

# Todd Yost Sluder

After learning that Papa T had passed away, 4-year-old grandson Bradley ran into his room:

Bradley: "Hey, Daddy, did 1000 angels come to take Papa T to heaven?"

Micah: "Yes"

Bradley: "I knew it!"

Todd Yost Sluder of Asheville, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, was born September 26, 1954, and passed away February 4, 2026, at home surrounded by his family. He is survived by Leesa, the love of his life and wife of 30 years, their children, Morgan, Mason, Kristen (Micah), and Scott, grandsons Ben and Bradley, his sister, sisters-in-law, brother-in-law, nieces, and great-nieces. Todd was preceded in death by his parents, Dr. Fletcher Sluder and Orva Yost Sluder.

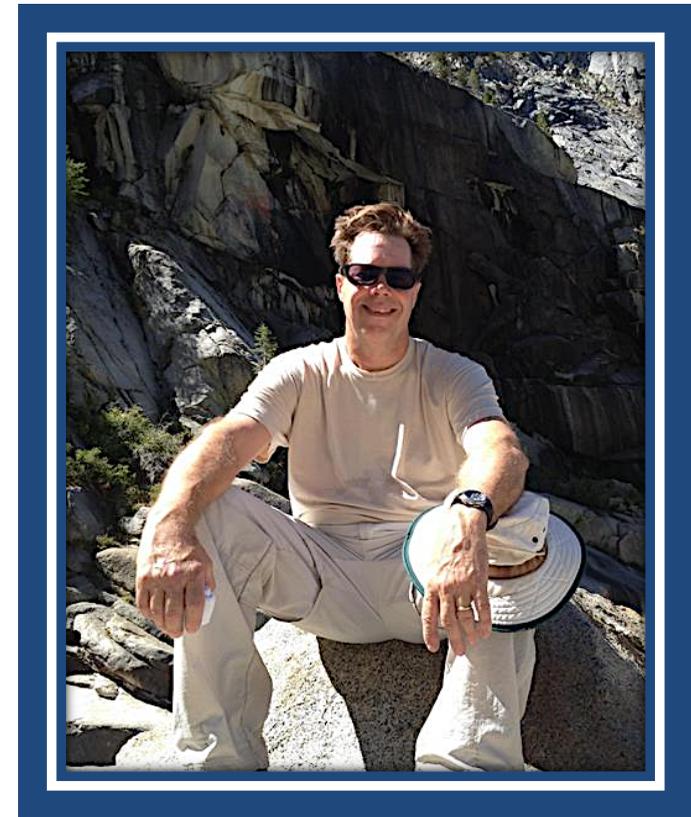
Todd deeply loved and was devoted to his family and friends. He served and showed compassion for others through his 43-year career as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, alleviating patients' pre-surgery anxiety with humor and minimizing their pain. He loved his work and his co-workers, and they adored him. Todd practiced anesthesia in Atlanta, Greensboro, Lake Norman, Hendersonville, and Asheville. Todd achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at the unprecedented age of 13 and was an active member of local Troop 8. An Asheville native, he loved being outdoors, especially in his beloved Blue Ridge Mountains. Todd had an adventurous spirit and was an avid hiker, backpacker, camper, biker, sailor, and skier, on water, snow, or barefoot! Years ago, Todd and Leesa set a goal to hike in every National Park, and by 2025, they had completed 60 of the 65 parks.

Todd was fun-loving, curious, and creative, always using his extraordinary talents and skills to provide for, protect, and help others. Todd had an artist's eye and took beautiful photographs, especially of nature and animals. He also expressed creativity through ongoing projects to improve, repair, and maintain his family's historic home and property.

Todd and Leesa manifested the spirit of hospitality, frequently opening their home for celebrations and fundraisers for local nonprofits. Whether in a tuxedo or Hawaiian shirt, Todd was always a genial host and sought-after guest, connecting with everyone by asking thought-provoking questions and telling groan-inducing jokes. Leesa was his best and most faithful audience, always laughing at his jokes, no matter how many times she heard them.

Todd had an encyclopedic knowledge of music and regularly astounded family and friends with details about albums and artists that only a music historian would know. He created themed playlists with songs that suited every musical taste, event, or mood. Curiosity drove Todd to seek out interesting people, unfamiliar places, and challenging experiences. He wanted to see and do everything while in his earthly home. When hiking, he was always eager to see what was around the next bend. We know he is now exploring his heavenly home, just around the next bend, marveling at its incomparable beauty.

## A Service of Celebration for the Life of **Todd Yost Sluder** September 26, 1954 – February 4, 2026



**Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 11:00 AM**  
Central United Methodist Church  
27 Church Street, Asheville, North Carolina

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
~ *Romans 8:37-39*

“Nothing can make up for the absence of someone whom we love, and it would be wrong to try to find a substitute; we must simply hold out and see it through. That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time it is a great consolation, for the gap, as long as it remains unfilled, preserves the bond between us. It is nonsense to say God fills the gap; He does not fill it, but on the contrary, He keeps it empty and so helps us to keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain.” ~ *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison*

### **Officiants**

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown  
Rev. Lisa Rettew  
Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne

### **Musicians**

Corey Powell, organ  
Lelia Hall Lattimore, harp  
Jeryl Sloan, flute  
Lauralee Bailey, soloist

## **Order of Worship**

### **Prelude**

### **Greeting and Words of Grace**

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

### **Hymn 92**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”  
Stanzas 1,2,4,6

DIX

### **Reading of Psalm 121 & Prayer**

Rev. Lisa Rettew

### **Reading of Scripture & Reflection**

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne

### **Special Music**

“The Gift of Love”

Lelia Hall Lattimore, harp  
Jeryl Sloan, flute  
Lauralee Bailey, soloist

### **Reading of Scripture & Reflection**

John 14  
Romans 8

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

### **Prayer of Commendation**

Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne

### **Special Music**

“Hymn of Promise”

Lauralee Bailey, soloist

### **Nurse Honor Guard Tribute**

### **Dismissal with Blessing**

Rev. Dr. Mary Brown

### **Postlude**