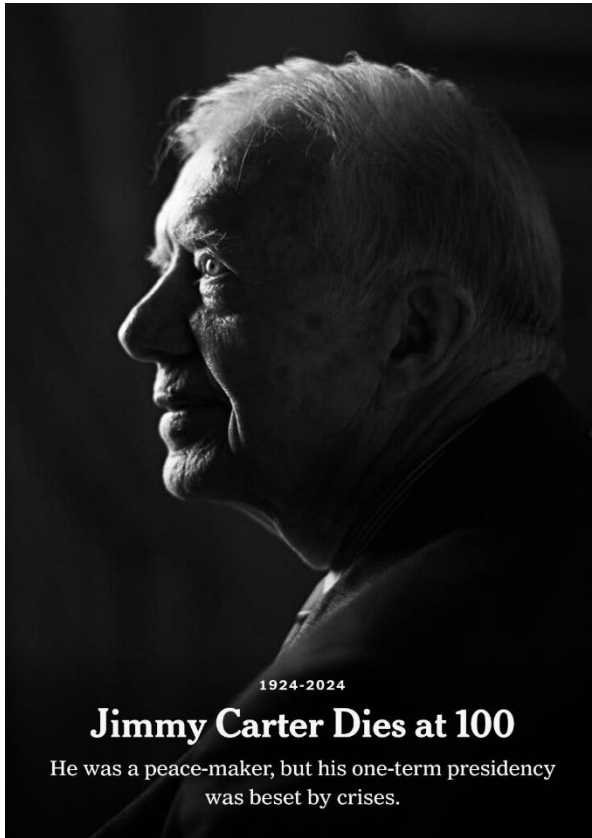




Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

January 19, 2025

"We are in this world but not of this world."



Jimmy Carter's life and presidency exemplify the impact of firm faith during public service. While I've always admired unsung heroes who quietly act out of faith or principle, Carter stands out as a unique figure in modern politics—deeply ethical and openly guided by his beliefs.

Carter's presidency (1977-1981) reflected a tension between his faith and his actions as a public servant. For instance, many people admired his personal integrity and dedication to human rights, but often criticized his political and administrative shortcomings. For instance, his human rights-based foreign policy, including withdrawing support from oppressive regimes in countries like Chile and Argentina, was inconsistent. His mismanagement of U.S. relations with Iran led to the 1979-1981 Iran Hostage Crisis, flying in the face of his moral vision.

Rooted in his Southern Baptist faith, Carter governed with a sense of moral responsibility. He

championed prison reform, equal rights for women, and environmental stewardship as governor of Georgia and later as president. His presidency emphasized the separation of church and state, a principle he upheld even when it conflicted with personal beliefs, such as his opposition to legislating prayer in schools or restricting abortion rights.

After serving as President, Carter's faith remained central. From teaching Sunday school for decades to spearheading global health initiatives and conflict resolution, he lived his progressive Christian ideals, embodying Jesus' call to build God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven."

While his presidency was undeniably a mixed bag, Jimmy Carter's legacy endures as a model of lived faith in public life, proving that moral leadership, though imperfect, can inspire and endure beyond political office.

Prayer box: let us pray for all those who grieve, especially Margo, Carol, and Gina; pray for those affected by wildfires in California and extreme weather in southern US; pray for healing for Connie, Diane M., Patti, Holland, Steve, John H., Debbie, Maggie.

Lord, hear our prayers!