



Pastor Donald Lee Wood

NOV 27, 1941 - SEP 27, 2017



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 4
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Pastor Donald Lee Wood

NOV 27, 1941 - SEP 27, 2017

Pastor Donald L. Wood, 75, passed away Wednesday morning, September 27, 2017 in Muskegon. He was born November 27, 1941 in Grove City, PA, and moved to West Michigan as a child. Don was always very active in his community. He served as a teacher at Beach Elementary School, was Principal at Edgewood Elementary and at Whitehall Public Schools, was the Executive Director of Love, INC, had been the Camp Director at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and concluded as the Pastor at Fruitport Congregational UCC, before retiring. Don would like to be remembered as a lover of Christ, a Father, a Friend, a compassionate and caring man, a sport's lover (go Cubs), and an Educator. He is survived by 3 children, Tami (Todd) Zielinski, Bill (Andrea) Wood, Betsy (Clint) Six; 9 grandchildren, Andy Oesterlin, Abigail Wood, Oscar Wood, Jordan Six, Jacob Six, Lauryn Six, Ava Six, Ryan Zielinski and Jared Zielinski. A service to celebrate Pastor Don's life will be held Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 11:00 AM at the Fruitport Congregational UCC, 9 S. Eighth St., Fruitport. Visitation with the family will be held 1 hour prior to the service. You may visit the family's online guestbook at www.sytsemafh.com. Contributions in memory of Pastor Don may be made to the Fruitport Congregational UCC or the Fruitport Lions. Arrangements by The Lee Chapel, 6291 S. Harvey St., (231) 798-1100.



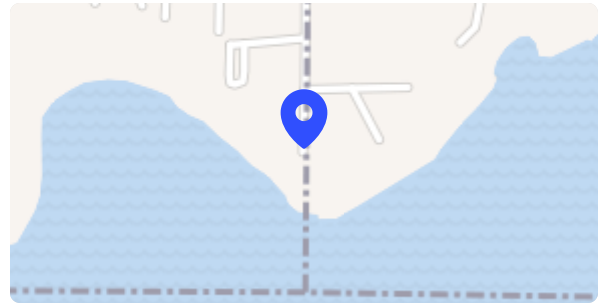
Celebration of Life

 **Tuesday**, October 3, 2017

 11:00 AM ET

 **Fruitport Congregational United Church of Christ**

9 S. 8th. Ave., Fruitport MI



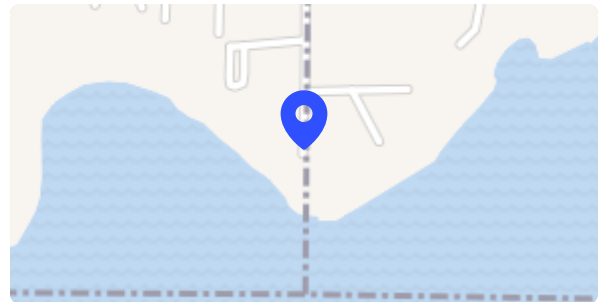
Visitation

 **Tuesday**, October 3, 2017

 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

 **Fruitport Congregational United Church of Christ**

9 S. 8th. Ave., Fruitport MI





Tribute Wall

Pastor Donald Lee Wood

NOV 27, 1941 - SEP 27, 2017



Jody Betten posted:

I appreciated Don's warm pastoral heart. He was a joy to work with! May God's peace be with you in this time of celebration and mourning! Rev. Jody Betten

October 2 at 9:37 AM



Campbell Lovett posted:

The churches of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ give thanks for the life and legacy of Pastor Don Wood - pastor, teacher, educator, principal. Our clergy and laity join everyone else in sharing condolences with the family and committing to memory all that was noble and good about this faithful servant.

October 2 at 9:30 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Wood family.



October 2 at 7:29 AM



Mike Leak-Trinity Reformed Church lit a candle in honor of Donald.



October 1 at 4:58 PM

MC **Mike Leak-Trinity Reformed Church** October 1 at 5:00 PM

Don was a mentor to me and a good friend during my lay ministry training with the UCC. Mike Leak-Pastoral Assistant-Trinity Reformed Church



Tom Tuori posted:

My condolences to the Wood Family. Tom Tuori

October 1 at 8:36 AM



Tribute Wall

Pastor Donald Lee Wood

NOV 27, 1941 - SEP 27, 2017



Marianna Nelson posted:

Pastor Don was a "gentle man" - there was never any doubt which Master he served and he served hlm well. Not only will he be missed by his family, but by his friends, his church, and his community. He served us all well. Marianna and Dick Nelson

September 30 at 5:15 AM



Kay Hammond posted:

Sorry to see of Don's passing. He was a year ahead of me in high school, but he was a good friend. He truly was a gift of God during his life here. God just got a great guy.

September 29 at 12:46 PM



Alice Szpieg October 1 at 3:43 PM

Don was one of the best principals I ever had. I worked with don on many races during old fashioned days. I always enjoyed his enthusiasm and work ethics. He will be missed. Sincere sympathy to the family



Ted Diamond posted:

Don went from my principal at Edgewood to neighbor to hiring me at Blue Lake. He invested in people, he invested in me. Will always be grateful. Always loved going to The Principal's Office for ice cream after a baseball game - another investment in the community he served.

September 29 at 7:45 AM



Bill / Pat Adams lit a candle in honor of Donald.



September 29 at 5:04 AM



Shanda Zaharako posted:

Tammy and family, so sorry for your loss. May many pleasant memories help you through days and weeks ahead. Shanda Zaharako

September 29 at 12:09 AM



Tribute Wall

Pastor Donald Lee Wood

NOV 27, 1941 - SEP 27, 2017

AJ

Autumn Jeffrey posted:

He was my principal and I'll always have great memories of him

September 28 at 5:24 PM

FW

Fred And Coral Wenell posted:

Don was a caring and Christ devoted man and will truly be missed by all of us at Fruitport Congregational Church. What a beautiful legacy! Fred and Coral Wenell

September 28 at 4:18 PM

KA

Karma lit a candle in honor of Donald.

Mr.Wood was principal at Edgewood when I was there .He was a nice man and will be missed

September 28 at 1:37 PM



BM

Buck Matthews posted:

Don and I were colleagues at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and it's easy to remember his kindness, his gentle nature, and his integrity. I regret that we lost touch in later years. His goodness rubbed off on all of us who knew him. Buck Matthews.

September 28 at 11:24 AM

RS

Rhonda Spyke posted:

I have many fond memories of Mr. Wood from being the P.E. teacher at Beach Jr. High, my children's principal at Edgewood and doing a wonderful celebration of life for my father when he passed away. My heart is saddened by the loss of such a wonderful man, but Heaven has gained a new angel.R.I.P. Mr. WoodRhonda Wilson, Spyke

September 28 at 10:50 AM



Tribute Wall

Pastor Donald Lee Wood

NOV 27, 1941 - SEP 27, 2017

BK

Bill Kasmauski lit a candle in honor of Donald.

I remember Mr Wood as the principal at Edgewood while I was there. He was always a very kind man. Always soft spoken. I also remember the ice cream place that he had in Fruitport called The Principal's Office He was great man. My sincerest condolences to the family.

September 28 at 9:18 AM



LS

Lona Swanson lit a candle in honor of Donald.

Our sympathy to the Wood family. Don will be so missed. Don so loved his gospel and country music and attended so many of the concerts. His office at church had their pictures on all walls. As I also attended many of the gospel concerts would see him. Also had them come to give concerts at our church. He did so much for so many. Lona and Bruce Swanson

September 28 at 8:24 AM



TY

Tamara Yonkers posted:

What a beautiful person. He gave our community of Fruitport a lot support and comfort. He will be missed. Tamara A Yonkers.

September 28 at 6:34 AM

AN

X posted:

I grew up with Don as a Pastor at Fruitport UCC. He was such a good human being spreading love and support wherever he went. He will be missed.

September 28 at 6:13 AM

CC

Curt Clark posted:

Don (who I'll always know as Mr. Wood) was the principal when I transferred into Edgewood Elementary in the 2nd Grade, and he and Sunny remained a major part of my Fruitport experience throughout my time there, right through high school graduation. Educator, neighbor and friend...he will be missed dearly.

September 28 at 5:18 AM



Tribute Wall

Pastor Donald Lee Wood

NOV 27, 1941 - SEP 27, 2017



Valerie Vollbach Dasbach posted:

My memories of Don at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp are priceless. His smile, his humor, his friendship. I was blessed to have him touch my life. You will be missed. Prayers to Sonny and his family!

September 28 at 3:09 AM



Elaine White lit a candle in honor of Donald.

Such a big part of our family, from giving me a space for my first Brownie troop to the baptism of my kids (now teenagers). Boy the kids were a bundle for him to carry and introduce but he would always say it was the best part of his job! Always ready with a smile and kind word...remembered and loved always!



September 27 at 7:08 PM



Angela Strandberg lit a candle in honor of Donald.

Mr. Wood was always kind. He was the principal at Edgewood when my sister and I were in school. Even in the last few years as I saw him he would always ask how everything was and still had that soft spoken voice. My deepest sympathy to the Wood Family. Angela Strandberg (Sokolowski)



September 27 at 7:05 PM



Pat Essebaggers lit a candle in honor of Donald.

Don was the principal at Edgewood Elementary when both of our children were students there in the 1970's and 1980's. He was the most kind and caring man in that position. Over the years of Susan and Kevin attending Fruitport Schools and college, Don followed their achievements and accomplishments, and would always send them a note to let them know how proud he was of them. That meant so much to them, as well as Jerry and me. His kindness touched so many young lives over the years. Rest in peace, our friend. We send our sincere sympathy to the entire Wood family! Sincerely, Jerry, Pat, Kevin Essebaggers, and Susan Essebaggers Hackney



September 27 at 6:53 PM



Tribute Wall

Pastor Donald Lee Wood

NOV 27, 1941 - SEP 27, 2017

SB

Shawn Buttimer lit a candle in honor of Donald.

Mr. Wood will always be in the memories of my childhood. I will never forget when I fell off the playground equipment at Edgewood and twisted my arm. He came out, told me I would be OK, dried the tears and carried me to the nurse. I'll never forget his kindness. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Shawn Buttimer (Wagenmaker)

September 27 at 5:56 PM



PC

Patricia Coira lit a candle in honor of Donald.

So many wonderful memories come to mind when I think of Don. Words could never express the impact he had on my life, and his friendship and unconditional love was unlike any other. Its hard to believe he is gone. He will be missed by so many, but I take comfort in knowing he is home, and at peace. I love you Don, until we meet again.

September 27 at 5:55 PM



RR

Rick Rettinhouse lit a candle in honor of Donald.

MR. Wood was my principal at Edgewood, he was a great man.

September 27 at 5:00 PM



DC

Dan Churchill lit a candle in honor of Donald.

September 27 at 4:56 PM





Tribute Wall

Pastor Donald Lee Wood

NOV 27, 1941 - SEP 27, 2017

DW

Doug Wood posted:

I owe so much to this man. He was my first track and cross country coach and I gained so much in the way of growth and maturity - as a runner and as a human being. He moved to the elementary principle position in my junior year. I was sad to lose him as a coach but he then worked with (some might say for) my mother - Marge Wood at Edgewood. He became the "other Don Wood" in her life as my dad's name was also Don. They had a lot of fun together though Margie complained of having to break in this "young whippersnapper" after having worked for Lloyd Brown for so many years. Don became a friend as I grew older and tried to find employment at Fruitport after graduating from WMU. It was tough time in the district but he remained positive and encouraged me at every turn and obstacle. He supported my moving to Kalamazoo and assured me opportunities were there for me. When I moved back to Muskegon after 32 years in Kalamazoo, Don and I were able to reestablish a friendship. Though our schedules rarely meshed, I so appreciated that grin and his words of approval and concern for my family and our adventures. I know how much he loved his family, his involvement with Fruitport Schools, the Lion's Club and especially his service to God. Don - you will be missed by many. Thank you for all you have meant to me. I trust you know how important you have been, and will continue to be, in my life.

September 27 at 4:32 PM

CJ

Charlie Jackson posted:

Sorry to hear this. Mr Wood was the principal at Edgewood when I was there. Good man.

September 27 at 2:59 PM

CS

Cheryl Snow September 29 at 3:58 PM

Don was a wonderful pastor and friend. Always willing to listen and counsel. Brought prayer shawls & prayers to both my adult children when they had surgery, they are not members of our church. We miss him. As mentioned previously, Heaven has gained a beautiful soul

TF

The George Rogers Family September 28 at 1:42 PM

Don was a part of our families life throughout many years for our 5 children. He was a kind man and so generous with his time. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him in our community. Rest in peace old friend.

PD

Paula Doctor September 28 at 9:54 AM

Don was the best. He allowed me to have a Bible class in the elementary school and he encouraged me to have a Bible study in his church. He was gracious, kind and helpful. I sure remember him with lots of affection.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit