



Rev. Ralph Shunk

March 10, 1926 - February 10, 2019

Rev. Ralph Shunk, age 92 of Dublin, died Sunday February 10, 2019 at his residence. Ralph was born on March 10, 1926 in Toledo Ohio to the late Samuel P. and Helen M. Shunk. He was the youngest of three boys, and all of his family has preceded him in death. He was educated in the Toledo Public Schools. After serving in the US Army Air Corps from 1944-1946, he graduated from the University of Toledo and Boston University School of Theology where he trained for the Christian Ministry. On June 30, 1951, Ralph married the love of his life, June Franklin, in Toledo. June died on September 11, 2013. He is survived by his two daughters, Linda (Larry) Tucker of Powell, and Jennifer Pye of Martha's Vineyard, MA. Two granddaughters also survive: Erin Pye and Meryl (Andrew) Wallace. After beginning his pastorate in Newtonville, MA., Ralph was ordained in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church where he served the Delhi Methodist Church and the Forest Chapel in Cincinnati. He was also pastor of the Church of the Messiah in Westerville and Monroe Street United Methodist Church in Toledo. Ralph was twice a District Superintendent and spent six years as Director of the West Ohio Conference Council on Ministries. Among other community activities, he was a long-time member of the Columbus Rotary Club. Ralph retired from active ministry in 1992, and in 2006, he and June moved to Friendship Village at Dublin. Over the years, they enjoyed family vacations on Martha's Vineyard, a pattern Ralph continued through the summer of 2018. A Memorial Service will be held at the Linworth United Methodist Church, 7070

Bent Tree Blvd Columbus Ohio 43235 on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 3:00pm with burial to follow in Toledo, Ohio at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions be made to the Friendship Village of Dublin's Resident Benevolent Fund, 6000 Riverside Drive, Dublin OH 43017 or to the Linworth United Methodist Church, Arrangements by the RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High Street Worthington.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **20**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Linworth United Methodist Church
7070 Bent Tree Blvd
Columbus, OH 43235

Tribute Wall



“ *Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Ralph Shunk*



Rutherford Funeral Homes - February 14, 2019 at 10:31 AM



“ *Rev. Ralph Shunk*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Sending final tribute with greatest respect for the life and ministry of Ralph Sunk. Ralph was my “boss” for the years undur appointment to the West Ohio CCOM staff. He supported this young clergywoman (and many others) in professional growth. With many endearing qualities Ralph was a kind friend, open hearted listener, and willing to laugh at life’s follies. May Deep Peace be his, his family’s, and all who knew him.*

Elizabeth Reed - February 20, 2019 at 02:53 PM

JW

“ I am deeply saddened by this! I would be blessed with Ralph year after year at the Trinity Church. He also was a very close friend of my families and I always loved lunches at Farm Neck with the big crew and him. I'm so sad and sorry.
Prayers to all! Julie Immelt Whelden

Julie Immelt Whelden - February 20, 2019 at 12:24 PM

SB

“ Mary Ellen and I just want to say how sorry we are for your loss. Every year we would sit on the Bell Buoy's front porch and eventually Ralph would walk towards us from the Tabernacle, sit down on a rocker, and talk about the past. Reverend Shunk went out of his way to help Rev. Philip Bell get a position in the United Methodist Church Ohio Conference, and I know my parents were forever grateful.
We will miss the long talks on the porch about our family members growing up and your family members growing up, and all the fun we all had during those years.
May God give you the peace and comfort each of you may need to get through the initial hurt of losing Ralph, but we all know he is in a better place.
Respectfully,
Stephen & Mary Ellen Bell

Stephen A. Bell - February 19, 2019 at 05:33 PM

LM

“ Linda, Jenny and girls, When I said good-bye to your Dad in the fall at church, he said the plan was to get back to the island at Christmas. His illness moved so quickly it was a shock to most of us who enjoyed seeing him in the congregation at Trinity. We were all praying for him when we heard his diagnosis. I will miss his big welcoming smile and good humor. He and your mother were a part of our MVCMA cottage front porch culture - another era - when summer evenings were spent visiting, just chatting and laughing on our porches. Happy memories. I feel for you all in your loss of a very loving father and grandfather. Ralph was a wonderful, kind man and he will be missed by many people beyond your family. Thinking of you all, Lois (Bell) Mayhew

Lois Mayhew - February 19, 2019 at 02:53 PM

SH

“ I may not make it to the service but want to express my sympathy and appreciation for Ralph. He has been a friend, colleague and mentor to me since the early '70's when I met him through our mutual friend Russ Sawmiller. As my DS Ralph was a wise counselor and wonderful support during important transitions in my career. I also enjoyed visiting with June and Ralph several times when at the Vineyard with Russ. He will be greatly missed.

Steve Harsh - February 19, 2019 at 02:36 PM

JE

“ Linda, I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Jodi Blateri Everhart

Jodi Everhart - February 17, 2019 at 10:42 AM

PJ

“ *Best District Superintendent ever. Thank you for your service to our Country, The United Methodist Church, and for your friendship. Fair Winds and Following Seas !*

Paul E. Baldrige Jr. - February 16, 2019 at 12:07 PM

CH

“ *Ralph was a wonderful pastor, administrator and friend. He was my DS twice and was always concerned for my family's interest as well as that of the West Ohio Conference. Betty and I will miss him in our monthly gatherings and yet we are superbly grateful that we have known him and served in this great conference with him.*

Charles W. Hill - February 14, 2019 at 03:30 PM

GW

“ *Dear Linda and Jennifer: We were shocked to learn of your Dad's death. The last time we saw him, in the Fall we believe, he seemed to be in good health. Both he and your mother were good friends when he served Monroe St. Church in Toledo. And both of them left an indelible impact on the congregation. We pray that, as you mourn his passing you also will celebrate a remarkable life well lived. Connie & Gordon Ward*

Gordon Ward - February 13, 2019 at 07:44 PM

AC

“ *Ralph and June attended Linworth when I was an associate pastor. They were always so supportive and kind. Ralph will be missed, I'm thankful to have known him. -Rev Andrea Cheeseman-Curry*

Andrea Curry - February 13, 2019 at 05:56 PM

MB

“ *Ralph was not only a great friend, he was a mentor to me when I first began my ministry. He taught me the value of keeping the right priorities, including taking care of yourself and your family. He will be missed by many, many people.
Our prayers are with all of you.
Mike Berne*

Michael Berne - February 13, 2019 at 02:37 PM

RL

“ *Ralph was my district superintendent and a great help to me in my ministry. He was truly a compassionate, caring man, and a mentor to many of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. -- Rev. Ben Lowell*

Rev. Ben Lowell - February 13, 2019 at 12:00 PM

PB

*Taking a chance on a new concept in co-ministry and with Bishop Loder's support, Ralph brought Gloria and me to Columbus in 1981 as co-pastors. He was a caring, competent, creative D.S. and wonderful friend then and ever after. He has now entered into the full consummation of the Faith that empowered and enriched his life. SOLI DEO GLORIA!
—Philip Brooks*

Philip Brooks - February 13, 2019 at 12:59 PM

LC

Ralph was the DS when I began my journey into ordained ministry, and was always graceful, encouraging, and uplifting. When my first appointment turned out to be Forest Chapel, we both were delighted, and felt like I already had a great connection to my new parish. What a sweet, generous servant of Christ!

Linda Carter - February 13, 2019 at 03:21 PM

SC

I will always be appreciative of Ralph's support and encouragement to me in my ministry. It was a great joy one day on a family vacation to encounter Ralph when we arrived at Martha's Vineyard! We had no idea he would be there. It was totally unexpected, but there he was welcoming us with a big smile! I could never think of Ralph again without recalling that "chance" encounter. He treated us kindly - maybe even to an ice cream cone! Thank you Lord, for the sweet memory of this moment in time, and we entrust Ralph to you and your care. Perhaps you can use him to greet many more on another distant shore!

Steve Cramer - February 13, 2019 at 05:39 PM

DK

Ralph and I were both dear friends of Charlie Kirsch. Ralph and June became friends to me and my wife Judy over the years. I always wanted to sit with Ralph at dinners and other Conference events over the years. He was kind and funny, perceptive and honest. If I were not 1100 miles away, I would surely be at his service. He was a giant in an era of giants in our Conference. Blessings to you all.

Dan Kiger

Dan Kiger - February 13, 2019 at 07:29 PM

BD

Ralph and June were very special to us. The first time we met - June was telling our daughter Janet how much Lenn and I would like to be part of Forest Chapel. Our experience at Forest Chapel was enriched by the mentoring of Ralph and June. I learned a lot about tithing and serving the church. Had the opportunity to fly to Martha's Vineyard and have a wonderful visit with Ralph and June - They have enriched my life and touched the people of faith in such a meaningful way Betty (Geiger) Darst

Betty Darst - February 14, 2019 at 07:31 AM