

# DAVID ALPHONSE FITZ

1931 - 2023



FIRST CHURCH

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
of SAN DIEGO

2111 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108  
619.297.4366 · [fumcsd.org](http://fumcsd.org)

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.



## THE MEASURE OF A MAN

*The measure of a man is not determined  
By his show of outward strength  
Or the volume of his voice, or the thunder of his actions,  
Or by his intellect or academic abilities.*

*It is seen rather in terms of the love that he has  
For his family and for everyone,  
The strength of his commitments,  
The genuineness of his friendships,  
The sincerity of his purpose,  
The quiet courage of his convictions,  
The fun, laughter, joy and happiness  
He gives to his family and to others,  
His love of life, his patience and his honesty,  
And his contentment with what he has.*

*– Grady Poulard*

Please share a photo or note of remembrance at [Legacy.com](https://www.legacy.com).

*In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent in memory of David A. Fitz to  
the First United Methodist Church of San Diego,  
the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance at [sdwza.org/memorial](https://www.sdwza.org/memorial) or  
the Old Globe Theater, PO Box 12217, San Diego, CA 92112-2171*

*A Service of Thanksgiving to God  
for the life of*

# DAVID ALPHONSE FITZ

Born in Sandusky, Ohio, on November 29, 1931  
Died in Eugene, Oregon, on December 19, 2023

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO  
SANCTUARY & LIVE-STREAMED

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024 • 12:00 PM

**Gathering & Prelude** ..... Dr. Jaebon Hwang, *organist*  
*Adagio for Strings*, Samuel Barber

**Words of Grace & Greeting** ..... Rev. Brittany Hanlin

## Invocation

**Poetry Reading** ..... Tom Fitz, *son*  
*The Measure of a Man*

**Hymn**—No. 77, *How Great Thou Art*

## Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 23 ..... Evan Taylor, *grandson*

**Remembrances** ..... Eileen Fitz-Faulkner, *daughter*  
Rebecca Fitz, *granddaughter*  
Carl Maguire, *friend*

**Solo** ..... Michael Morgan, *bass*  
*Deep River*, African-American spiritual

## New Testament Lesson

John 14:1-5 ..... Gaelen Faulkner, *grandson*

**Homily** ..... Rev. Brittany Hanlin

**Solo** ..... Michael Morgan  
*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, Thomas Dorsey

## Prayer of Commendation

**The Lord's Prayer** (*Please join in unison, on opposite page.*)

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Sinfonia* from *Cantata BWV 29 "We Thank You, God"*  
Johann Sebastian Bach



*The Fitz family deeply appreciates your presence,  
and looks forward to greeting you at a reception in  
Linder Lounge, off the Patio to the east of the Sanctuary.*

**David Alphonse Fitz** was born in Sandusky, Ohio, on November 29, 1931, to Dorothea and Alphonse Fitz. He grew up in Sandusky, but left to attend Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. He was active in student government and involved in musical theater. He graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in 1953. David received his medical degree from Ohio State University in 1957. It was there where he met his wife, Mary. He enlisted in the army during his senior year, and was stationed in Hawaii. Dave and Mary were wed in Honolulu and started their family while Dave completed his medical internship at Tripler US Army Hospital. He was transferred to Washington, DC, where he worked at the US Army Dispensary in the Pentagon.

After completing military service, Dave attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for his residency. Upon completion, the family moved to San Diego, where he practiced orthopedics with privileges at Donald N. Sharp Memorial Hospital, Children's Hospital, and Mercy Hospital & Health Center for 40 years.

David was active in San Diego's medical professional community throughout his career, serving on several committees at Sharp Memorial Hospital including the Executive Medical Board and the Orthopedic Supervisory Committee. Additionally, he served with the Doctor's Service Bureau, acting as president in 1976 and 1977.

David enjoyed sports, especially water and snow skiing. He and his good friend Jim Orwig would get up before dawn on Thursdays, take a boat down to Mission Bay and ski until it was time for work. He was famous for sitting or standing atop a barstool, on a skimboard and cutting the boat's wake. His appreciation for sports was also reflected in his services as an orthopedic consultant for San Diego's two hockey teams, the Gulls and Mariners, from 1967-1974.

David loved the natural world. Every year he took the family camping in national parks across the West and down into Baja California. He also loved deep sea fishing. As a young man he often fished with his good friend Capt. Lou Brito bringing home tuna or ling cod for dinner. In his later years he joined his sons and sons-in-law on an annual trip to Alaska for salmon.



After retirement, Dave and Mary enjoyed traveling and learning about the environment, history, and culture of people around the world. They were fortunate to visit every continent on earth, including Antarctica. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed tending his small orchard on property he'd purchased outside Julian, CA. His apple cider pressing parties will be remembered by many of his friends and neighbors.

David supported the San Diego Padres even after he left San Diego for the Pacific Northwest. He was also a staunch benefactor of two San Diego institutions: The Old Globe Theater and the San Diego Zoo.



David died peacefully in his home with Mary at his side. He was 92 years old.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane Fitz, his five children, Sinda Fitz (Mike Warshafsky), Eileen Fitz-Faulkner (Kyle), Stephen Fitz (Teresa), Tom Fitz (Junko) & Kristen Taylor (Andy), & ten grandchildren.