



Rev. Ronald T. Woodruff

August 20, 1928 - March 9, 2020

Rev. Ronald T. Woodruff, 91, of Woodstock, formerly of Huntley passed away March 9, 2020, in Highland Park.

He was born Aug. 20, 1928, in Rochester, NY the son of Donald and Caroline (Rising) Woodruff. Ronald was a 1952 graduate of Union College and earned his Masters of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School in 1955. He married Cora Dechert at the Central Presbyterian Church in Buffalo on July 30, 1955, and spent the remainder of the summer touring Europe before he began his duties at the Federated Church in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. For the next 26 years, he served as their Associate Minister, with responsibilities revolving around the church's youth program. Many young men and women fondly remember the retreats, activities, and work camps that he led over the years as well as the profound impact that he had on their lives. In 1982 he moved to Huntley where he assumed his position as the pastor of the First Congregational Church. Upon his retirement in 2001, he and Cora moved to Woodstock and became active members of the First Congregational Church of Crystal Lake. He was very involved in Habitat for Humanity of McHenry Co. and worked on building many affordable homes for families. He also served as a Fire Chaplain in Huntley for many years, as well as remained active in the United Church of Christ in many different capacities.

He is survived by his children, Brian Woodruff, David (Kim) Woodruff, and

Debbie Woodruff; grandchildren, Ben Woodruff, Cody & Tyler Messick, and Madelyn Woodruff; and 2 nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Cora on April 14, 2005; and sister, Sue Glick.

Graveside Services will be at 11 am on Monday, March 16, at Oakland Cemetery, 13603 Co. Hwy 30 in Woodstock.

Visitation will be on Sunday, March 15 from 2 to 5 pm at James A. O'Connor Funeral Home, 11603 E. Main St., Huntley.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in his name may be directed to Habitat for Humanity of McHenry Co., PO Box 1166, McHenry, IL 60051

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 15. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

James A. O'Connor Funeral Home
11603 E. Main PO Box 74
Huntley, IL 60142
(847) 669-5111
jaoconnorfh@att.net

Graveside Service

MAR 16. 11:00 AM (CT)

Oakland Cemetery
13603 Co Hwy 30
Woodstock, IL 60098

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Ronald T. Woodruff*

January 17, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *My condolences to Ron's family. As fellow clergy, I remember Ron at many events while he pastored in the Fox Valley Association of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. He had a heart for youth. He cared for all. He now has the joy of Eternal Rest.*
Rev. Susan Tyrrel

Rev. Susan Tyrrel - March 16, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ *Ron (or Mr. Ron to my boys) was my next door neighbor here in Woodstock. I spent many afternoons chatting with him on his porch listening to his stories and learning about his life and family. He especially enjoyed talking about his Betsy Ross flag! I will cherish the memories of our chats. I am blessed God had us be neighbors.*
Yvonne Morrison

Yvonne M Morrison - March 15, 2020 at 09:44 PM

LK

“ Reverend Ron cared for his flock like no one I’ve met since. His love for children was a shining light at the church when we attended. As a single Mom, participation in the choir, midnight services and the rummage sale were available to me because of his willingness to open the doors (and couch) of his office for rambunctious and sleepy children. My first full time job came through him via his lovey daughter Debbie. My family will always have the fondest memories of UCC Huntley, in large part due to Reverend Ron. RIP dear man.
❤️ Lynne Kern (DeAlmeida)

Lynne Kern - March 11, 2020 at 07:06 PM

GK

“ Ron allowed me to work with him in leading the First Congregational church as the Associate Pastor. When Ron needed some time off he put me in charge as a Licsenced Lay Minister. Ron helped me become who I am now. When we moved to Las Vegas, NV I was able to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbytery of Nevada, and Grace Presbyterian Church. Thank you Ron, you helped me find a calling within the religious society. For that I am Greatful! I look forward to our reconnection in heaven. Blessings on you for your work and on your family.
We remember our trips to Wisconsin and the fun we had eating at the great resaurants on the pennsula, and the Pastor's house rented. "If it is brown flush it down. If it is yellow let it mellow". Ah the joys of country plumbing!!!

Gary Koon - March 11, 2020 at 01:21 AM

TS

“ Ron and Cora were true friends and my wife, Carol and I had many laughs and good times with these 2 wonderful people. Carol and I extend our condolences to the family. People like the Woodruffs only come along once in a life if we are lucky. I treasure them in my heart. Terry & Carol Samer

Terry L. Samer - March 10, 2020 at 06:39 PM

DE

Ron married my oldest daughter, baptized two of my nephews, one great nephew and my granddaughter, Courtney all in the same service. He had a special way of making me feel part of a great big family. I especially loved the way he catered to the children and let them know how important they were to the Church. He will be greatly missed. Up until a few years ago he was still sending Courtney birthday cards every year. My condolences to his family and may they share their favorite memories during this time.

delores evans

delores evans - March 11, 2020 at 07:55 PM

NA

Rev Ron was one the best ministers that we could have had. Both my boys were in the youth group and my daughter in-law all were in the youth group and attended the work camp. Ron and I were also went on several of the work camps and I have some many of great memories. I would also take the kids with Ron to Great America. He confirmed Scott and Mark and married both of them. I will always remember what a great minister and person he was. God bless you Ron

Nancy - March 12, 2020 at 10:11 PM