



Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki

September 13, 1957 - March 6, 2017

Rev. Stephen Paul Merki, age 59, of Quailwood Parkway, La Plata, passed away on Monday, March 6, 2017, at home following a 7-year battle with ALS "Lou Gehrig's disease".

Steve Merki was an extraordinary example of faith, service and love to all who knew him. He was born on September 13, 1957 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and went home with his parents to Nazareth, Pennsylvania (true story). He and his three younger siblings learned their passion for serving God, community and family from their parents, Paul and Mary Ellen Merki. His father was an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene, to which he devoted his life's work, serving as Pastor in churches from Alaska to Maryland, and Steve followed in his Dad's footsteps.

After receiving his Masters in Divinity from the Nazarene Theological Seminary, he accepted a position as Pastor of the Sunnyvale Church of the Nazarene, in Sunnyvale, California, where he served for ten years. In 1992 he moved with his wife Diane and four children to Waldorf, Maryland after accepting the position of Pastor at the St. Charles Church of the Nazarene – now Lifestream Church of the Nazarene.

He did not limit his service to his pastoral role, but was an active citizen and community volunteer, participating in numerous civic, nonprofit, government,

music and church-related boards and commissions over several decades, including the Board of Directors of Health Partners, and as a member of the Solid Brass jazz band.

Throughout his life, more than anything else, his goal was to share the love of Jesus Christ with every person he met, and he did.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Merki, his four children: Aaron Merki (Paul Pineau), Amanda Molinar (Mike), Andrew Merki, and Alyson Merki. In addition, he is survived by his mother, Mary Ellen Merki, and three siblings David Merki (Annette), JoAnne Hancock (Timothy), and Deborah Merki, along with many loving nieces, nephews, and extended family.

A viewing will be held on Sunday, March 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. at South Potomac Church in White Plains. A funeral service will be held immediately following at 4 p.m. at the same location. Pastor G.A. Hancock – Steve's brother-in-law – will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: Hopkins ALS Clinical Care & Education Fund, c/o Lora L. Clawson, JHOPC - Neurology - Suite 5070 A, 601 North Caroline Street , Baltimore, MD 21287

Cemetery Details

Wesleyan Memorial Gardens

9690 Shepherd's Creek Place
La Plata, MD 20646
<http://www.Wesleyan Memorial Gardens>

Previous Events

Friends Received

MAR 12. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

South Potomac Church
4915 Crain Highway
White Plains, MD 20695

Service

MAR 12. 4:00 PM (ET)

South Potomac Church
4915 Crain Highway
White Plains, MD 20695

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki*

October 08, 2023 at 10:45 PM



“ *Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki*

October 04, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *Such a lovely man and family. So very sorry for your loss.. Our thoughts and prayers will continue for you.....*

God Bless You,

Colleen and Dale Long

Colleen Long - March 12, 2017 at 12:05 PM

AO

“ We were terribly saddened to hear of your loss; indeed, you...all of us...have lost a blessing from God. Words cannot express the depth of sadness in our hearts. He transformed so many lives... including ours. Our relationship with God was strengthened by Pastor Steve's ministry. We pray that God will continue to bless you in other ways and strengthen you. May the memories of Steve and the love of family and friends surround you and give you courage in the days ahead.

With sincere sympathy,

*Allan and Meg Overbey
Awendaw, SC*

Allan and Meg Overbey - March 11, 2017 at 12:55 PM

JA

“ Jane Adams purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki.



Jane Adams - March 11, 2017 at 11:31 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki.



March 11, 2017 at 09:31 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki.*



March 11, 2017 at 09:09 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki.*



March 10, 2017 at 11:03 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to the entire family. Steve was a wonderful man of God and friend and will continue in our memories as long as we live. Please know that we are lifting all of you up in prayer during this difficult time. We also wish we could be there to comfort each of you in person, but please know that all of you are in our hearts.
Carol, Mark, Dean and Bettina (Bowman) Marini*

Dean Marini - March 10, 2017 at 01:20 PM



“ *Our heart and thoughts are with you. - Matt Van Itallie*

Matt Van Itallie - March 10, 2017 at 11:32 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki.*



March 09, 2017 at 06:36 PM



“ *Diane, Aaron, Amanda, Andrew & Allie,
I am sure you know how much Steve was loved by everyone. There aren't words that can soften the pain but you will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. I admired him so much and continue to think of him as the best example of Jesus I have ever met. I will miss his sense of humor, his laugh and his gentle guiding way. He was Mike's best friend and loved by us all.*

He is in Jesus' arms now and I know he is not suffering anymore.

God bless each of you..

Holly Mannchen

Holly Mannchen - March 09, 2017 at 06:13 PM

CH

“ Steve...beloved brother-in-law and uncle in our family. Always the generous, welcoming host to a house full of us at special occasions...always pitching in to help...always smiling and kind and thinking of others. Memories of you trying to say "No" to another of Mimi's desserts and saying, "Oh, boy..." No one can fill your shoes! You fought the fight with grace and courage, a role model for the saints, and dear Steve, you're Home at last. We will continue to love and comfort your family, and we'll see you on the other side!
G.A. and Carla

Carla Hankins - March 09, 2017 at 03:29 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki.



March 09, 2017 at 02:55 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki.



March 09, 2017 at 01:24 PM

LF

“ Love, Your Weinberg Foundation Family purchased the Garden of Memories for the family of Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki.



Love, Your Weinberg Foundation Family - March 09, 2017 at 10:28 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Stephen "Steve" Paul Merki.



March 09, 2017 at 09:22 AM

LO

“ Pastor Merki was and is such a awesome pastor, father , husband & friend. In helping Calvert country help plant a sister church his insight, guidance and love for us & others was such a great example of our Heavenly Father . Praying that Diane &the kids can heal from the loss of such a great man.
Love , Jerry & LaDonna O'Neal

LaDonna ONeal - March 09, 2017 at 09:22 AM

BF

“ May the Spirit of Jesus be near. Bob and Paula Fruehling.

Bob Fruehling - March 09, 2017 at 07:19 AM



“ *Pastor Steve was one of the best pastors you could ever dream of. He was always ready to help out in whatever way he could. I remember how we would have various people come to our church. They would say how they might not agree with his politics but you couldn't say anything bad about his character. I will miss you. We will make sure Diane is okay*



Rachel Sorensen - March 08, 2017 at 11:15 PM