

The Order of Service

Friday, February 7, 2020

One o'clock in the afternoon

Please silence devices and enter in quiet prayer.

VOLUNTARY

Selected Music for Organ

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN 384 Love Divine All Love Excelling BEECHER

†GREETING (*read responsively*)

We have gathered to remember the life of Joseph Buxton Fowler.

We give thanks for his life,

and we commend his spirit into God's eternal care.

Let us recall all the saints who have found that peace in which

Buxton now rests.

(Moment of Silence)

Now let us rejoice in God's presence with us, in death as in life,

among those who mourn and with those who now see God face to face.

Our lips will shout for joy, for God's love is over all that He has made.

Blessed be His glorious name forever!

PRAYER (*in unison*)

O Jesus Christ our risen Lord, you have gone before us in death.

Grant us the assurance of your presence, that we who are anxious and fearful in

the face of death may confidently face the future, in the knowledge that you have

prepared a place for all who love you. Comfort us who mourn; and give us grace,

in the presence of death, to worship you, that we may have a sure hope of eternal life

and put our whole trust in your goodness and mercy. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

PSALTER—Psalm 121 (*in unison*) UMH Page 844

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 40:29-31 Pew Bible Page 668

†HYMN 310 He Lives ACKLEY

†THE HOLY GOSPEL—John 14:1-2 Pew Bible Page 108

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

HOMILY

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION UMH Page 15

PRAYER

†DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†HYMN 378 Amazing Grace AMAZING GRACE

VOLUNTARY

†At these times, the congregation will please stand.

*There is a reception and the family will greet the congregation
in the Fellowship Hall following the service.*

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR ARE OFFERED TO THE
GREATER GLORY OF GOD IN MEMORY OF
MR. JOSEPH BUXTON FOWLER

THOSE LEADING TODAY'S SERVICE

The Reverend Dr. Mark Conforti

Senior Pastor

Mr. Les Ackerman

Guest Organist

JOSEPH BUXTON FOWLER

It is with GREAT sadness for our family, but with much joy, love and peace for our son Joseph "Buxton" Fowler, that we share with you the passing of our first born and much-loved son and brother. Buxton took his life during the early morning hours of Friday, January 31, 2020. Buxton bravely fought a lifelong battle with depression, bipolar, and mental illness. Earlier this year Buxton courageously made a Facebook post about his battle, helping many, many people. There is no way of knowing the number of lives Buxton touched in a positive, helpful way. Many people have reached out to us, thanking Buxton for his post, which started many conversations that needed to be had. Buxton fought so hard for so very long.

Buxton had a large number of severe concussions during his lifetime. We feel strongly that the concussions were a contributing factor in Buxton taking his life. We believe that it compounded and exaggerated his bipolar disorder.

Buxton, 26 years old, of Charlotte, and formerly of Salisbury, was born June 1, 1993, in Tullahoma, TN, to Joseph Ralph "Joe" Fowler III, and Susan Dameron Fowler.

He was a 2011 graduate of East Rowan High School and attended Rowan-Cabarrus Community College to further his education. His favorite teachers were Rhett Teems and Roland Fowler. Buxton had a brilliant mind and was a gifted athlete, staying active with wrestling, soccer and weightlifting. He was sidelined by his concussions but always gave his all.

Buxton was always one to look out for the underdog and would always come to their defense. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Salisbury and was previously a member of First United Methodist Church of Tullahoma. He was employed as a crane operator with Steel Fab in Charlotte.

Buxton was a giant of a man, physically, spiritually and in his heart. He stood 6'4". Buxton was so handsome! He had his picture taken by professional photographers several times. Buxton loved motorcycles and was an excellent driver. He also loved weightlifting and spending time at the lake with friends. Most of all Buxton loved his family and had a strong faith in God. He gave all that he had to people in need. Buxton epitomized the words "Southern Gentleman" with his manners and sweet, kind soul. He was a lover of our country and greatly appreciated and respected all those who serve in the military, especially admiring his friends who serve the USA.

Buxton was truly "one of a kind".

Buxton is survived by his parents, Joe and Susan Fowler of Salisbury; brother, Hurst Fowler of Nashville, TN, sister, Susan Barker Fowler, Oxford, MS, brother Hill Fowler, Boone, NC, aunts, Jane Dameron Worley, Glory Fowler, Joy Fowler and Merry Fowler; uncle, Scott Dameron; best friends Morgan Crawford and Branson Hurst; his Blue Pitbull, love and constant sidekick, Chapo. He was preceded in death by his loving grandparents, Rose and Bill Dameron of Lexington, NC, Pat Fowler of Mt. Airy, NC and Joe Fowler, Jr of Carolina Beach, NC.

The family was able to arrange for Buxton's brain to be a part of the CTE Brain Research at Boston University School of Medicine. They are so very grateful that this was possible. The family would like to give special thanks to Wayne Winegar and Donna Odrosky for their love, support and help.

No matter what Buxton did, he left everything on the field. He truly lived in the moment and never wasted any time on this earth.

AROUND THE CORNER

by James J. Metcalfe

When you are really downcast, and...
Your spirit is low...
You feel there is a dead-end street...
Whichever way you go...
Remember there are corners left...
That you have never turned...
And just around the next one may...
Be all for which you've yearned...
So keep on turning corners in...
Your search for happiness...
For as you cling to hope, so God...
Will guide you to success...
"It's just around the corner," you...
Have heard some people say...
And that is really good advice...
Along your weary way...
Around some corner somewhere, as...
You fumble and you grope...
Your heart will come to life again...
If you have faith and hope.

The Fowler Family gratefully requests memorials may be made in Buxton's memory to:

Boston University School of Medicine, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy Center
Medical Campus, 72 East Concord Street B-7800,
Boston, MA 02118

or

Music Department of First United Methodist Church of Salisbury
217 S. Church Street
Salisbury, NC 28144

or

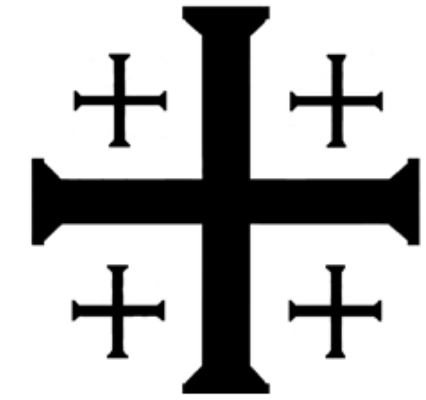
National Suicide Prevention Hotline
% Vibrant Emotional Health, Attn: Development
50 Broadway, 19th Floor New York, NY 10004

or

to the donor's choice

WHAT WE BELIEVE

At the heart of the Christian faith is God's victory over death. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are given the gift of life eternal. As Jesus' followers, we are convinced that we share in this victory over the grave. We affirm that at death, the Christian believer lives in the presence of God in an eternal home. Nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. So, death is not the end; rather, this is the new beginning of a fuller existence that will be completed in the resurrection of the body. This hope is based, not on our worthiness, but exclusively upon God's grace. The large white candle, called the "Paschal Candle," is lit symbolizing God's victory over death, for Buxton's sake, and for all of us who gather today.



A JOYFUL SERVICE OF
THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF
JOSEPH BUXTON FOWLER

JUNE 1, 1993 – JANUARY 31, 2020



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA