



May 22, 2019

***A THANK YOU FROM SUSAN WALTON***

I cannot begin to express my appreciation for all that the Hills Church has done for me and my family since Jim's very sudden death in late March. Every hug, every prayer, every note and card and email, every stitch in my prayer shawl, every casserole and cookie, every flower, every note sung at Jim's service – all speak to the love my family feels and the love for Jim that this church family shared. I am so grateful, and as I have shared with many of you, I don't know how anyone goes through such a loss without experiencing God's steadfast love as expressed through such a faithful and yet shaken community. Our children, Laura, Jeff and Peter, share this gratitude. They grew up in this church, and I know that it shaped their character and holds fond memories for them even as they have moved away. Many of you and their "Sunday school" buddies have been present for them as well over these past weeks.

A favorite album and song of Jim's and mine was Pete Seeger and Arlo Guthrie's, "Precious Friend." We would sing along in the car, Jim "conducting" as he drove (family joke), and I can hear his voice even now.

Just when I thought  
All was lost, you changed my mind. . . .  
Your face will shine through all our tears  
And when we sing another little victory song,  
Precious friend, you will be there,  
Singing in harmony,  
Precious friend, you will be there.

You are our precious friends, and my family and I are forever grateful for the love and support which surrounds us. Thank you.

*Susan Walton*