

Memorial Minute for John Templin (Broadmead)

May 17, 1952 – September 24, 2025

John Templin was a quiet, faithful presence among Broadmead Friends from the mid-1980s until his death in September 2025.

John's first encounter with Quakers was as a small child attending the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting with his family. After moving to Bluffton, Ohio, in 1961, he and his family became active members of First Mennonite Church. He joined Broadmead's Bluffton Worship Group soon after its formation in 1983 and remained active until he moved to Toledo to live with his sister due to his health condition. During that time he remained connected with the Meeting as he was able.

John was a talented artist. He began serious artwork in high school and continued through college and graduate school. Shortly after finishing graduate school, he was diagnosed with Hemochromatosis, which forced him to live a fairly restricted life and resulted in his moving from an emphasis on painting to producing abstract designs first on graph paper with colored markers and later on the computer, using apps with specialized tools for artists. The family generously shared much of his artwork at his memorial meeting, inviting those in attendance to take any pieces of John's work that spoke to them, providing a continued connection to John.

John had a passion for social justice, especially for those both within and outside the United States borders who are poor and oppressed and are striving for a better life. For many years, he worked with a local community group in supporting refugees from Central America. Even in his greatly weakened state near the end of his life, he participated in a rally for immigrants' rights and immigration reform, organized by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee and other community groups. The family honored John's commitments by inviting those who took pieces of John's artwork to make a donation to American Friends Service Committee and/or Campaign for Migrant Worker Justice.

John remained intellectually active his entire life. He read voraciously in a wide variety of topics and audited numerous courses at Bluffton College. Though he shared his thoughts infrequently, members of the Meeting paid close attention when he did speak, knowing that his comments would be well informed and insightful.

John's quiet faithfulness was extended beyond Broadmead Monthly Meeting to Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Year after year, John staffed LEYM's Annual Meeting registration table at Bluffton University. He worked the table from morning to evening so that others on the Arrangements and Site Committee could attend sessions, knowing that John was attending to the needs of Annual Meeting participants.

Broadmead Friends are grateful for the many years John worshiped, discussed, and shared potlucks with us. We will miss his steadfastness, his subtle humor, and his wisdom.

