



William "Bill" Tolliver

March 9, 1933 - April 8, 2026

Rev. William T. Tolliver, Jr. March 9, 1933 – April 8, 2026

Born in Nashville, Wisconsin in a one room log cabin. Son of the late Correna "Corda" Blevins Poynter (Calvert Poynter) and William T. Tolliver, Sr.

Predeceased by sisters Myrliah (Wendell) Ison, Beulah (John) Dreblow, Jenny (Clester) Cox, and Aleta Tolliver. Survived by wife of 70 years Emma Lee Tolliver, children Sharon (Mark) Groves, Kim Tolliver (Jeanette Belz), William (Diana) T. Tolliver, III. Grandchildren Julie Houston, Andrew Houston, Micheal Tolliver, Matt (Katie) Tolliver, Maria Fernanda Tolliver and great-grandson G.T. Tolliver.

Graduate of Frenchburg, Kentucky Presbyterian Mission School where he was awarded the Outstanding Boy of Kentucky Award, 3rd place in Kentucky for Serious Monologues, sang in the All-Kentucky State Chorus and selected to meet Mr. JC Penney through the Allied Youth Program promoting alcohol abstinence.

Attended Asbury College (1951-1955), majoring in speech and dramatics and minoring in French and English. He moved to Dayton, Ohio where he taught English and speech for two years while also preaching at a nearby church.

Rev. Tolliver graduated from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio in

1960 and was ordained into the Methodist Church. He served many churches through Ohio including Van Buren Street (Dayton) Methodist Church, South Point (1960-1963) and Heath (1963-1967).

From 1967-1969, Rev. Tolliver took a leave of absence and moved to Dayton so Emma Lee could complete her bachelor's in education at Wright State University. During this time, he worked at a tool and die shop and pursued a master's in counseling and guidance at Wright State University.

He returned to the ministry and served Amelia United Methodist Church (1969-1974), East North Broadway UMC (Columbus 1974-1980), Canal Winchester (1980-1983), Maynard Ave. (Columbus 1983-1990), Walnut Hill (Columbus 1990-1993), and Cedar Hill/Hoy UMC (1993-1995).

Rev. Tolliver retired from active ministry in 1995 and enjoyed hobbies including carpentry, hunting, fishing, gardening, and bee keeping.

As a member of the Columbus Central Ohio Beekeepers and with his friend John Schreiber (deceased) he built beehives, responded to bee swarms, sold honey through Weilands in Columbus, Ohio and at one point had 45 hives throughout central Ohio. He was awarded the Beekeeper of the Year in 2010 for outstanding service to Central Ohio Beekeeper's Association. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge of bees and helping promote the art of bee keeping.

Visitation will be Tuesday, April 14th from 10-noon at the Maple Grove United Methodist Church, Columbus, Ohio with services immediately following at noon in the church sanctuary with Rev. Jeremy Moyers presiding. Burial will be in Perryville, Kentucky on April 16th.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

416 West Second Street
Perryville, KY 40468

Previous Events

Viisitation

APR **14**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Maple Grove United Methodist Church
7 West Henderson Rd.
Columbus, OH 43214

Funeral Service

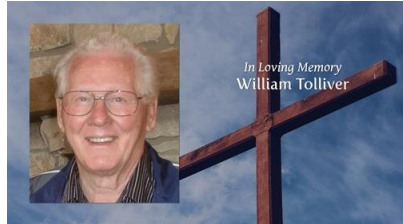
APR **14**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Maple Grove United Methodist Church
7 West Henderson Rd.
Columbus, OH 43214

Tribute Wall



“ Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Tolliver



Rutherford Funeral Homes - April 10 at 03:53 PM

RH

Till we meet again, we have fond memories of each of you, his family. God bless and keep you all. Howard Hughes family. Amelia Methodist church much love.

Rosalynne Hughes - April 14 at 10:30 AM

JC

“ Jillian, Joan, Jim Chapman purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of William "Bill" Tolliver.



Jillian, Joan, Jim Chapman - April 13 at 08:28 PM

JP

“ Jane P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Tolliver.

Jane P. - April 13 at 04:40 PM

CA

“ Central Ohio Beekeepers Association purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of William "Bill" Tolliver.



Central Ohio Beekeepers Association - April 13 at 11:08 AM

JL

“ Jean L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Tolliver.

Jean L. - April 12 at 12:41 PM

BH

“ Kim & family- My condolences for your loss of Bill. While I didn't know him, his obituary shows quite an impressive life- including being a beekeeper! May your many memories provide comfort during this difficult time. Becky Hauserman

Becky Hauserman - April 11 at 10:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Tolliver.

April 11 at 05:06 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Tolliver.



April 11 at 05:06 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Tolliver.



April 10 at 07:35 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Tolliver.

April 10 at 07:35 PM



“ I remember Bill when he served at North Broadway UMC. He was a preacher and a teacher and was a warm and kind person. The last time I saw him was at Maple Grove UMC at a Christmas Eve service, maybe two years ago. I re-introduced myself, and he smiled and said how nice it was to see me..
I'm not sure if he remembered me, but I sure did remember him and I still do. Thank you, God for his service to you and your people.
Love and sympathy to all his family at this time of sadness.
Remember the love!

Jill Huber - April 10 at 02:44 PM