

Steve Letchworth was born in Dallas in 1950, the first child of Billie and Clarence Letchworth; his brother Tom came along five years later. His mother was a schoolteacher; his father was an Air Force chaplain, whose service took the family from the cotton farms of Smyer, Texas, to the birchwood forests of Brunswick, Maine, and beyond. His favorite childhood memories were of their longtime home in Sevilla, Spain.

Steve attended Oscoda High School on the shores of Lake Huron, Michigan. He was the drum major for the school marching band, and played drums in a band with friends. Back in Dallas, he graduated class of '72 from Southern Methodist University with a bachelor's degree in political science, then joined the Navy.

Steve trained to be a pilot at the Naval Aviation School in Pensacola, Florida. His years there provided some of his best stories—hanging out on the beach with no one else in sight for miles and hosting parties with his best friend JR Knight that the whole neighborhood would show up to.

In his CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, he conducted resupply missions for ships at sea and occasional search-and-rescue operations. He received citations of meritorious service for rescuing a Cuban refugee from a sinking boat in the Straits of Florida, and for saving the lives of 25 sailors from a merchant vessel in the South China Sea.

Seeking a new start, Steve transferred to Naval Base Coronado here in California. Soon after he moved in, a nice lady from his block appeared at his door with a plate of peanut butter bon bons, offering to introduce him to her daughter. Steve and Nancy Schnorr quickly fell for each other; they were married by Steve's father in an intimate ceremony on April 14, 1984, and their son Dan was born soon after.

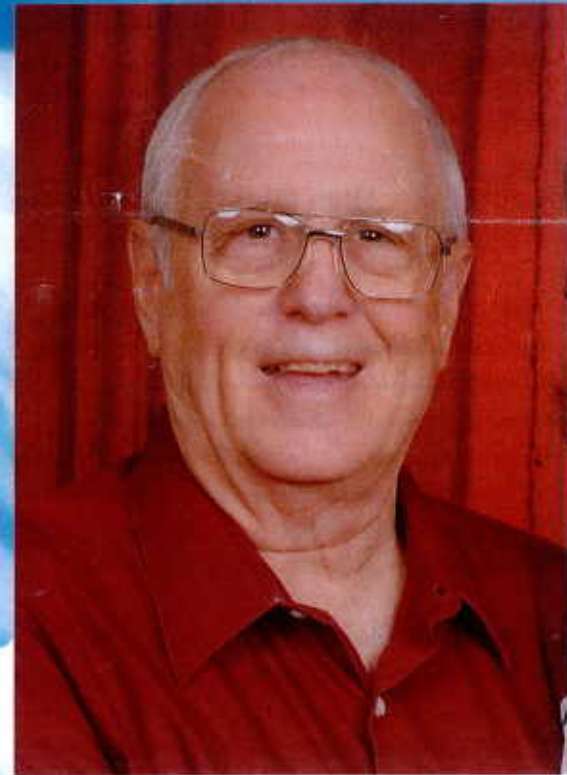
The family settled in Chula Vista permanently in 1991, and Steve retired from active duty after 21 years of service. He then became a flight instructor for the next generation of pilots, and took great pride in singlehandedly creating a new revision of the operations manual for his helicopter.

He was an active member of First United Methodist Church Chula Vista for decades. He followed in his father's footsteps to become a lay minister in 2008, and served on the HUG team and on All Love Branch, a ministry that welcomes LGBTQ people to the church.

When his son became a sperm donor for a friend of the family in 2014, Steve was overjoyed to be considered a grandfather to that child.

Steve was diagnosed with renal cancer in winter 2014. Less than a year after his brother's death, he died of heart failure in his own home on the morning of his 69th birthday. Steve was an outspoken supporter of the Democratic Party. A near-death experience at age six convinced him of the truth of salvation through Jesus Christ; his faith was a source of daily comfort to him, and he considered his Methodist brothers and sisters like family.

In Loving Memory of *Steve Letchworth*



Steve Letchworth

March 30, 1950—March 30, 2019

Steve is preceded in death by his parents, Billie and Clarence Letchworth; and his brother, Tom Letchworth.

Steve is survived by his wife, Nancy Letchworth; his sister-in-law, Celeste Letchworth; his son, Dan Letchworth; his daughter-in-law, Kohleun Adamson; his nephews Joe and Sam Letchworth; and his donor granddaughter, Simone Lin, and her parents.

High Flight by John Magee

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Flou'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air....*

*Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark nor ever eagle flew—
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

Celebrating Life

Prelude Michiko Lohorn

Welcome Rev. Dr. Brian Parcel

Opening Hymn Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Invocation

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 55:8-11
John 1:1-5

Homily

Witness

Scripture Lesson Romans 8:28, 31-35, 38-39

Congregational Hymn "I Am"

Military Honors

Prayers of Commendation

Hymn of Celebration Amazing Grace (vs. 1, 2, 3, 5)

Benediction

Leadership for today's service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Brian Parcel
Assistant Music Director - Michiko Lohorn
Director of Modern Worship - Jason Yamaoka