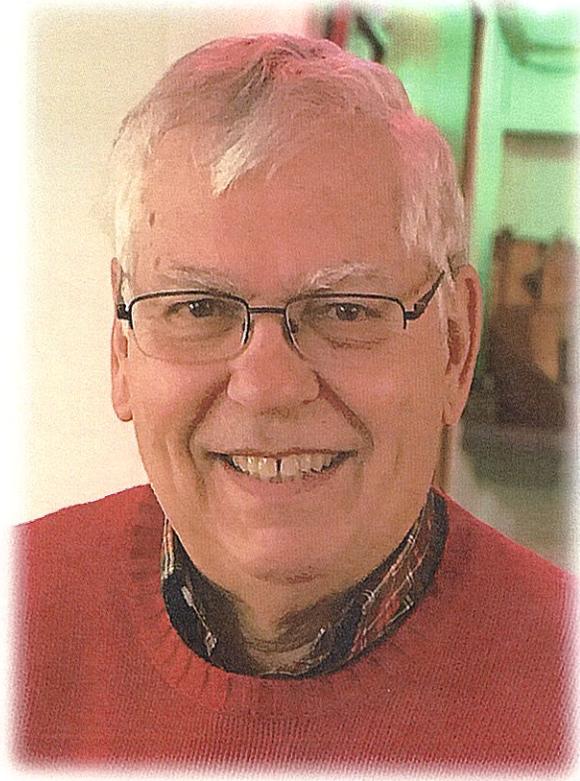


*In Loving Memory of
Joseph "Joe" Billmann*



*Born into the world February 17, 1941
Born into eternal life November 9, 2025*

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Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship

One: Hear the promises of God. God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts.

All: The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled; their cries are heard; they are saved.

One: Jesus proclaims: I am the resurrection and the life; all who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

All: Blessed are the dead who die in Christ. "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Prayer

One: Let us pray:

All: Almighty God, your mercy is boundless, look upon us in our sorrow and enable us to hear your word...

One: Great God of all mystery, if in the presence of death our thoughts are startled and our words flutter about like frightened birds, bring us stillness that we may cover the sorrow of our hearts with folded hands. Give us grace to wait on you silently and with patience. You are nearer to us than we know, closer than we can imagine. If we cannot find you, it is because we search in far places. Before we felt the pain, you suffered it; before the burden came upon us, your strength lifted it; before the sorrow darkened our hearts, you were grieved. As you walk in the valley of every

shadow, be our good shepherd and sustain us while we walk with you, lest in weakness we falter. Keep us in your way and guide us past every danger; through the mercy of our Good Lord and Savior we pray.

All: Amen.

Hymn #51 How Great Thou Art

Doug Behrends, Clive Extence, Bill Stangl, Dan Stoffel
Members of River City Blaskapelle &
Peace Church Trombone Quartet

Reading of Scriptures

Psalm 23

Psalm 150

Galatian 6:7-10

One: Let us pray: Merciful God, we thank you for your word; it is a lamp for our feet, a light for our path. We thank you especially that in the night of our grief and in the shadows of our sorrow, we are not left to ourselves. We have the light of your promises to sustain and comfort us.

All: Through our tears, give us vision to see in faith the consolation you intend for us. In your mercy, grant us the unfailing guidance of your saving Word, both in life and in death; through Jesus Christ our risen Savior we pray. Amen.

A Celebration of Life

A Word of God's Grace

Hymn #680 Borning Cry

Affirmation of Faith - from Romans 8

One: Let us say again what we believe

All: We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we know 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.

We Remember Him

One: At the rising of the sun and its going down,

All: we remember him.

One: At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

All: we remember him.

One: At the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring,

All: we remember him.

One: At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer,

All: we remember him.

One: When we are lost and sick at heart,

All: we remember him.

One: When we have decisions that are difficult to make,

All: we remember him.

One: When we have achievements that are based on his,

All: we remember him.

As long as we live, he too will live, for he is now a part of us, as we remember him.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Commendation

Song of Simeon

All: Lord, 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.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is
now and ever shall be world without end.
Amen.**

Benediction – by John Rutter – arranged by Peter Billmann

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

Recessional – “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”
played by Tutti’s Trombones

*November 22, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Peace United Church of Christ*

*Officiant – Rev. Eric Kirkegaard
Organist and Vocalist – Sherry McElhatton
Preservice Musician – Peter Billmann, Son
Vocalist – Rachael Billmann, Granddaughter*

***Everyone is invited to join the family downstairs for
one of Joe’s favorites, and a tradition for a
gathering of the Billmanns:
burgers, brats, potato salad
...and a whole lot of wonderful fellowship.***

Joseph Emil Billmann, age 84 years, of West Bend passed away peacefully on November 9, 2025, at Kathy Hospice in West Bend.

Joe was born on February 17, 1941, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, to Henry and Mabel Billmann. He was united in marriage with Mary Jo Peters in 1966.

Joe grew up in Sheboygan Falls and graduated from Sheboygan Falls High School with the Class of 1959. He went on to Sheboygan County Teachers College and later UW-Oshkosh, obtaining an education degree in 1963. He later obtained a master's degree from UW-Milwaukee with dozens of post-master's credits in Education and Counseling. He was a career teacher in West Bend, teaching various subjects in sixth grade for 36 years.

Mary was his true companion. They spent six decades together on their journeys through teaching, parenthood, grandparenthood, traveling, celebrations, and challenges. Their traits and personalities so perfectly complemented each other.

Nearly a lifelong trombone player, Joe cherished time with his brother Jim making music and reveling in post-concert gemütlichkeit. Over the decades, they played countless gigs together with the River City Irregulars, River City Blaskapelle and the Billmann Band. He had a love for Big Band instrumentals, arrangements of jazz standards with thick low brass, jazz guitar, and classic jazz trios. Count Basie, Oscar Peterson, Les Brown, and Herb Ellis were among his favorites.

Joe's world view was undoubtedly shaped by travel to Egypt, Turkey, China, Italy, Ireland, Germany and many parts of the United States. He had a genuine interest in people and would often ask about their jobs, families and hobbies—usually preceded by a pointed one-liner to break the ice. He went to as many of his kids' and grandkids' games, events, recitals, concerts, conferences, and graduations as he could possibly attend. Family celebrations, holiday get-togethers and church

functions at Peace UCC were among his highest priorities. Joe relished his role as grandpa, dispensing wisdom and having fun throughout his grandkids' early years until well into their 20s.

In retirement, Joe volunteered his time with Habitat for Humanity, Badger and Silverbrook Middle Schools, Roots & Branches, Peace Church, and various music groups.

Most of all, Joe enjoyed making people laugh and feel welcome. His humor and dry wit—a potent combination best described as an amalgam of W.C. Fields, Henny Youngman, Johnny Carson and Yosemite Sam—touched everyone he knew. He lived his life with authenticity and integrity.

Joe is survived by his wife Mary, brother James (Sue), brothers- and sisters-in-law David and Deborah Peters and Richard Peters, sons Andrew (Kathy Kettner) and Peter, grandchildren Rachael (Tristan Swihart), Alex, Kyra (Jessy Wiskofske), and Laura (Nick Hammen), six nieces and nephews, countless friends and former students. He was preceded in death by his parents Henry and Mabel, father-in-law Earl Peters, mother-in-law Jean Peters, sister-in-law Sharon Peters, many uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

Memorials in Joe's name can be directed to Peace UCC.

The family extends its deepest gratitude to the teams at Froedtert Hospital Neurosciences ICU and Kathy Hospice for their remarkable care and compassion.