



From the Pastor's Desk
The Rev. Jack Arthur Batten
November 30, 1926 - July 28, 2018

A service of worship to remember and celebrate the life of the Rev. Dr. Jack Arthur Batten will be conducted in the Sanctuary of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ, **this Saturday, August 4 at 10:30AM.**

Jack, born November 30, 1926, passed away on July 28, 2018, after a brief illness. He was the widower of Margaret Stone Batten, his partner in life and work for fifty-five years. He is survived by his son Lawrence (Elaine) Batten, daughter the Rev. Catherine (Steven) Balk, and his grandchildren Michelle Balk, Laura (Ben) Gusse, and Amanda (Anthony) Witt, and Christopher and Ryan Batten (fiancee Danielle Simler).



Jack was recently honored with an [Ageless Remarkable St. Louisan award](#) by the St. Andrew's Resources for Seniors System. And the award was well deserved; he truly was remarkable. Jack earned a Bachelor (Master) of Divinity degree from Oberlin College (1961), already having earned Bachelor of Philosophy (1944) and Master of Business Administration (1950) degrees from the University of Chicago. He served two years in the U.S. Army, including Officer Candidate School and seven months on Gen. McArthur's staff.

Jack had a strong interest in theater and was a participant in many community theater projects throughout his life, including having been the executive director of the Wichita Mountains Pageant, an interdenominational religious drama

conducted in Lawton, Oklahoma. He was pastor of Fellowship Congregational Church, Tulsa, 1961-68; and First Congregational UCC, Rapid City, South Dakota, 1968-74. In 1974 he became the Conference Minister of the South Dakota Conference, UCC, an office in which he served until 1986 when he became a regional representative for United Church Resources of the Stewardship Council, the position from which he retired in 1990.

He and Margaret loved to travel, visiting sixty countries on seven continents, including six months (January - July 1984) as volunteer missionaries in Turkey. After Margaret's death, Jack would travel to seven more countries yet.

Jack was a gifted spiritual leader and a beloved mentor, providing devoted service, practical advice and faithful friendship to other clergy and lay leaders of the Church.

Visitation will be conducted at the [Shrader Funeral Home](#), 14960 Manchester Rd. in Ballwin, from 5:00 until 8:00PM, Friday, August 3. Members and friends of First Church are invited to join Jack's family and friends in the **celebration** of his life, this Saturday at the church as mentioned above. A reception of light refreshments will follow. **Burial** will be private.

The funeral will be presided by myself with participation also by Rev. Balk and the Rev. Le Remington, chaplain of the Cape Albeon community where Jack resided.

In lieu of flowers, the Batten family suggest memorial gifts be given to the Endowment Fund of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ, 10 W. Lockwood Ave., 63119.

Peace.

Pastor Dave Denoon
