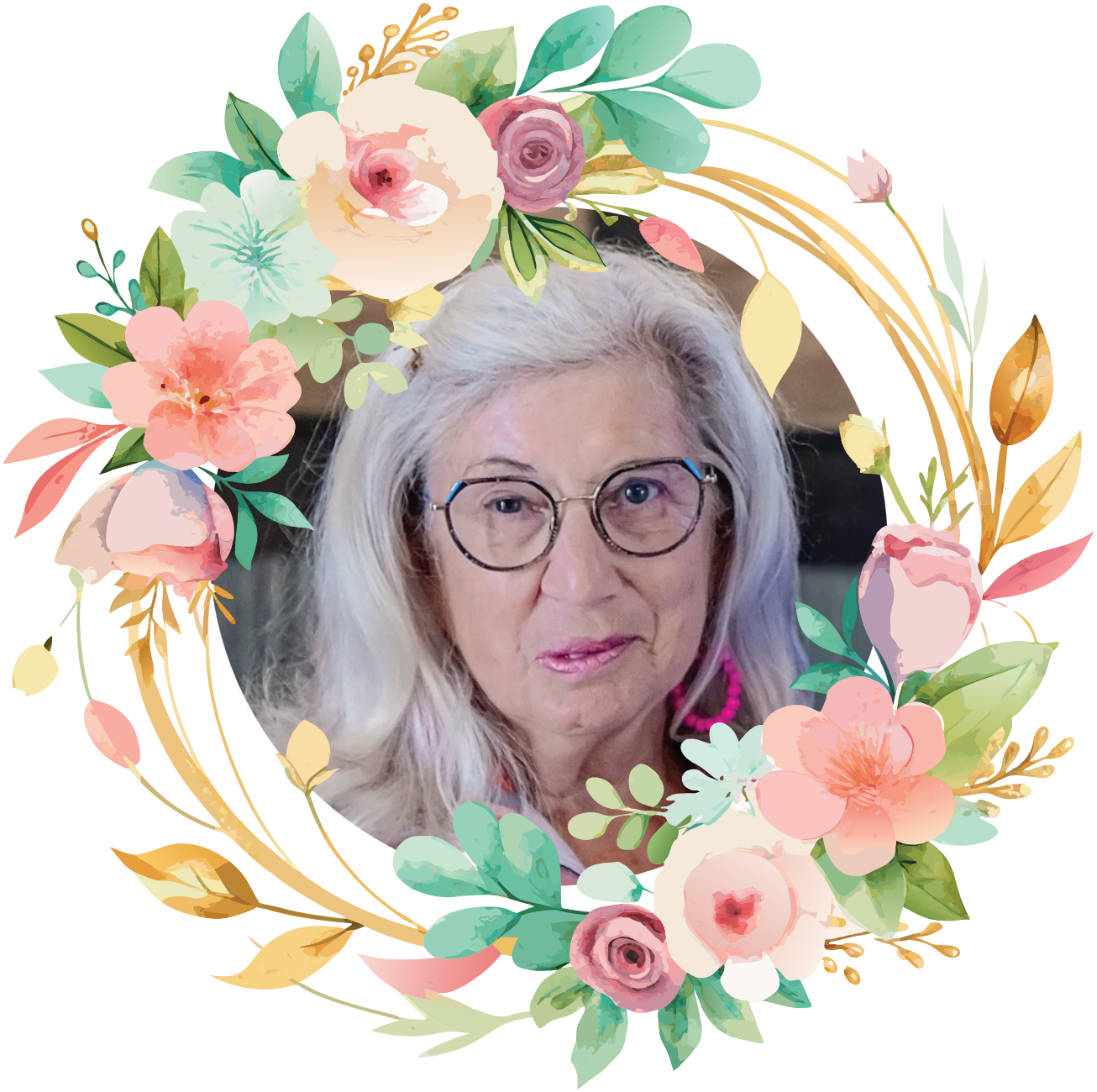


A Service of Worship Celebrating the Life
and Witness to the Resurrection of

Johnnie Marie Baker

July 9, 1954 – October 26, 2026

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
11100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66210



Psalm

23 *A Psalm of David.*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

A Service of Worship

Celebrating the Life and Witness to the Resurrection of

Johnnie Marie Baker

November 5, 2026, 10am

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

Prelude

Call to Worship

ONE: Come, let us worship the Lord, who provides for all our needs.

ALL: The Lord leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.
We come into God's presence seeking peace, renewal, and rest.

ONE: God leads us in right paths. Even when we walk through the darkest valley,
we will fear no evil, for God is with us.

ALL: God's presence comforts us, God's love surrounds us, and God's faithfulness sustains us.

ONE: A table is prepared for us and our cup overflows.

ALL: We give thanks for God's goodness, mercy, and unfailing love. We trust that goodness and mercy shall follow us and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Hymn #69	*"Here I Am, Lord"*	
Prayer for Family and Community		
Reading	*"Peonies"*	Mary Oliver
Scripture Reading	Colossians 3:12–17	
Special Music	*"How Can I Keep From Singing?"*	Words by Pauline T. Arr. Diane Tuiofu
Scripture		Selected Readings
Words of Life		
Hymn #14	*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*	
A Prayer of Thanksgiving		
Benediction		
Departing Music		

A reception will follow the service in Heartland Hall.

Johnnie Marie Baker

Johnnie Marie Baker, 72, of Overland Park, KS, passed away at her home on Monday, October 26, 2026.

Born on July 9, 1954, in Lucama, North Carolina, Johnnie was the daughter of the late Billy and Laura Barnes. She graduated from Lucama High School in 1972 before majoring in accounting at Atlantic Christian College where she graduated in 1975.

On April 21, 1984, she was united in marriage to Larry Baker in Wilson, North Carolina. The couple made their home in Wilson, where they had their first child (Laura) until moving to Tarboro in 1987, where they had two more children (Jonathan and Jason). In 1992 the family moved to Wake Forest, North Carolina before settling in Overland Park, Kansas in 1997.

Johnnie devoted much of her life to her family, her faith, and serving others. In addition to being a dedicated homemaker, she held various positions in finance and accounting and most recently served as a church administrator at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and Second Presbyterian Church before retiring in 2023. Her involvement in church activities and volunteer work reflected her commitment to her faith and her community.

Known for her love of bright colors and her distinctive flair for fashion, Johnnie brought warmth, personality, and a vibrant spirit to those around her. She enjoyed volunteering, participating in church activities, and spending time with friends and loved ones. Later in life, Johnnie found great joy in traveling, especially to the beach, where she loved the beauty and peacefulness of the coast. Above all, she treasured time with her family and especially adored her eight grandchildren.

Johnnie was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Larry Baker, and her parents, Billy and Laura Barnes.

She is survived by her daughter, Laura Bontje and husband Jason, of Overland Park, Kansas; her son, Jonathan Baker and wife Marisa, of Olathe, Kansas; her son Jason Baker and wife Kara, of Overland Park, Kansas; eight grandchildren, Savannah, Harrison, Brayden, Hudson, Summer Lee, Reagan, James, and Jackson; and her brothers, Jeff Barnes of Lucama, North Carolina, and Greg Barnes of Kenly, North Carolina.

A celebration of Johnnie's life was held on Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 10am at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas. The burial service will take place on Monday, November 23, 2026, at 11am at Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Wilson, North Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church or the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Officiating: Rev. Karen Wright, Pastor Emeritus Rev. Jay McKell
Musicians: Linda Dover, Organ; Patrick O'Halloran, soloist
Reader: Gay Lee Ludwig-Bonney

A special thanks to the many church members and friends who have blessed us with their prayers, their faith, and their support.

Peonies

by Mary Oliver

This morning the green fists of the peonies
are getting ready
to break my heart
as the sun rises,
as the sun strokes them with his old, buttery fingers

and they open —
pools of lace,
white and pink —
and all day the black ants climb over them,

boring their deep and mysterious holes
into the curls,
craving the sweet sap,
taking it away

to their dark, underground cities —
and all day
under the shifty wind,
as in a dance to the great wedding,

the flowers bend their bright bodies,
and tip their fragrance to the air,
and rise,
their red stems holding

all that dampness and recklessness
gladly and lightly,
and there it is again —
beauty the brave, the exemplary,

blazing open.
Do you love this world?
Do you cherish your humble and silky life?
Do you adore the green grass, with its terror beneath?

Do you also hurry, half-dressed and barefoot,
into the garden, and softly,
and exclaiming of their dearness,
fill your arms with the white and pink flowers,

with their honeyed heaviness,
their lush trembling, their eagerness
to be wild and perfect for a moment,
before they are
nothing, forever?

