

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection
in Gratitude to God for the Life of
James Evans Thibodeau
A Child of God

24 January 1945 — 17 September 2026
26 September 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

The Rev. Dwight Christenbury and the Rev. David Garnett
Trinity Presbyterian Church

Prelude Stephen Klein
Greeting
*Military Honors U.S. Army Uniformed Detail
Call to Worship *(responsive)* John 11:25-26
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me
will never die.
Prayer of Praise
Solo “I Believe” Drake, Graham, Shirl, and Stillman
Katie Cilluffo & Tim Kuykendall
First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 *(unison)*
To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant,
and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down,
and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence,
and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Second Reading: John 14:1–7
Third Reading: Matthew 5:1-16
Homily Dwight Christenbury
Reflections on the Life of Evans Thibodeau Roger Cunningham
Chris Crawford
Solo “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
Katie Cilluffo & Tim Kuykendall Dorsey and Allen

*Affirmation of Faith *(unison)*: The Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on
the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the
body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer *(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 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 664 “Morning Has Broken” *(verse 1)* BUNESSAN

*Benediction
Postlude Stephen Klein

* Please stand, in body or spirit.

*With special thanks to our organist, Stephen Klein;
soloist, Katie Cilluffo; and guitarist, Tim Kuykendall*

PLEASE JOIN THE FAMILY IN THE ATRIUM FOR A RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

James Evans Thibodeau, aged 81, passed away on September 17, 2026, at Mission Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, after a period of declining health. Born on January 24, 1945, in Buncombe County, North Carolina, Evans was the beloved son of the late Vennie Anderson Thibodeau and Charles Philip Thibodeau.

Evans spent his formative years in Henderson County and was a proud graduate of Hendersonville High School, class of 1963. It was there that he met the love of his life, Sarah Cunningham, with whom he shared a remarkable 58 years of marriage. Together, they built a life filled with love, adventure, and community service.

After high school, Evans furthered his education at Western Carolina University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree. He proudly served his country in the United States Army Security Agency for four years, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. Upon returning home, Evans embarked on a successful 30-year career with various manufacturing companies.

Upon retirement, Evans and Sarah returned to their beloved Henderson County, North Carolina, where they enjoyed a life enriched by shared interests. Evans was an avid trout fisherman, golfer, gardener, and cook, and he had a lifelong love of music. Retirement offered opportunities for travel. Together, they visited all 50 states and 17 countries, creating a lifetime of memories.

A man of deep faith, Evans was a long-time member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder and on numerous committees. His commitment to helping others extended beyond his church involvement; he also volunteered at the Henderson County Rescue Mission and The Free Clinic.

Evans is survived by his devoted wife, Sarah Cunningham Thibodeau, and his cherished sons, Jon Evans Thibodeau of Athens, Georgia, and Ryan James Thibodeau of Hiawassee, Georgia. He is also survived by his sisters-in-law Barbara Harmon and husband Russ, Diane Israel, and Cyndi Schachter and husband Fred, along with many cousins, nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends.

Evans Thibodeau will be remembered for his unwavering love for his family and friends, his dedication to his community, and his passion for life. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, service, and adventure.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church in memory of Evans.



James Evans Thibodeau

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