



## Theodore D. Taylor II

February 11, 1937 - March 15, 2022

Reverend Theodore “Ted” DeWitt Taylor II, 85, of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away surrounded by family and friends in the afternoon of Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Ted was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania on February 11, 1937 as the eldest son of Theodore and Margaret Taylor, later becoming an older brother to David.

Early in life, his family moved around Pennsylvania due to his father’s profession as a pastor. After graduating from Trinity High School in Washington, PA, Ted attended Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. He graduated with a degree in history and political science, after which he continued his education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Following in his father’s footsteps, Ted was ordained as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church in 1962 in Washington, PA.

After his ordination, he served as Pastor for the Third United Presbyterian Church in Washington, PA from 1962-67. He then served as Assistant Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church in Landsdowne, PA from 1967-69. The final position he served in Pennsylvania was as the Minister of Education for First Baptist, Christ Episcopal, and First Presbyterian Churches of Pottstown, PA from 1970-73.

Ted was received by the Presbytery of Detroit in 1973 following his move to Plymouth, MI in order to become Associate Pastor for the First Prebyterian Church of Plymouth, where he served until 1979. He then served as the New Church Developer for the Presbytery of Detroit for a year before he was

Interim Pastor for Lincoln Park Prebyterian Church (1980-81) and Trinity Church of the Brethren in Redford, MI (1981-82). From 1982-85, Ted was the General Assembly Mission Funding Counselor for three Presbyteries in Michigan. Following this, he was Interim Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Brighton from 1985-86. He served as the Stated Supply Pastor for Grandale Prebyterian Church of the Master in Detroit, MI from 1986-88 before working again as an Interim Pastor for the Community Presbyterian Church in Waterford, MI from 1988-1989.

In 1989, Ted accepted the call as Pastor for the Trinity Church of the Brethren in Redford, MI where he had previously served as Interim Pastor from 1981-82. He served their congregation until his honorable retirement in 2002 after a lifetime of serving the Lord and the people as a pastor. Following his retirement, he attended the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth and Living Peace Church (formerly Trinity Church of the Brethren).

In 1996, Ted married Sharon Groff Wenger and the pair adopted Kelsey from China in 2000. After 40 years as a bachelor, he was happiest spending time (especially sailing) with his wife, daughter, family and friends. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

Throughout his life, Ted enjoyed sailing, skiing, golfing, traveling, reading, politics, and watching old black and white films. He also was a lifelong loyal fan of the Nittany Lions (Penn State sports).

At various points in his life, Ted was a member of the Boy Scouts, Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity, Kiwanis Club of Plymouth and the Sandusky Sailing Club. Ted also helped establish the Redford, MI Interfaith Food Pantry. He cared very much about donating his time and money to humanitarian causes such as the UN Refugee Agency, UNICEF, Doctors Without Borders, Southern Poverty Law Center, Amnesty International, Oglala Lakota College, CARE, American Civil Liberties Union, Gleaners Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and American Cancer Society.

Ted is preceded in death by his younger brother, David Taylor, in 2021; father Theodore DeWitt Taylor in 1987; and mother Margaret "Peg" Taylor (née

Stewart) in 2001.

Ted is survived by his wife, Sharon Taylor (née Groff); daughter Kelsey Taylor; sister-in-law Abigail Taylor (née Obst); niece Andrea Ballard (née Taylor) and her husband Jeff Ballard; niece Julianne Evans-Carroll (née Taylor); great niece Alexandra Evans; and great-great nephew Matthew “Matty” Carl Jr. The Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at 1:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 Church St., Plymouth, MI 48170. The family will gather at the church beginning at 12:00 PM to greet friends until the service begins. The memorial service will be live streamed via Facebook/YouTube beginning approximately 15 minutes before the start of the service. Here is the link for the livestream of Ted’s service: <https://www.youtube.com/c/FirstPresbyterianChurchofPlymouth>

A memorial plaque will be installed in the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth’s memorial garden. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ted’s memory may be made to the US for UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 1310 L Street NW, Suite 450, Washington DC 20005-4383; [www.UNrefugees.org](http://www.UNrefugees.org); 1-855-808-6427 or Doctors Without Borders, 40 Rector St., 16th floor, New York, New York 10006; [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org); 1-888-392-0392. Special thanks to the congregation of Living Peace Church, First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and the Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home. To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on this web page.

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

APR 9. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth  
701 Church Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170

## Memorial Service

APR 9. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth  
701 Church Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170

# Tribute Wall



“ *Theodore D. Taylor II*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



**Dale Leanhardt** - March 25, 2022 at 06:54 PM



*Although Ted married very late in life, he was very fortunate to live a long live to see his daughter Kelsey graduate from college. They made the perfect family in so many ways.*

**Dale Leanhardt** - March 25, 2022 at 06:58 PM



*Ted was a great friend of all of the Shephards. Our children grew up while Ted was the Associate Pastor at FPCP and was involved in many character building projects with all five of our children. Although the family is spread out, they have continued to inquire after Ted and he of them. I enjoyed golfing with Ted and spent many hours sailing on his boat with him. We will miss Ted.*

*Rest in peace, friend and servant of God.. We are sure you have found your place with Him.*

**Sterling Shephard** - March 30, 2022 at 10:59 AM

RK

*Ted and I have been friends since he joined the Detroit Presbytery in 1973. My wife Linda and I attended Sharon and Ted's wedding, followed the excitement of Kelsey's adoption, and kept in touch through the years.*

*Ted' good humor, compassion and generous sharing are surpassed only by his effective service to Christ and the church through many venues. We loved sailing with him and having both he and Sharon visit us in Arizona.  
Rest in peace, Dear Friend.*

*Rev Jim Kesler April 6 at 7:45 AM MST*

---

**Rev. Jim Kesler** - April 06, 2022 at 10:48 AM

HS

*I will always remember Ted as a humorous guy and his infectious laughter. His warm and generous personality made a perfect match to Sharon's sweet and thoughtful character. The two of them raised a wonderful daughter, Kelsey. I always look forward to receiving the beautiful personalized Christmas card from the Taylors each year, and I keep the card up for the whole year until the new one arrives because it makes me happy to see Ted, Sharon, and Kelsey everyday. I'll miss Ted. Rest In Peace.*

---

**Hongyan Song** - April 08, 2022 at 05:52 PM