

Walter W. Benjamin passed away at home from cancer in his sleep on March 23, 2024, at the age of 97. He was preceded in death by son, Bradley; brothers, Robert, Roger, "Dickie"; and sister, Martha. He is survived by wife, Marjorie, 96; daughter, Barbara (David Howell) of Minnetonka; sons, Mark (Cynthia) of Minneapolis, Steven (Diana) of Minnetonka; and sister, Mary Louise ("Weezie") Bowen. He and Marjorie were blessed with four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Walter was born in Pipestone, MN on October 10, 1926. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. He wanted to enlist at the tender age of 17, but couldn't get his Dad (who knew something about war) to sign the papers - which was probably a good thing for us kids what with the kamikaze planes dive bombing ships right and left in the South Pacific. The war ended before he could deploy overseas. Although an average student in public schools, he attended Hamline University where he met Marjorie, marrying her in 1951. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in History. Not satisfied with that, Walter went on to Garrett Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity and Ph.D. from Duke University. He then taught theology at Morningside College, Sioux City, IA from 1957 through 1966. Walter was called by his alma mater one day to come teach at Hamline University and took the job without even consulting his wife and children (which caused some consternation). He was named head of the Theology Department and taught from 1966 through 1994. When he wasn't teaching, Walter maintained "office hours" with an invitation to all his students to come by and chat about anything on their minds. But he always left promptly at 5:00 pm so he could get home for the Walter Cronkite news. Walter also led students and alumni groups to England and other European countries. He particularly focused his teaching on historical theology and medical and business ethics. It is this dedication to his students that earned him outstanding teacher of the year at both Morningside College and Hamline University. Walter's typewriter and, later, computer were seldom silent. He wrote many essays and Op-Eds for national journals including Newsweek, the Wall Street Journal, the New England Journal of Medicine, the Washington Post, the Christian Century and the Canadian Humane Journal. He regularly wrote and spoke on medical and business ethics, lecturing widely in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain. Somebody must have noticed because in 1996 Walter was selected by the British, American and Canadian Society for a three-week lecture tour of England and Scotland. He authored three books about growing up during the Great Depression, his stint in the Navy as well as his thoughts on the morality of war and his first battle with cancer in 2010. Walter cherished his wife, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and, of course, his students. He enjoyed all forms of sport, especially tennis where he was captain of the Hamline University team in his junior and senior years. Upon his return as a professor, he regularly challenged members of the tennis team and beat them soundly despite being 20 or 30 years older. His family knows this because Walter couldn't stop doing the play-by-play at the family dinner table. He finally stopped playing at the age of 90 because his knees told him so. He loved to fish and hunt. Walter will be very much missed by all except perhaps the fish and wild animals.

In lieu of flowers, Walter's family would like donations to:
Presbyterian Homes Foundation FBO Folkestone, 2845 Hamline Ave. N, Roseville, MN 55113
www.preshomes.org/give/#give-once;
or, Hamline University FBO Bradley Kent Benjamin Memorial Scholarship, 1536 Hewitt Ave. MS-C1917, St. Paul, MN 55104 www.hamline.edu/giving.

WELCOME TO HAMLINE CHURCH

Restrooms are located

in the west wing at the beginning of the hall.

Words marked in "Bold" print are read aloud as a congregation.

OFFICIANTS

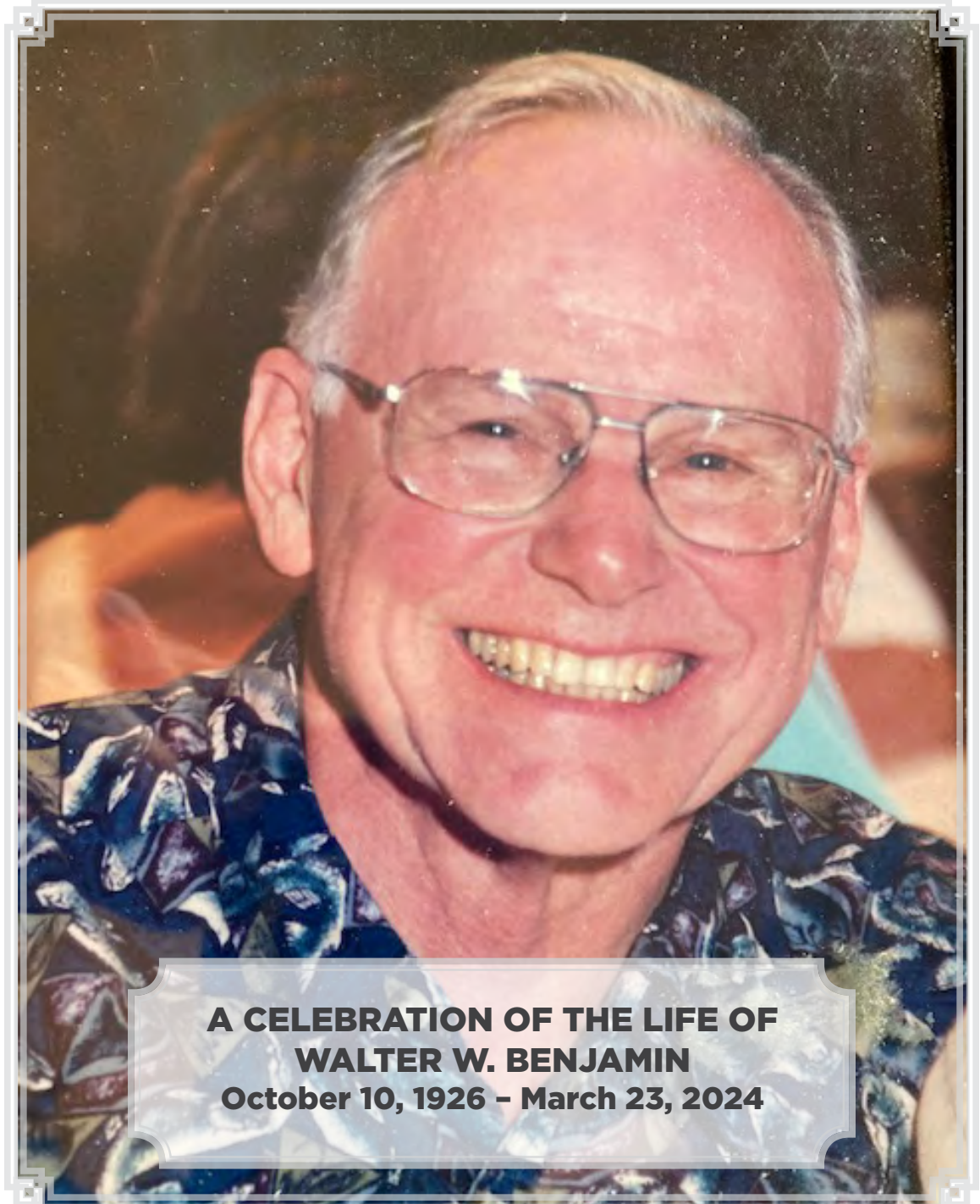
Rev. Edward Holland
Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard

MUSICIANS

David Kozisek
Eileen Miller



Worship 10am Sundays
1514 Englewood Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104
651.645.0667
humc@hamlinechurch.org
www.hamlinechurch.org



**A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
WALTER W. BENJAMIN
OCTOBER 10, 1926 - MARCH 23, 2024**

May 18, 2024

10:00am

** Please stand as you are able for titles marked with a star **

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETINGS & WORDS OF GRACE

Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard

OPENING PRAYER

* **HYMN 575** | Onward Christian Soldiers (*v 1, 3, 5*)

SCRIPTURE READINGS | Psalm 100
Isaiah 40:28-31

Nicole Benjamin, granddaughter

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Luke Benjamin, grandson

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

*Steve Benjamin, son
David Howell, son-in-law
Mark Benjamin, son*

SONG | On Eagle's Wings

*Michael Joncas
David Kozisek*

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE

Rev. Edward Holland

COMMENDATION & PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard

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.

* **HYMN 717** | Battle Hymns of the Republic (*v 1, 5*)

* **DISMISSAL & BLESSING**

Rev. Holland & Rev. Tollgaard

POSTLUDE | For All the Saints

Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Wilbur Held

*The family invites you to join them downstairs in the community room
for a reception. Private family inurnment to follow.*