



EDWARD NEIL STEPHENS
NOV. 12, 1946 - FEB. 24, 2026

Celebration of Life Service: Edward Stephens

1 p.m. | May 28, 2026

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City

Prelude

Welcome

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:12-15: Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Prayer

Music for Reflection | *Abide in Me*

Words of Remembrance

Christopher Stephens
Jenni Stephens

Scripture Readings

Romans 8:38-39: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 1:17: Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Hymn | "Great is Thy Faithfulness," pg. 4-5 (*hymnal*, #348)

Message

Music for Reflection | *Be Still My Soul*

Prayer of Thanks

Unison Prayer

*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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Hymn | "Song of Farewell," pg. 5

Commendation

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Participants

Pastor Colette Soult, *officiant*
Jenni Stephens, *eulogy*
Christopher Stephens, *eulogy*
Helenipa Stephens, *reader*
Malinda Thomas, *soloist*
Julia Van Den Top, *pianist and organist*

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

D G6 A D G

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, thy own dear

D E A A7 D

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

G6 E7/G# D/A A7 D

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 A D B7 Em A7

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

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 Music (FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10 refrain 5.5.10.11.10): William M. Runyan, 1923, © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope
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D A E A A7 D

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

G6 E7 D/A A7 D

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

SONG OF FAREWELL

OLD HUNDRETH

1. Come to his/her aid, O saints of God; Come meet him/her,
 2. May Christ, who called you, take you home, And an-gels
 3. Give him/her e-ter-nal rest, O Lord. May light un-
 4. I know that my Re-deem-er lives; The last day

1. an-gels — of the Lord.
 2. lead you to A-bra-ham. } Re-ceive his/her soul, O
 3. end-ing — shine on him/her.
 4. I shall — rise a-gain.

1-4. ho-ly ones; Pre-sent him/her now to God, Most High.

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Edward Neil Stephens, lovingly known as Ed, passed away peacefully on February 24, 2026, in Woodbridge at the age of 79. Born on November 12, 1946, in Cody to Ervin and Edna Stephens, Ed lived a life marked by adventure, curiosity, music, friendship, and deep devotion to family.

Ed was the beloved husband of Regina Stephens; cherished father of Christopher Neil Stephens; and proud grandfather of Helenipa Stephens, Max Stephens, and Lockhart Stephens. He is also remembered with love by the many extended family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors whose lives he touched over the years.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents and all six of his siblings: Bob, Bill, Gary, Dion, Mary, and Betty. As the last surviving sibling, he carried with him a lifetime of family memories and stories that he generously shared with those around him.

Ed spent his earliest years in Cody, Wyoming, where his father worked as a hotel chef. During his junior high years, after his parents became ill with tuberculosis, Ed moved to Centralia, Washington, to live with his older sister Betty. That experience helped shape the resilience, independence, and adaptability that defined him throughout his life.

He graduated from Centralia High School in 1965 and soon joined the Navy Reserves. While studying political science at Centralia Community College, Ed met Catherine Gilbert in the library — the beginning of a partnership that would shape the next chapter of his life. They married, graduated together, and soon after Ed received his commission in the United States Navy.

During Ed's first tour of duty, while stationed aboard a ship in San Diego, California, Catherine gave birth to their son Christopher in Olympia, Washington. When Christopher was just six weeks old and able to travel, Catherine and baby Chris journeyed to San Diego to reunite their young family. Over the years, the Navy took Ed and his family across the country and beyond, with assignments in Hawaii, Alaska, California, and Virginia. Everywhere he went, Ed made lifelong friends, discovered new music, and collected stories that he delighted in sharing.





Ed served his entire naval career as a Supply Officer. Dedicated and ambitious, he earned his MBA through correspondence courses while balancing the demands of military service, fatherhood, and family life. He retired from the Navy in 1990 with the rank of Commander after a distinguished career of service to his country.

Following his military retirement, Ed continued to serve others through his work as an instructor in military contracting for government agencies. He took pride in mentoring others and sharing the knowledge and experience he had gained over decades of service.

On Aug. 8, 1992, Ed married Regina Rohan, the love and companion of his later years. Together they built a joyful life in Woodbridge, Virginia, filled with travel, music, movies, and treasured time with friends and family. Their home was one of warmth, laughter, and lively conversation.

One of Ed's greatest passions was music. While serving in the military, he worked as a DJ and even hosted a rock and roll radio show while stationed in the Aleutian Islands. He possessed an encyclopedic knowledge and appreciation of music that he joyfully passed on to his son and grandchildren. Whether sharing favorite songs, telling stories from his youth, or reminiscing about concerts and musicians, Ed's enthusiasm was contagious.

Ed also believed in civic engagement and volunteered as a poll worker for his political party, always valuing participation, community, and informed conversation.

Those who knew Ed will remember his intelligence, wit, warmth, storytelling, and the genuine interest he took in others. He had an uncommon ability to make people feel welcome and valued, whether they were lifelong friends or someone he had just met. His stories, laughter, wisdom, and love of music will continue to echo in the hearts of all who knew him.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered always.

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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