



Rev. Peter James Theune

AUG 8, 1943 - OCT 10, 2021



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Rev. Peter James Theune

AUG 8, 1943 - OCT 10, 2021

Rev. Peter James Theune, 78, of Spring Lake, passed away suddenly on the morning of Sunday, October 10, 2021, while vacationing with his wife Judy in northern Michigan.

Peter was born to Elmer and Gertrude Theune on August 8, 1943. Along with his older sister, Caroline, he grew up in the small town of Oostburg, WI, next door to his family's church.

Peter was called and devoted his life to ministry. After graduating from Hope College in 1965, he received his Master's degree in Christian Education from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI, in 1969. He continued his training later in his career, and was ordained in the Reformed Church in America in 1990. He served as Director of Children's Life for the Reformed Church in America and in a variety of capacities at a number of churches: First Reformed Church (Spring Lake); Greenville Community Church (Scarsdale, NY); Pompton Reformed Church (Pompton Lakes, NJ); American Reformed Church (Orange City, IA); and Christ Community Church (Spring Lake). After retirement, Peter served part time at First Presbyterian Church (Holland, MI).

Peter was a true disciple and a vital local leader. He was instrumental in establishing three organizations that continue to enrich the Tri-Cities community: the Little Red House; the People Center; and Bluebird Cancer Retreats of West Michigan. He also worked to establish the annual community Thanksgiving feast. Peter baptized those newly born; married those who loved each other; and remembered the deceased and comforted the survivors at funerals.

Peter loved his work, but loved even more greatly his family. Peter married Judy on August 14, 1965. They had three sons, Curt, Michael, and David. His sons and their families—Curt's wife Susan, and their children Anna and Scott; and David's wife Nikki, and their children Kaiya, Ellie, and Nia—were a source of pride for Peter. He felt great joy in being with them and in attending their games and events.



Obituary

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Peter loved the world's beauty, which he took in during long walks and on bike and car rides. He added to the beauty with his gardening and arts philanthropy, and he shared his enthusiasms with a wide circle of friends. Peter cared deeply for this world; he tended it closely.

Visitations will be held on Friday, October 15, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at The VanZantwick Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 620 Washington Ave. Grand Haven, MI 49417. A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven on Saturday, October 16, at 10:00 a.m. A brief, informal reception and a private interment will follow. Masks are required at all events. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the [Little Red House](#); [The People Center](#); [Bluebird Cancer Retreats of West Michigan](#); or the [Theune Family Fund at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation](#). Please sign the family's online guestbook at <http://www.sytsemafh.com>.



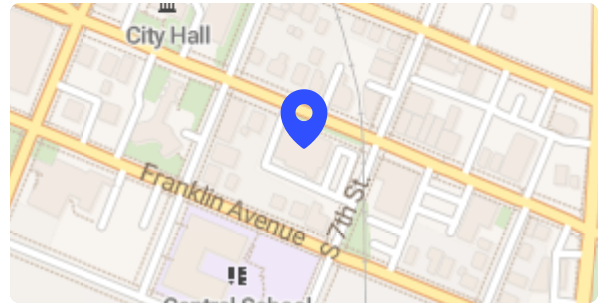
Visitation

Friday, October 15, 2021

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel

620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



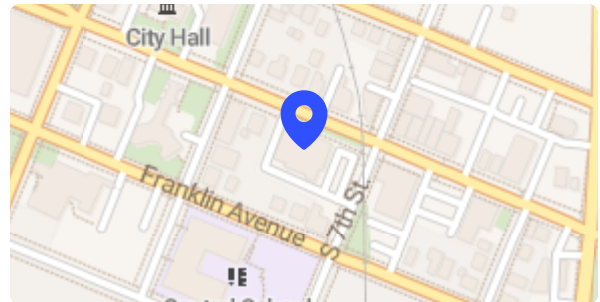
Visitation

Friday, October 15, 2021

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel

620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



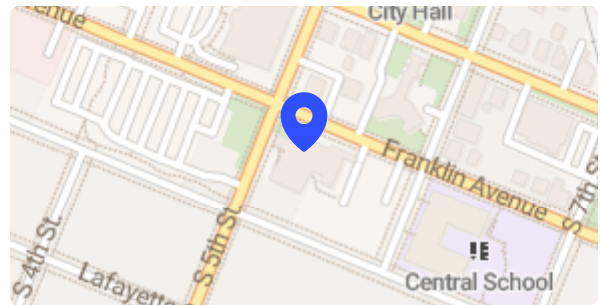
Memorial Service

Saturday, October 16, 2021

10:00 AM ET

First Presbyterian Church - Grand Haven, MI

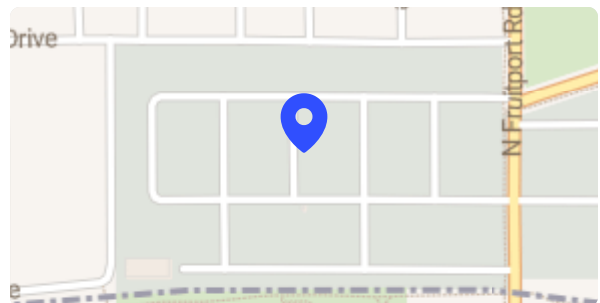
508 Franklin Ave., Grand Haven MI



Cemetery Details

Spring Lake Cemetery

17181 North Fruitport Road, Spring Lake MI 49456





Tribute Wall

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Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services shared a **Webcast Video**.



October 14 at 7:03 AM



Dale Rodgers October 14 at 6:35 PM

Peter how much I enjoyed our friendship which started with David marriage to Nicole Yes we attended many sports events together family gatherings some birthdays I just enjoyed some of our "talks " together Peter so glad we were friends See you soon Dale Rodgers Nikki's Dad



Debra Yonker-Hecht posted:

My sympathies to Pete's family ... such a wonderful, caring man who shared his love of good food with all of us! Wonderful memories from Christ Community.

November 1 at 6:56 PM



Steve Chappell posted:

Dear Judy and Family - our deepest, heartfelt thoughts are with you. Peter will always be with me and Deb in so many ways. He touched our family deeply over the years through officiating our wedding, the baptism of our daughter Leah, and performing my mother's memorial service. His spirit and light will always be present in my life. What a gifted, loving man with a contagious vision, smile and sense of humor. His leadership around and creation of so many ministries and community services will impact generations of families. His love shines bright. God be with Peter and with each of you, his family. Steve & Deb Chappell

October 17 at 4:39 PM



Larry Culbertson posted:

Sad to hear about Peter. He was taken much too early. My condolences to the family.

October 17 at 5:50 AM



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John Leitner posted:

Our family knew Peter through CCC years ago. Having a bad cold I didn't think I should come out today for the service. Always loved his positive embrace of the world and the people who inhabit it! He will be missed and best to the family. John Leitner

October 16 at 9:14 AM



Heather And Steve Burke posted:

We first met Pete when we attended a Bluebird Cancer Retreat back in 2014. Through the years we became volunteers ourselves and we always enjoyed spending time with Pete. His love for others always was always evident, his words were always heartfelt and inspiring, and he was he true man of God. He always expressed his love for his family and God. Sending love and prayers to your family. We were truly blessed to know Pete and will miss him dearly.

October 16 at 3:54 AM



Mike And Peggy Secory posted:

We will miss you and love you forever good friend. You are the best! Thank you for all you did for us, this community and this world. There was none like you! Mike and Peg Secory

October 15 at 8:12 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Theune family.



October 15 at 10:42 AM



Barb Brower posted:

Pete had a wonderful laugh. I also remember on Easter eve at CCC how much he enjoyed taking the palm branch and with baptismal water and making sure everyone in the congregation got a little bit of water on them. It was a wonderful service

October 15 at 9:00 AM



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MB

Mike Braid posted:

Thinking of Judy and the family during this difficult time. Thankful for the opportunity to meet Pete and Judy and share time with them weekly at i'move. May Pete now move freely and may we all be thankful of the gifts he and his family shared with so many.

October 15 at 8:08 AM



Anonymous sent a Serene Retreat to the Theune family.



October 15 at 4:03 AM

DT

Dr. Joe Arbutante Dds And Team sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Theune family.



October 15 at 3:09 AM

AN

D shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Judy and family, Pete touched so many in such a positive way. Many prayers Love,
Deb & cary schutmaat



October 15 at 1:42 AM

GT

Glen & Gloria Telindert posted:

Sending our sincere sympathy to Judy and family. We look fondly back to the many years ago we had the pleasure to getting to know your family during your trips to Oostburg, to visit Pete's mother and our neighbor Gert. We remember Pete as such a kind, Godly man with always a smile for everyone. I am sure he will be deeply missed by many. Glen & Gloria TeLindert

October 14 at 5:21 PM



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Bethany Schuler posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with you all. My heart aches for the pain you are going thru. I will always Pete. At church when I would carry the cross he would always make me smile. He always had a smile on his face and enjoyed life. Prayers for you.

October 14 at 12:35 PM



Heather Turnwall posted:

It is beautiful the way that Pete gave his life away. I experienced his kindness and love for Jesus when I was a child at American Reformed Church. Pete, like Jesus, welcomed the little children and that made an impact on my life and the way that I speak with and include children in conversations to this day. Praying for comfort for your family and everyone that loved Peter Theune. I can only imagine all the people that he impacted in his life. I celebrate that now and am comforted to know that I will be reunited with him someday. May you be comforted by God's peace and love in this time of great loss!

October 14 at 12:19 PM



Anonymous sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Theune family.



October 14 at 10:55 AM



Anonymous sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Theune family.



October 14 at 10:50 AM



Sandi Degroot posted:

We will always be grateful for Pete's friendship. This world was a better place, for all who had the privilege to know and love him. Such a warm and sincere man, with an infectious laugh. No doubt that he was welcomed into heaven, with open arms, by all who went before him. Rest In Peace, dear friend. We will see you again and spend eternity together. To Judy and family.....please know that you are being surrounded with love, thoughts and prayers. Terry and Sandi DeGroot

October 14 at 2:38 AM



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Nancy Westerbeke lit a candle in honor of Peter.



October 13 at 7:42 PM



Kristin Magennis posted:

To Judy & Family please know my heart and my prayers and hugs are with you during this time I enjoyed listening to your Husband Preach At First Presbyterian Church In Holland Pete was a very warm huge hearted Pastor I enjoyed getting to know Pastor Peter He touched a lot of lives with his Love & Affection Paster Peter will be greatly missedMy Heart Goes Out To Your Family Sending My Hugs And Prayers Your Way

October 13 at 7:27 PM



John Bryson posted:

We send love and sympathy to you all. Losing Peter is a loss for everyone who knew him.We surely appreciated his wit and ever-ready smile. Your visits, Judy, to us at Freedom Village meant so much to us..in fact you were our very first visitors. Thanks for all the good times we shared over these many years. We cherish them.

October 13 at 4:30 PM



Shirley Baker lit a candle in honor of Peter.



October 13 at 11:28 AM

SB Shirley Baker October 13 at 11:37 AM

Peter was always ready with a smile or a laugh. He made us feel that there is always joy to be found. The community has lost a wonderful man who has contributed much to make it a better place. My sincere sympathies to the family



Anonymous sent a Sweet Tenderness to the Theune family.



October 13 at 9:37 AM



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FR

Freda Rodgers posted:

PeterWhen I think of Peter, I feel so thankful I'm thankful for his joyfulness The way he could always leave you feeling upbeat I'm thankful for the father he was, we love everything about our son in law. I'm thankful for the way he was as involved as much as he could be in each of his grandchildren's lives, encouraging , supporting , and teaching them.I'm thankful for the hope he had that their generation will be the ones who improve our status with each other and with the world I'm thankful for the Peter and Judy team as living testaments of love and respect and fun I'm thankful for peters strong belief in god our Heavenly Father and His place in our lives I'm thankful for the many miracles that occur in our lives a d the way Peter acknowledged them I'm thankful for the way Peter reached out to make our community a better place I'm thankful for all the people who love Peter and say goodbye with mourning, and thankful for all the souls who went ahead and are welcoming him into heaven The way loving families doPeter- we will miss having you here, but thank you for the difference that you made

October 13 at 8:22 AM

DJ

Dian Jansma October 13 at 4:24 PM

I was always blessed when Peter's life and mine intersected. Blessings to the family.
Colleague in the Kingdom Don Jansma

GM

Gail Marincovich posted:

Judy, Curt, Michael, and David -- Our hearts are broken and we are mourning with you. Your entire family was such a blessing to us during your years at ARC. Pete was one of the kindest, most joyful people we have had the pleasure of knowing. Know that we hold you all close to our hearts, remembering the goodness of Pete's presence in this world. Sending prayers for peace and big, big hugs to each one of you.Gail and Rusty Marincovich

October 13 at 8:13 AM

KB

Karen Barbu posted:

Our deepest condolences to you and your family Judy. Pete meant so much to our family and we are truly going to miss seeing him. We are deeply saddened by his loss. Karen and Nick Barbu

October 13 at 8:09 AM



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JM

Jerry And Susan Meeuwenberg lit a candle in honor of Peter.



October 13 at 6:03 AM

SS

Scott Secory posted:

I was so sorry to hear this sad news and send my thoughts and prayers to the entire Theune family. I will always remember Mr. Theune's smile and how it brightened everything and everyone around him. He was a truly special person that will be dearly missed.

October 13 at 5:45 AM

CP

Chad Portenga posted:

My deepest condolences to Judy and family. Pete was one of the most gentle, kind, and heartwarming person I have ever had the honor to know. His gift of touching the heart and soul of everyone he met will be greatly missed. The world may have lost a faithful saint, but heaven has gained a beautiful soul.

October 13 at 5:28 AM

JT

Julie Taylor posted:

So sorry to hear of Pete's passing. He was one of my favorite people. He opened my eyes and heart to what faith truly is.

October 13 at 3:30 AM

JG

James William Goebel posted:

Pete was a thinking man. He helped bring a wide variety of speakers to his church to stimulate thought. He was very ecumenical. He shared programs with St, Mary's Catholic Church. I remember him with a broad smile because he loved life. This was a strong family man and a good neighbor on Fruitport Road. My life is enriched by his presence on my life journey. Our condolences to Pete's family and friends. My congratulations on his arrival in paradise. He was a spiritual man. None of us are getting out of here alive, See you on the other side, Pete.

October 13 at 1:50 AM



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GW

Ginger Wolffis lit a candle in honor of Peter.

My Dear Sweet Judy, My heart aches for you and all who love Pete. I know he adored you! May God bless and comfort you. Ginger Wolffis

October 12 at 2:44 PM



KC

Katie Corbett posted:

I had the great privilege and honor to serve on the board of directors of The Little Red House with Pete. His leadership and vision were beyond compare. Pete has left a legacy that will enrich the tri-cities community for generations to come. Pete also gave the BEST hugs! I remember one particular hug, it was the afternoon of 9/11 and the world was in a state of uncertainty. There was Pete, his calm centered self, giving the best most needed hug. I am so sorry for your loss, Pete will be deeply missed.

October 12 at 2:31 PM

LH

Linda Hook posted:

What a beautiful life.... An inspiring one. I'll forever think fondly of him on our shared August 8 birthday

October 12 at 2:24 PM

AC

American Reformed Church - Orange City sent a Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant to the Theune family.

October 12 at 1:19 PM



SE

Sarah Jane Essebaggets posted:

Peter was a frequent, my pastor and boss. He listened, cried with me and gave me comfort in my times if need. He was a true servant of our Lord. He will be missed my so many. My prayers are with the family and especially Judy, I know how loosing ones hubby feels 🙏

October 12 at 12:21 PM

SE

Sarah Jane Essebaggers October 12 at 12:27 PM

Was a friend, it should say not frequent



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Carol Howell posted:

Pete was a wonderful friend, not to mention a wonderful pastor. I especially loved when he delivered a message at CCC. I always felt he shared a wonderful personal piece of himself that each and everyone could relate to and take into daily life. I had so many outings with Judy and Pete. He was a great tour guide, whether it be when I visited them in Arizona, to Northern Michigan to a little out of the way spot where turkey dinners and homemade pies were served every day. Pete and I appreciated food. He was one of a kind. A treasure to be held close to heart with gratitude for having him touch our lives in countless ways.

October 12 at 12:20 PM



Jackie Laughlin posted:

I worked with Pete from the beginning of Camp Bluebird. He was a kind, caring , welcoming man of God. He always had a kind word for everyone and his love of all God's people was never in doubt. He will be missed. Jackie Laughlin

October 12 at 11:25 AM



Pamela Meekhof posted:

Truly saddened to hear of Pete's passing. My memories go way back to Pete being my first youth pastor to a special member of the Kruizenga/Boelens/VanWeelden clan. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

October 12 at 10:56 AM



Mike And Nichole Wrona Family sent a Vivid Recollections to the Theune family.



October 12 at 10:00 AM



Carol Vandenberg posted:

Gary and I were Pastor Pete's first official marriage that took place at Christ Community Church in Spring Lake in July 1990. He was very special to us, He was always upbeat and positive. Then when Gary passed in 2017, Pastor Pete led the memorial service and thankfully the funeral home made a dvd which I cherish. My sincere condolences to Judy and family as they go through this sad time. He was a wonderful person!!Carol VanDenBergBrooksville, FLTrenton, MI

October 12 at 9:52 AM



Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services shared a **Webcast Video**.

October 14 at 7:03 AM



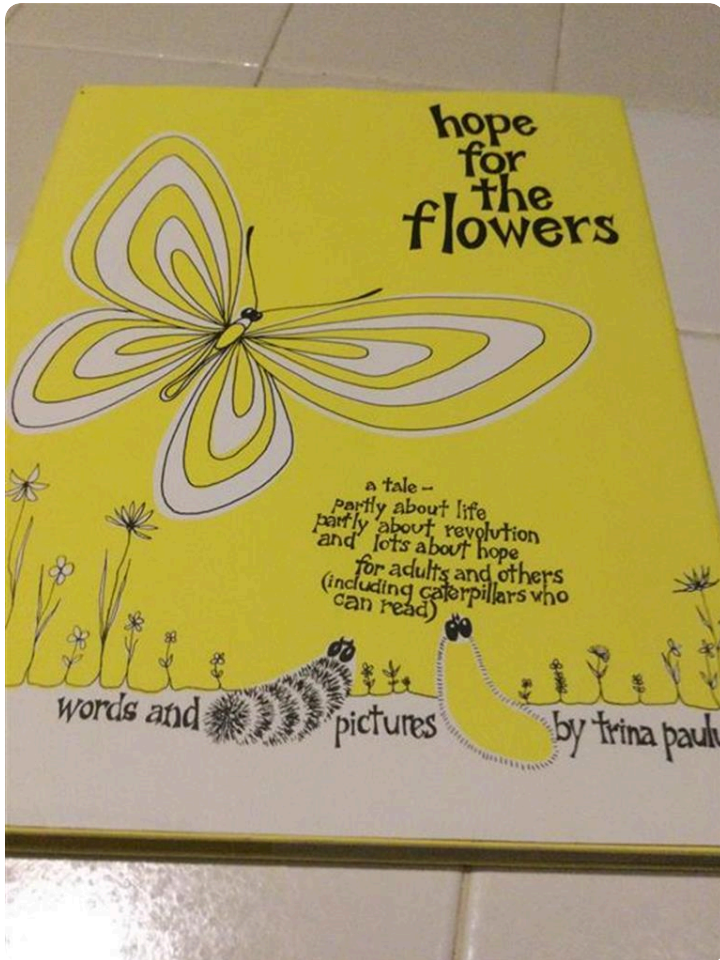
Dale Rodgers October 14 at 6:35 PM

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D shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 15 at 1:42 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Peter by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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