miriam Makeba from South Africa, Nana Mouskouri from Greece, and a young harmonica player named Bob Dylan. He helped organize the “We Are the World” recording and performed at the LiveAid Concert that same year. He was a close friend of Martin Luther King, Jr. and an advocate for civil rights, peace, HIV/AIDS and other humanitarian causes. Among his songs is “Turn the World Around,” which is number 1024 in our teal hymnal. I know we have trouble singing this song—maybe it’s un-Unitarian, or maybe it’s just un-Minnesotan, but there’s some full-throated belting it out in this song and a swinging syncopated calypso rhythm. Just listen, if you like, but if the spirit moves you join in with him.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIPjUvOxAf0>

Chalice Extinguishing: *We extinguish this flame, but not the light of truth, the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment. These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.*

Benediction (from Oedipus at Colonus, Sophocles):

“Now let weeping cease. Let no one mourn again. For all these things are in the hands of god.”

Go in peace, as we sing together our closing song.

Closing Song: “Longtime Sun”

