

To The Glory of God
and
In Memory of
Paul David Kooistra



October 11, 1942 – July 1, 2026

July 16, 2026

Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church

To The Glory of God
and
In Memory of
Paul David Kooistra

11 o'clock am
July 16, 2026
Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Chris “Buck” Rogers, Presiding Pastor
The Reverend George Robertson, Message
The Reverend Steven Clark, Prayer & Benediction
The Reverend John Robertson, Graveside
The Reverend Bryan Chapell, Graveside Closing Prayer & Benediction

Order of Service

Prelude

Susan MacLagan

Call to Worship & Prayer

Rev. Chris “Buck” Rogers

Congregational Hymn *Blessed Assurance*

Richard MacLagan

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 23

Bruce Owens

New Testament Reading Phil. 3:7-14, 20-4:1

Wallace Anderson

Reminisces

Rev. Bob Perkins

Paul D. Kooistra, Jr.

Congregational Hymn *Be Thou My Vision*

Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true Son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight,
Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tow'r;
Raise Thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Message

John 3:16

Rev. George Robertson

Solo

Blessed Is The Man

Steve Green

Congregational Hymn *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
As long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

Recessional &

Congregational Hymn *This Is My Father's World*

This is my Father's world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
he shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
the battle is not done'
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav'n be one.

Postlude

Those who are able are requested to make their way to the cemetery for the graveside service.

Dr. Paul David Kooistra, loving husband, father and friend passed away on July 1, 2026, at age 83. Born in Duluth Minnesota on October 11, 1942, Dr. Kooistra earned degrees from the University of Minnesota, Columbia Theological Seminary and the University of Alabama.

After marrying his first wife Jan, they moved to Florida where he served in ministry for six years before the Lord called him to be a professor first at Belhaven College and then Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi. Many of his students recall the passion he had in teaching them the practical realities of pastoral ministry.

Several years later, God called Paul to lead Covenant Seminary in St. Louis, the denominational seminary for the PCA. Under his leadership, the seminary grew in both size and influence, equipping future pastors and leaders for the Presbyterian Church of America by focusing on what he saw as the essence of the Reformed faith – the message of grace inherent in the gospel.

In 1994, he was called to serve as the Coordinator of the PCA's Mission to the World. He prioritized church planting and integrated evangelism, discipleship, and mercy responses to global needs. He was also concerned with enhancing the spiritual life of the MTW missionaries and staff.

After stepping down as coordinator of Mission to the World in 2014, he became president of Erskine College and Seminary, retiring in 2016.

Beyond his leadership roles, Paul was an active churchman serving on numerous committees and spearheading various initiatives to unify the PCA denomination around its commitment to the Great Commission.

Dr. Kooistra was married to Jan for 43 years until her death 2008. The Lord brought Sandi Tucker into his life in early 2009 and they married August 29, 2009. Between Paul and Sandi they have five adult children: Paul, Jr., and his wife, Carla; Shary and her husband, Jeff Dare; Jennifer (Sydney) and her husband, Albert Lopez; Bryan Tucker and his wife, Christina; and Greg Tucker. They have seven grandchildren, Margaret “Maggie” Elizabeth Dare Sullivan, Alysia Marie Lopez Carden, Samuel “Sam” Alexander Dare, Carson Annamarie Kooistra Cartey, Grant David Lopez, Molly Josephine Kooistra McTaggart, and Ava Jeanmarie Kooistra. He also leaves one brother, Roger Kooistra and his wife, Jan. All his family loved him dearly.

We know that Paul lived in the assurance of the gospel and that assurance gave him the energy to leap over many walls for the sake of God’s glory. He has left a lasting legacy marked by grace, conviction and a passion for the gospel. He will be greatly missed.

The family requests that **memorial gifts** be directed to:

The Timothy Foundation
130 Lenape Drive, Berwyn, PA 19312

Covenant Theological Seminary
12330 Conway Road, St. Louis, MO 63141

Mission to the World
1600 N. Brown Road, Lawrenceville, GA 30043