



Rev. W. Bennett Harris

December 16, 1957 - October 25, 2023

Rev. W. Bennett Harris, 65, of Jonestown, passed away on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at the Hershey Medical Center. He was the husband of Robin J. Hendrix Harris. On June 8th, they celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary.

Born in Tarboro, NC on December 16, 1957, he was the son of the late Wilbur C. and Carol Ann Pitt Harris. He was a 1976 graduate of South Edgecombe HS, Pinetops, NC. He attended East Carolina University from 1976-78 but left before they kicked him out. He worked in Atlantic Beach, NC in various jobs trying to figure himself out until 1984 when he felt the call of God to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

He went back to school at Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, NC and graduated with honors with a degree in religion and philosophy in 1987. He went on to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, PA and graduated with honors in Church History and a Master of Divinity in 1991. He was ordained on May 29, 1992, into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Bennett's first call was to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, NC (1992-94). He then went on to serve Daniels Lutheran Church, Lincolnton, NC from 1994-2000. In January 2001 he moved north of the Mason Dixon Line, when he was called to serve the Mt. Zion Lutheran Parish (Zoar, Lebanon and St. John, Fredericksburg). He served there faithfully for 22 1/2 years. In 2011 he led his two congregations through the process of affiliation with the North American Lutheran Church.

Bennett loved to read theology, especially C.S. Lewis. He enjoyed golf and was very sad when his physical limitations kept him from playing. He also loved Batman, Godzilla, Turner Classic Movies, southern rock music, and anything fried with extra pepper on it. But his greatest joy was his family. Bennett had many struggles in his life. He recovered from alcohol addiction in 1984 and remained sober since then. He battled other demons and was never shy about speaking about them to those who needed to hear. He was a human being like the rest of us.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children Anna E. wife of Ben Christman of Malden, MA, Rachel C. Harris of Lititz, Samuel B. Harris of Folcroft, and Lillian R. Anderson at home, and his sister G. Caroline Braswell of Ayden, NC.

The viewing for Pastor Harris will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory, Jonestown. The funeral liturgy will be on Thursday, November 2, at 11:00 a.m. at Zoar Lutheran Church, 560 Freeport Rd., Lebanon, with a viewing beginning at 9:00 a.m. until the start of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Mt. Zion Parish, 560 Freeport Rd., Lebanon, PA 17046.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

NOV 1. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kreamer & Lum Funeral Home & Crematory
5 Campmeeting Road
Jonestown, PA 17038
(717) 865-5215

Public Viewing

NOV 2. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church
560 Freeport Rd.
Lebanon, PA

Funeral Service

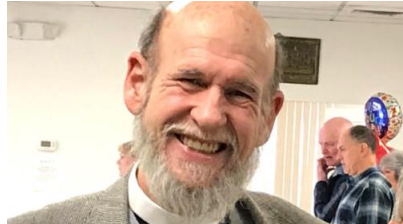
NOV 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church
560 Freeport Rd.
Lebanon, PA

Tribute Wall



“ *Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. W. Bennett Harris*



Kreamer Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. - October 30, 2023 at 02:35 PM

JB

“ *Caroline and Bennetts family
....thinking of you! Jenny lou Webb bottoms*

jenny nicholson bottoms - October 29, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of
Rev. W. Bennett Harris.*



October 29, 2023 at 06:06 PM

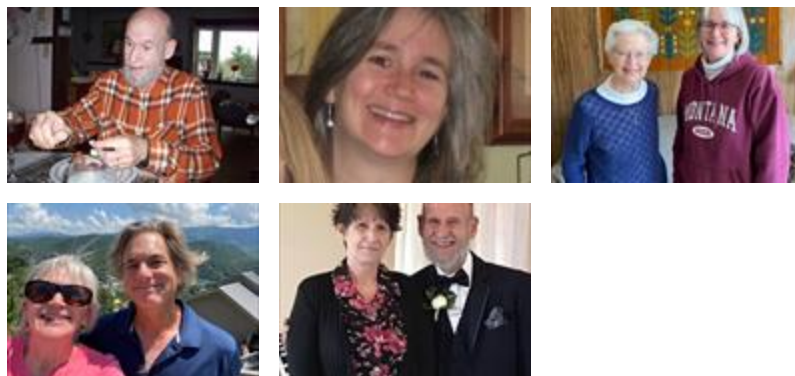
GW

“ *Caroline, so sorry to hear about Bennett. Prayers to you and entire family.*

Georgia Webb - October 29, 2023 at 10:10 AM

BM

“ 6 files added to the album Macaulay Picture Memories of Rev. W. Bennett Harris and Robin J. Hendrix Harris



Bertha Macaulay - October 28, 2023 at 07:25 PM

VW

“ I am blessed with many memories of our high school years. Always so kind and thoughtful. May you Rest In Peace my friend. Prayers for family and friends. 🕊️🕊️

Vickie Briley Webb - October 28, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. W. Bennett Harris.



October 27, 2023 at 09:15 PM

PR

“ High school would have never been the same without Bennett. Such a loving old soul then. Prayers for all....

Pat Harrell Raper - October 27, 2023 at 05:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rev. W. Bennett Harris.

October 27, 2023 at 12:30 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. W. Bennett Harris.



October 27, 2023 at 12:30 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rev. W. Bennett Harris.



October 27, 2023 at 11:52 AM



“ There is so much to say about Pastor...he wrote and delivered the best sermons ever, he was loving, always giving hugs and smiles, always had the right words to say to make you feel better or make you laugh! Because of the trials in his life, it made him more able to relate to all of us who love God but still struggle. He was part of our family...he confirmed and married both my sons and was there for us when we needed his council. Both my parents loved and respected him as well. My Mamma thought he was a wonderful preacher and person. She left her home church to become a member of St John's Lutheran Church because she believed Pastor was the best and really knew God's Word.
We love you and will miss you so much "Pastor B"!
Thank you for being our Shepard❤️
Much love and continued prayers to you Robin and your family.
Erica G.

Erica Grumbine - October 27, 2023 at 10:55 AM

CF

“ God needed you as much as We all did and God Rules!

Chick and David Forry - October 27, 2023 at 10:38 AM

LO

“ Robin, my condolences to you and family! We all loved Pastor Bennett...he was such a kind and down-to-earth man. My mother Elizabeth adored him, he was truly a blessing to her! They are both now rejoicing in Heaven, free from their pain. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Robin! Love, Lorrie (Erica's sister)

Lorrie - October 27, 2023 at 10:31 AM

LU

Thinking of you. Sorry for your loss Robin. Prayers to you and your family.

Lucille - November 01, 2023 at 04:38 PM