



## Joe Tazelaar

April 3, 1934 - March 12, 2022

Joe Tazelaar, age 87, of Royal Oak, passed away on March 12, 2022. He was born on April 3, 1934 in Arnhem, Netherlands to Lester Tazelaar and Petronella Bouwman Tazelaar. The family moved to Michigan when Joe was in grade school. He received his Bachelor of Arts at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He enjoyed teaching and his passion was singing. Joe was a member of Fort Street Presbyterian Chorale for thirty years. He also sang with other choirs including St. Paul Cathedral in Grosse Pointe. Dear brother of Mieke Tazelaar and Bill (Ruth) Tazelaar. Uncle of Amy and Emily.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2022 at 2:00 pm at Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort Street, Detroit, MI 48226.

Memorial contributions to Edward Kingins Music Memorial Fund, c/o Fort Street Presbyterian Church are appreciated.

Share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Fort Street Presbyterian Church  
631 W. Fort Street  
Detroit, MI 48226

# Tribute Wall

SF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



SM Fyer - December 07, 2025 at 12:02 AM

FF

*Don't forget the connections with the OCKK murders*

Fred Flintstone - February 27 at 02:09 PM

SF

“ *Have mercy on your soul for the actions in this world.*

SM Fyer - December 07, 2025 at 12:01 AM

DM

“ *I worked with Joe at Gerry Earl's florist. He was such a nice man and friend. He was very knowledgeable about baseball and especially the Detroit Tigers. He used to write down stats on 3 x 5 cards and hand them to me to read. I haven't talked with him in many years And I'd like to express my condolences to the family and friends David Matteson.*

David Matteson - February 13, 2025 at 01:55 AM

SF

“ I so appreciated the years Joe Tazelaar spent with us in the Fort Street Chorale. He had an enthusiasm for the music we were doing, and for the group, that was infectious and welcoming. A particular memory is him bringing a boombox to an end of year Chorale meeting to play snippets of different works that, if I recall correctly, the Chorale had done over the years, and we were supposed to remember together and identify the pieces. He was a faithful member and singer, really part of the backbone of the bass section, whether for Chorale or Worship Choir. I really appreciated learning from him each season as he did the research and then led us in historical lessons about the piece, usually writing a historical note for the concert program. A faithful, gentle, and enthusiastic spirit who made an impact on me. May he rest in peace, and may his memory be a blessing.

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**Shari Anderson Faiz** - July 21, 2022 at 05:23 PM

JC

“*Kate and my experience with Josiah spanned many Chorale seasons and many wonderful conversations with at coffee hour after worship service kat the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in downtown Detroit. We were sympatico, sharing a love of musical and that of any other subject to which we had been exposed. He loved the Detroit Tigers and invited several of us to sit with him in the stands on various occasions. We shared a sense of humor as well. Joe was a kind man open to all who came within his orbit. His musical knowledge was amazing, and he shared it with everyone, particularly the Chorale. Fort Street Chorale music director, Ed Kingins, loved him as we all did. I can't think of a person so open to life and other people. He surmounted the background wherein he was driven from his country by the Nazis and landed on his feet in America as an educator. He was what the Jews would call "a mensch."* Condolences to his family and friends.

*Jack and Kate Callas*

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**John R. Callas** - May 03, 2022 at 01:46 PM