

**THE CELEBRATION AND REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE OF  
MONICA LEE HECKEL  
MAY 16, 1957-FEBRUARY 24, 2017**

**GREETING**

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **Holy God, whose ways are not our ways and whose thoughts are not our thoughts, grant that your Holy Spirit may intercede for us with sighs too deep for human words. Heal our wounded hearts made heavy by our sorrow. Through the veil of our tears and the silence of our emptiness, assure us again that ear has not heard, nor eye seen, nor human imagination envisioned, what you have prepared for those who love you; through Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Lamentations 3:21-26

Psalms 23 (Unison)

<sup>1</sup> **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.**

<sup>2</sup> **He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;**

<sup>3</sup> **he restores my soul.**

**He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.**

<sup>4</sup> **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> **You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.**

2 Corinthians 4:7-16

Matthew 5:3-10, 11:28-30

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Jim Brehler

St. John United Church of Christ

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and that in everything God works for good with those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

**COMMENDATION**

**SONG OF SIMEON**

*(Unison)*

**Holy One, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.**

**BENEDICTION**

*St. John United Church of Christ invites you to the dedication of a Peace Pole planted in Monica's memory in the rock garden outside the door of the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Memorial Service. The family then invites you to join them for a luncheon after the dedication.*

Monica Lee Heckel

Born May 16, 1957 in Toledo Ohio to the late Elizabeth A. Heckel-Gustafson and Lee A. Heckel went to be with her creator February 24, 2017.

Monica was a 1976 graduate of Cardinal Stritch High School, received degrees from University of Toledo, Northwest State and her Masters of Social Work from the University of Connecticut. She received a warrant from the United States Marine Corps as a Therapist and later continuing her Therapy services under her practice "On Eagles Wings" in New England until her return to Ohio in 2007.

Monica's faith was a very important aspect of her life serving as part of the Franciscan Sisters Order in both Sylvania Ohio and New Baltimore MI. Her desire in faith began in her youth with her involvement in the Toledo Diocesans C.Y.O. program receiving the Young Adult Service Award in 1984. She continued to serve the Diocesans as Director of TDCCW for the 13<sup>th</sup> district and still made tie to continue with the C.Y.O. program as a coach for the St Mary's Eagles girls' basketball program where she was lovingly known as Sister Mary Basketball by her team girls. She also served as Director of Religious Education for the Our Lady of Fatima Parish and later the Director of Faith Formation at St John United Church of Christ of Defiance, Ohio.

Monica is preceded in death by her Mother Elizabeth A. Gustafson, Goddaughter Elizabeth A. Hogue, grandparents Ralph and Rosella Heckel, Francis and Rosella Hogue, and Great Nephews William and Alexander Garbarczyk. Monica is survived by her Father Lee A. Heckel of Florida. Sisters Ann E. Lopez of Defiance, Diann L Vance of Metamora, Patricia S. Heckel of Delta, Brothers Lee A. Heckel of Toledo, and Paul J. Gustafson of Wauseon as well as many godchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Monica's Church and Family will be hosting a Celebration of Life service May 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at St John United Church of Christ in Defiance, Ohio with Rev. Jim Brehler presiding.

## IN LOVING MEMORY AND CELEBRATION



MONICAL HECKEL

May 27, 2017

St. John United Church of Christ  
950 Webster St.  
Defiance, OH 43512