

THE 51ST ANNUAL
Christmas Eve
LOVEFEAST



WESLEY MEMORIAL

A METHODIST CONGREGATION

DECEMBER 24, 2024 • 5:00 PM

Our purpose is to make and sustain spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ who live in ways that transform the world.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE LOVEFEAST

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THE CHRISTMAS BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S 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 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. Amen.

† *Please stand as you are able*

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light Eternal, lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Very God, begotten, not created; Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, in the highest; Refrain

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: Refrain**

† THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Sydney and Chase Harris

† CHORAL RESPONSE

Come, Lord Jesus

Anna Laura Page

Come, Lord Jesus, come and save us. Bring your light into our world of darkness. Come, Lord Jesus, come and save us. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20 (KJV)

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: **Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

Christ, by highest heav’n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, off-spring of a virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’incarnate Deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Refrain

Please be seated

CHRISTMAS EVE HOMILY

Rev. Jeff Patterson

THE JOHN WESLEY GRACE

OLD 100TH

(The congregation and choir will sing)

**Be present at our table Lord; be here and everywhere adored:
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we may feast in paradise with thee. Amen**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND DRINK

DUET

Angels’ Carol

John Rutter

Have you heard the sounds of the angel voices ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear? Have you seen the star shining out so brightly as a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here? Have you heard the news that they bring from Heaven to the humble shepherds who have waited long? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter’s stillness, like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night. He is come in joy like the sun at morning, filling all the world with radiance and with light. He is come in love as the child of Mary. In a simple stable, we have seen his birth. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing ‘Peace on earth’.

He will bring new light to a world in darkness, like a bright star shining in the skies above. He will bring new hope to the waiting nations, when he comes to reign in purity and love. Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour’s coming; let the Heavens answer with the joyful mourn. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing, ‘Christ is born.’

ANTHEM

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter

*How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky?
How can you measure the love of a mother? Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn.
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing "The Christ child is born" Shepherds
and wise men will kneel and adore him; seraphim 'round him, their vigil will keep. Nations
proclaim him their Lord and their saviour, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.
Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger Christ our redeemer, asleep in the hay. Godhead
incarnate and hope of salvation a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is
nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee
there.**

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

arr. Mack Wilberg

*Still, still, still, his bright eyes softly close. And Mary, breathless, draws him sleeping to her
heart made pure for keeping. Still, still, still, his bright eyes softly close.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, he hears, and sweetly smiles. And kneeling Joseph joins in chorus, with
the angels bending o'er us. Sleep, sleep, sleep, he hears and sweetly smiles.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, he breathes a tender sigh; for soon he'll wake the world from slumber,
bringing life and endless wonder. Sleep, sleep, sleep, he breathes a tender sigh. Sleep, holy
Jesus, sleep.*

ANTHEM

Hear the Angels Sing

Edmund H. Sears

James Biery

(Commissioned for the 50th Annual Lovefeast 2023; Performed in memory of Mr. Franklin G. Pifferetti, Jr.,
Director of Traditional Music Ministries and Organist from 2009-2023)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold. Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious, gracious King. The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they blend on hov'ring wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we at war on earth hear not the love-song that they bring; O hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing; O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing. For Lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors, splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

RETURN CUPS TO SERVERS

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavn'ly song? Refrain**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain**

**See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid while our hearts in love we raise. Refrain**

SERVICE OF GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam/arr. DeCesare

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; his law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

(Please tilt your unlit candle towards the lighted candle.)

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

(The instruments will play two verses alone, then the congregation and choir will join in singing)

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!" Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at they birth, Jesus, Lord, at they birth.**

**Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born.**

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Joy to the World

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; Let ev'ry heart
prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and
heav'n, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove, the glories of
His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders,
wonders of His love.**

† BENEDICTION

(After the pastors have recessed, the ushers will direct the congregation to leave, during the last hymn, pew by pew while singing and holding the lighted candle)

† CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold through out the heavens there shown a holy light. Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

† POSTLUDE

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Reverend Dr. Jeff Patterson, Senior Pastor

Reverend Clark Chilton, Contemporary Worship/Evangelism

Reverend Susannah Pittman, Congregational Care/Adult Spiritual Formation

Reverend Dr. Glenn Myers, Congregational Care/Senior Adults

Chancel Choir

Ms. Kennedy Heath, violin

Mr. Jose Olea Vico, violin

Mr. Joshua Forbes, viola

Ms. Becca Fuller, cello

Ms. Holly Gonzales, flute

Ms. Siena Stevens, oboe

Ms. Kristen Young, harp

Mr. Phillip Leach, baritone

Ms. Laura Hutchins, soprano

Ms. Charli Mills, Director of Traditional Music and Worship Arts

Mr. Chris Ward, Guest Organist

USHERS

Mr. Tom Smothers
Mrs. Debbie Smothers
Mr. Windley Dunbar
Mr. Scott Dunbar
Ms. Avery Dunbar
Ms. Melody Emerson

Mr. Lane Adams
Mrs. Wendy Adams
Ms. Vickie Grobes
Mr. Wray Hodgins
Mr. Edwin Bass
Mrs. Martha Bass

If you purchased a poinsettia memorial for your loved one, we invite you to take one of the lovely poinsettias from our sanctuary altar.

OUR APPRECIATION is expressed to Melanie Eskew, Stephanie Beaver, Debbie Smothers, and the rest of the Lovefeast committee; to the Lovefeast Servers; and all the leaders, musicians, members and staff who helped to make this service possible.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL FOR OUR LOVEFEAST SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE are given for the Glory of God and in celebration of the birth of Jesus by Nan and Buck Kester and Lee and Alf Webster and in honor of their grandchildren, Rainey and Guy Brewer, Lucy and Lawrence Dempsey, Nora Rose and Robert and Burton Kester, George, Thomas and William Webster, Jack and Harris Webster and Bess and Dearie Webster, and all of God's children everywhere.

FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING we invite you to join Wesley Memorial in continuing our tradition of generosity and community outreach. This year, our offering will support recovery and rebuilding efforts for our neighbors in the Western North Carolina mountains. The Missions Team has approved three specific areas for this year's offering. Funds will assist Samaritan's Purse as they move into the reconstruction and building phase of recovery. They will also support the repair and restoration of Camp Lin Haven, a cherished place deeply connected to our congregation, where many have attended or sent their children and grandchildren over the years. Additionally, contributions will aid Weaverville United Methodist Church, which continues to serve the surrounding areas through flood relief and long-term recovery efforts. Your generosity will provide hope, resources, and encouragement to these communities as they navigate the rebuilding process. Thank you for your compassion and for being the hands and feet of Christ during this season of giving. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES has been made possible, by the Durland Music Endowment Fund. The Durland Music Endowed Fund was established in 1984 by Dr. Philip Bibb Davis and Betsey Durland Davis to honor Oscar C. and Bess Durland.

THE METHODIST LOVEFEAST

In apostolic times, Christians periodically observed a common meal called agape from the Greek word meaning love. The Lovefeast continued as an important part of Christian worship for centuries, but eventually almost faded away. Then in 1727, a little band of Moravians gathered by Count Zinzendorf reintroduced it. Moravian missionaries and immigrants carried the custom to America, and it was here on August 8, 1737—only ten years after its reintroduction—that John Wesley shared the Lovefeast and was greatly impressed with the service. The following year, after he experienced the “heart-warming” awakening at Aldersgate, Wesley introduced the Lovefeast to the people called Methodist, and among the rules adopted for the Society was a provision for the Lovefeast to be held at regularly appointed times. The most significant feature of those early Lovefeasts was not the “simple meal” or the candles (which were used only at Christmas), but the personal testimonies of the power of divine love to transform human life. The Lovefeast quickly became a normal feature of the evangelical revival in England and America. For over two hundred years, it has been an important part of the Methodist heritage in America as well as in England and other parts of the world.



Christmas Memorials 2024

The Front Circle Tree is given in loving memory of Carter, Doris, and Barbra Lassiter by their sons Bart, Ron, Scott and Tim Lassiter and their wives, and their grandchildren.

The Chrismon Tree is given in loving memory of Royster M. Tucker, Jr., Martha Nell Tucker, Nell Hayden Tucker, Diane Tucker McKenzie Smith and Velva; Cookie Tucker Quinn Ring, by Bootsy, Donna, Royster, Tuck, John Austin, Sloan and Davis Tucker.

The Chrismon Tree is given in memory of Thayer and Dot Coggin by their family.

The Narthex Tree is given in loving memory of Eva Dell and Milly Marsh by Jim Marsh and Jim Marsh, Jr.

The Chapel Tree is given in loving memory of Courtney Jean Freedle by Jean Freedle, Chris and Sarah Faith Amos, Matthew and Aubriana Amos and Jennifer, Trevor and Brooks White.

The Dining Room Tree is given in honor of our children and grandchildren by Nido and Mariana Qubein.

The Pre-School Tree is given in loving memory of Carolyn Bryant by her family.

Sanctuary- Christ Advent Candle is given in loving memory of William Blanton, Jr., and Wanna and Charles McAnally, from Wanna Blanton.

Chapel- Christ Advent Candle is given in loving memory of Betsy Johnson, and Ruth and J. C. McAllister by Jane and Ken McAllister.

Special Christmas Ornament – The crown on top of the left Chrismon Tree is given in loving memory of Joseph Michael Albany, Jr., by Beth Blake and family.

The Sanctuary Balcony Wreath is given in memory of Robert Edwin Bass by his family.

The Sanctuary Balcony Garland is given in memory of Dwight Bumgarner by Jean Bumgarner.

The Chapel Garland is given in loving gratitude to Barbara and Tim Bumgarner, Molly and Bill Bumgarner, and Kari Craig by Jean Bumgarner.

The Chapel Wreath is given in loving memory of Herman Hunter Sr. by his family.

Lovefeast Candles

In loving memory of Kem McAllister by Molly and Kirk Myer and Reynolds and Jack Scott.

In memory of our parents by Ellen & Keith Miller.

In honor of our children & grandchildren by Ellen & Keith Miller.

In loving memory of Phillip and Hazel Pugh and Lucille Davis Bizzell by Phyllis Pugh.

In honor of Eli Mattox and Nicholas Jaggie by Erik R. Baity

Lovefeast Buns

In loving memory of Tommy Emerson by Emerson and Melody.

In loving memory of Pat Warth by her husband, Mickey Warth.

In loving memory of Katherine “Kitsy” Thomas Tennant by a special friend.

In loving memory of David McCoy by his wife, Linda McCoy.

In honor of the Surles Family.



Column Wreath

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fulton Allen Huntley by Leslie Huntley.

In loving memory of Lester, Louise and Perry Zimmerman by Lou Anne and Dan.

In loving memory of Joseph Michael Albany, Jr. by Lissa and Andrew Albany and Frank H. Wood III.

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Wood, Jr. by Frank H. Wood III and Lissa and Andrew Albany.

In loving memory of Zach Priddy, Sue Wood, and Jami Priddy and in honor of Viviane, Cecelia and Colette Priddy, Clark and Parker Warnock and Greg and Michelle Stencil by Ginger Priddy.

In loving memory of Kem McAllister by Callie, Charlotte and Lollie.

In loving memory of Charles L, and Adalyn Kearns by Kay and David Maynard and their family.

In loving memory of my parents, Edith and David Gallimore by their daughter, Bonnie Broadwater.

In loving memory of Allen B, Harless, Jr. and Kitty Campen Field by Katherine and Henry McMullan, Brianne, Matt, Henry, Lucy and Franklin McMullan and Mary Meade, Parker and Boyd Holloway.

In loving memory of E.J. and Mabel McCoy by Phyllis McCoy.

In loving memory of Melvin and Rena Smith by Phyllis McCoy.

In loving memory of Len Fletcher by his wife, Beverly.

Door Wreath

In loving memory of JB White by Jay and Kathy.

In loving memory of Lou White by Jay and Kathy.

In loving memory of Dot Byerly by Kathy and Jay.

In loving memory of Gladys & Roy Beasley, given by Bonnie Beasley.

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thurlow A. Kearns, Jr. by Allen and Garrett Kearns, Charlie, Diane and Ella Kearns and Ryan, Leslie, Holden and Liza Ball.

In loving memory of William G. Gaffey, Jr. by Allen and Garrett Kearns, Charlie, Diane and Ella Kearns and Ryan, Leslie, Holden and Liza Ball.

In loving memory of Bob Bass and in honor of Janie Bass by Martha and Edwin Bass.

In loving memory of Ruth and J. C. McAllister by Martha and Edwin Bass.

In loving memory of Royster M Tucker, Jr and Martha Nell Tucker by Royster & Donna Tucker, Tuck, John Austin, Adele, & Olivia, Sloan, and Davis & Rachel Tucker.

In honor of Bootsy Tucker by Royster & Donna Tucker, Tuck, John, Adele, & Olivia, Sloan, and Davis & Rachel Tucker.

In loving memory of Barbra Lassiter by Bart, Aimee and Abbie, Wes, Christopher, Virginia, and William.

In loving memory of Edith and David Gallimore by their daughter, Bonnie Broadwater.



Poinsettias

In loving memory of Bob Duncan by Lucille and family.

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Key and Dr. and Mrs. L. Ernest Otter by Joel and Faith Key.

In loving memory of Meryle Wilson by her family.

In loving memory of Myrtle Pope by Kathy Lavender and Buddy Wilson.

In loving memory of our son, Jason A. Myers by Susan and Glenn Myers.

In honor of our family Jillian, Robert and Courtney, Andrew, Lilly, Luke, Lydia, June and Ford Myers by Susan and Glenn Myers.

In loving memory of Helen R. Lindsay by Allen and Garrett Kearns, Charlie, Diane and Ella Kearns and Ryan, Leslie, Holden and Liza Ball.

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Kearns by Allen and Garrett Kearns, Charlie, Diane and Ella Kearns and Ryan, Leslie, Holden and Liza Ball.

In loving memory of Bill Anderson by Allen and Garrett Kearns.

In honor of the "Fish" Unity Group by Allen Kearns.

In loving memory of Kem McAllister by Martha and Edwin Bass.

In loving memory of Jason Myers (son of Rev. Glenn and Susan Myers) by Alan and Laura Koonts.

In honor of our daughter and family: Wes, Megan, Mary, Wesley, Samuel, and Lily Payne Love, Alan and Laura Koonts.

In honor of Reece and Jack Almond by Phyllis McCoy.

In honor of Harrison and Molly McCoy by Phyllis McCoy.

In honor of Susan Sumpter by the Senior Adult Council.

In loving memory of husband Dr. John L. Beck from his family.

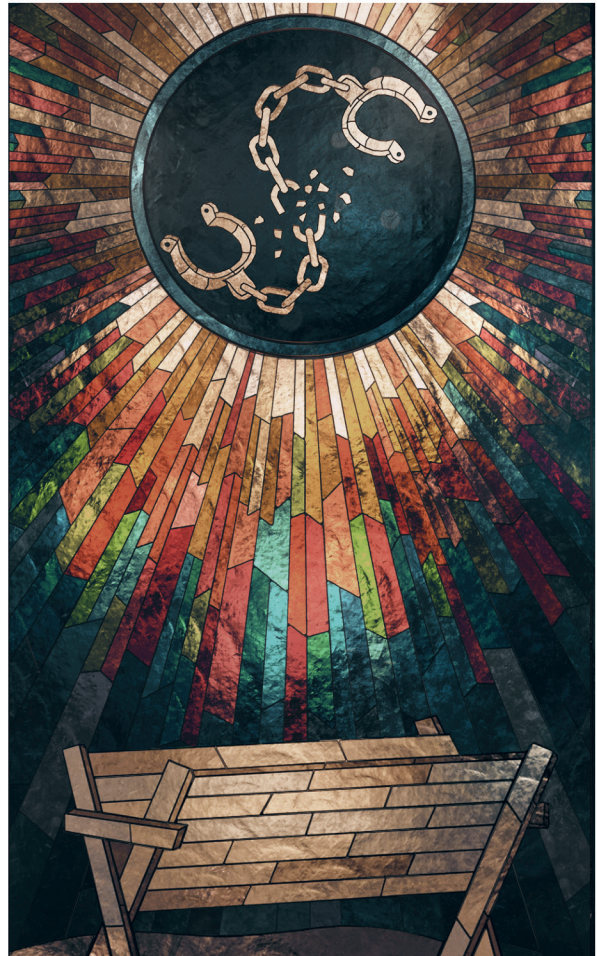
In honor of Beth Rose by Joe Gamble.

In honor of Isabel Cruz by Joe Gamble.

In honor of Chris Massey by Joe Gamble.

In honor of Darren Dyer by Joe Gable.

In loving memory of Roy and Gladys Beasley by Bonnie.



Chrismon Ornaments

A special Chrismon ornament has been placed on the Chrismon Trees in memory of the members who have made the transition into God's loving arms from November 1st 2023 to November 1st 2024.

In loving memory of Robert "Bob" Edwin Bass.	03/19/1933 ~ 05/17/2024
In loving memory of Richard D. Bulla.	04/13/1942 ~ 09/15/2024
In loving memory of Dwight A. Bumgarner.	08/17/1938 ~ 01/09/2024
In loving memory of Larke Loflin Burlison.	06/30/1949 ~ 11/29/2023
In loving memory of Edward "Ed" P. Charles.	09/13/1951 ~ 12/09/2023
In loving memory of Susan "Sue" Beck Corbett.	10/24/1942 ~ 02/02/2024
In loving memory of Dana Lynn Scotten Davis.	09/14/1948 ~ 06/19/2024
In loving memory of Olive Frye.	10/16/1924 ~ 06/12/2024
In loving memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Ring Freas.	11/21/1942 ~ 06/09/2024
In loving memory of Sherrill Hoover George.	05/31/1934 ~ 02/11/2024
In loving memory of James "Jim" Gretzinger.	11/07/1925 ~ 08/14/2024
In loving memory of Hoyt M. Hackney Jr.	01/16/1938 ~ 11/04/2023
In loving memory of Martha Jane Hayworth.	05/26/1929 ~ 01/09/2024
In loving memory of Robert "Bob" Louis Hoover.	09/14/1931 ~ 09/01/2024
In loving memory of Clarence "Corky" Arnel Hustrulid Jr.	06/04/1945 ~ 05/29/2024
In loving memory of Frankie Ruth Clinard Jackson.	06/13/1944 ~ 12/22/2023
In loving memory of David Masland McCoy.	09/11/1943 ~ 06/04/2024
In loving memory of Kathy June Carlisle Niebauer.	06/19/1949 ~ 12/13/2023
In loving memory of Jobie G. Redmond Sr.	05/20/1938 ~ 09/24/2024
In loving memory of Edgar "Bucky" H. Snider Jr.	03/07/1941 ~ 10/23/2024
In loving memory of Louella Dabbs Kidd Stinson.	06/12/1939 ~ 06/05/2024
In loving memory of Steadman Sugg.	12/03/1977 ~ 06/28/2024
In loving memory of Deborah "Debi" Watson.	07/31/1955 ~ 04/11/2024