

*In Loving Memory of*  
**David LeRoy Gray**  
*January 17, 1941 ~ December 26, 2023*

**Funeral Service**

Saturday, January 13, 2024 ▪ 11:00AM  
First Presbyterian Church ▪ 310 3<sup>rd</sup> St. NW  
Mandan, North Dakota

**Interment**

Regent Cemetery  
Regent, North Dakota

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Prelude		
Processional Hymn	“Great is Thy Faithfulness”	#276
Opening Prayer		
Words of Comfort		
Solo	“You’ll Never Walk Alone”	
Scripture Reading		Psalm 23 Colossians 3:1-4;15-17 Mark Gray
Video Tribute		
Prayers for the Family		
Solo	“The Lord’s Prayer”	
Scripture Reading		Musical Psalms
Sermon		
Special Music	“It is Well with My Soul”	
Commendation		
Benediction		
Recessional Hymn	“The God of Abraham Praise”	#488

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**Officiant** Pastor Deanna Reikow

**Musicians** Clyde Bauman, Barb Franke, Leslie Peterson, Teri Fay,  
Jeanne Jankowski and Melinda Halvorson

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Following the service, the family invites you to join them for lunch and fellowship downstairs.



Tribute Video

*Eastgate & Parkway Funeral Service ▪ Bismarck, North Dakota*

DAVID L. GRAY, 82, passed away at Missouri Slope Care Center on December 26, 2023, following complications from a stroke.

David was born January 17, 1941, in Regent, ND. He enjoyed music and sports early in life. Some of his most vivid early memories were those spent with his friends and siblings, competing in baseball, basketball, and football. He attended schools in Belfield, Regent, and graduated from Mott High School.

David attended Dickinson State College and considered majors in either music or physical education. It was during college he became motivated by music professors who instilled in him a passion for inspiring others. He graduated with a degree in Music Education and went on to work as a choir and band director for 11 years at Grenora and Mohall, ND and Fairview, MT.

David met Arlene in 1965, while visiting his parents in Lakeview, OR. Arlene accompanied him for a solo he sang at church. They were married in Dickinson, ND in 1972. Together they raised four children.

If you were involved with public school music in the four-state region from the 1970s to the 1990s, chances are you interacted with David. In 1974, he began work as a sales representative for Eckroth Music, delivering newly purchased instruments, picking up instruments that needed repair, and working at the store. Through this work, he started a beginner’s program for new music students and served as a mentor for many educators around the region.

For more than three decades, David played the French horn in several community bands, the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra, and directed the choir at Mandan First Presbyterian Church. He helped raise his children and shared with them qualities he held close – compassion for others, a solid work ethic, humility, a love for artistic expression, and above all, a sense of humor.

David retired from Eckroth Music in 2004. He continued to fulfill his love for bringing joy to people when he took a part-time job, delivering flowers for Robert’s Floral. He enjoyed time with his wife and family, reading, playing puzzles, and video games. Also during this time, he sang with the Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus alongside his son Mark.

In 2015, a medical procedure left him with paralysis on the left side of his body. Despite the health setback, David prevailed over the shortcoming with his sense of humor and upbeat attitude. He enjoyed taking time to visit with his lifelong friends at their coffee group.

David is survived by his wife, Arlene, Bismarck; sister, Janice Schulz, Bismarck; brother, Lonnie (Ellen), Prineville, OR; children, Mark (Jena), Stephanie (Travis), Brian; all of Bismarck, and Timothy (Kayla), Mandan; and numerous cousins, nephews and nieces, and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Sara and Roy Gray; brother, Arlo; brother-in-law, Ervin Schulz; twin sisters, Alice and Ann; and beloved cocker spaniel, Odie.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials donated in David’s memory to the Mandan First Presbyterian Church.

*In Loving Memory of*

## WHY GOD MADE FATHERS

*God knew that children all would need*

*Someone secure and strong*

*To shelter and protect them,*

*And to teach them right from wrong...*

*Someone they could take pride in,*

*And look up to as a guide,*

*Someone that they could count on,*

*And in whom they could confide...*

*He knew as children grew,*

*They'd need the reassurance of*

*Someone with faith and trust in them*

*To always give them love...*

*And that's why God made fathers.*



DAVID LEROY GRAY

JANUARY 17, 1941 ~ DECEMBER 26, 2023

