



Cheryl VanZandbergen &lt;cheryl@cityviewcc.net&gt;

## A Casket a Wreath and a Cross

1 message

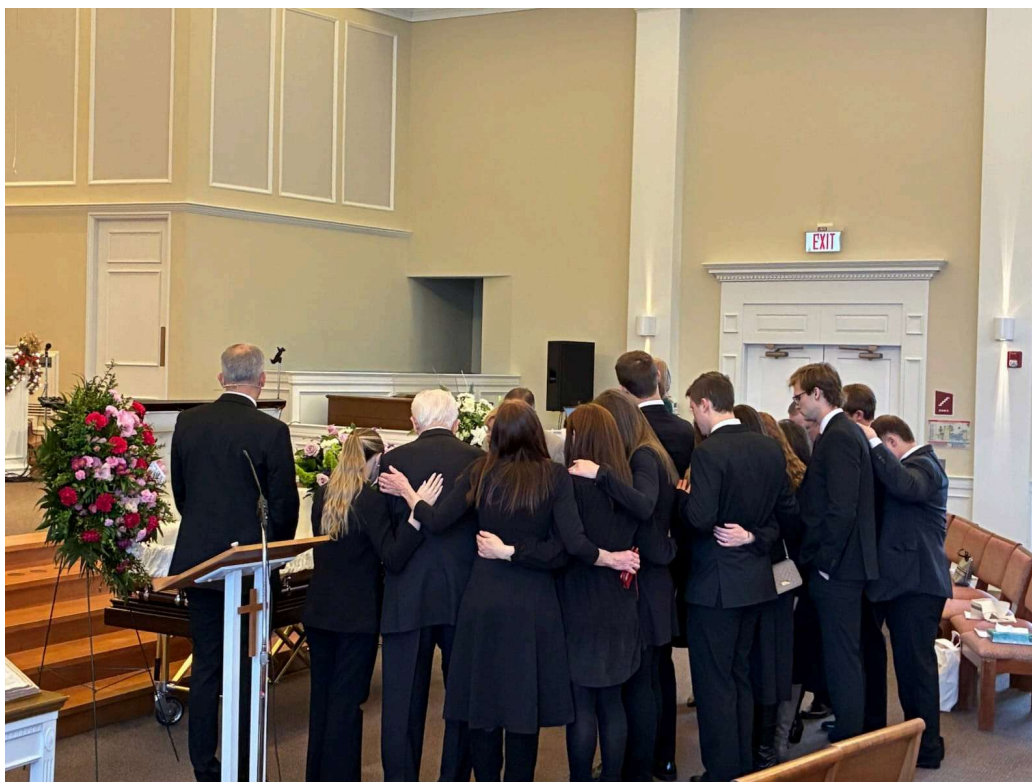
**Tim and Melanie Wendel** <wendel\_spain@19909131.mailchimpapp.com>

Mon, Dec 15, 2025 at 10:02 AM

Reply-To: wendel\_spain@yahoo.com

To: cheryl@cityviewcc.net

## DECEMBER 2025



As I hurried to make my way through the long immigration lines to make my next plane to get to the next thing, Tim called with the news that his mother, Grace Wendel, had left her earthly, gnarled "tent" and went to her heavenly mansion to be met by the **One** in whom she had placed her hope and her life. Seven years of PSP (progressive supranuclear palsy) had taken its final toll.

As we gathered from many corners to mourn and celebrate her life, it was a reminder that

### THIS IS WHEN IT REALLY MATTERS

#### A CASKET A WREATH AND A CROSS

Tim had the honor of officiating at the funeral and bringing the message in the same church where he and his siblings had been raised and disciplined, where his parents had been on staff, where we were married,

and a church that has greatly supported us throughout the years. As friends and family gathered in the pews, the three symbols of **a Casket, an Advent Wreath and a Cross** framed the sanctuary.

### THIS IS THE GOSPEL

Hebrews 9: 27-28 says, "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him".

*A Casket:* we all know that one day our mortal bodies will give out.

*A Wreath:* At Christmas we not only celebrate the First Coming of Christ, but we eagerly await the Advent of His Second Coming.

*The Cross:* Christ died for us to take away our sins.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death,  
so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again,  
and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

(I Thessalonians 4: 13-14 NIV)

### THIS IS OUR HOPE

We closed the funeral service with a photo montage of Grace and a recording of her singing "Because He Lives I can face tomorrow". That was the hope by which she lived and the hope that we, too, can live by each day.

Thank you for so faithfully partnering with us and supporting us this past year as we have been called to live out this hope and communicate it amongst those who have yet to embrace this **HOPE!**

To the least, the last and the lost...until Christ comes again!

**Merry Christmas!**

~Tim and Melanie Wendel and family

If you would like to read a little about Grace Wendel's life, please click on the link:

<https://www.elmhurstfh.com/obituaries/Grace-Wendel?obId=46563116>



It was so meaningful to have her grandchildren read Ecclesiastes 3:1-11. Each wore either a piece of her jewelry, her favorite color purple, and gave out her favorite fudge and recipe (below!) as a reminder of the joy in Christ that she brought to all.

**Thank you so much for your partnership with us in  
THIS GOSPEL OF HOPE**

We are faithfully supported by your prayers and financial giving.  
If you would like to increase your giving or receive prayer requests from us, you may contact us at:

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## Abuela's Chocolate Fudge Recipe

- ☐ 4 AND 1/2 CUPS SUGAR
- ☐ 2 STICKS OF BUTTER
- ☐ 1 EVAPORATED MILK (1 CAN)
- ☐ 1 13 OZ MARSHMALLOW FLUFF
- ☐ 3 SMALL PACKAGES OF CHOCOLATE CHIPS
- ☐ 1 CUP NUTS

MIX SUGAR, BUTTER, MILK. BRING IT TO A BOIL (WHEN IT'S THICK).  
BOIL 5 MINUTES. REMOVE FROM HEAT. ADD MARSHMALLOW FLUFF,  
CHOCOLATE CHIPS, AND NUTS. PUT INTO A BUTTERED 9" X 13" PAN.  
BE SURE THE CHIPS MELTED. REFRIGERATE.

This email was sent to [cheryl@cityviewcc.net](mailto:cheryl@cityviewcc.net)

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