



Pastor Russell H. Whitener

February 27, 1947 - September 24, 2022

Pastor Russell H. Whitener, 75, of New Martinsville, WV, faithful servant of Jesus, was surrounded by his family at his home when he received his eternal reward September 24, 2022.

Born February 27, 1947, in Hickory, NC, Russell was the son of Henry & Madlean Whitener.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and one grandson, Zechariah Casteel.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, love of his life for 56 years: Judy Graves Whitener; two brothers, Allen Whitener of Bastrop, TX, and Randy Whitener of Las Vegas, NV; a sister, Anita Sue Arthur of Bastrop, TX; two daughters, Jewelie (Paul) Casteel of Blanchester, OH and Angela (Mark) Day of Wheeling, WV; three grandsons, Nathaniel (Amanda) Casteel of Middletown, OH, Joshua Casteel of Washington, D.C. and Jude Day of Wheeling, WV; four granddaughters, Abigail (Micah) Casteel of Cincinnati, OH, Sarah Casteel of Blanchester, OH, Ivy Day and Marlowe Day of Wheeling, WV; two great-grandsons, Eli Casteel & Lincoln Casteel and a host of nieces, nephews, and other extended family, church family and close friends.

Known to most as Pastor Russ, he was a humble man of God, devoted husband, dad, and grandfather affectionately known as Big Pops. One of his great joys was having all his family together with a houseful of laughter, though his true passion was doing the Lord's work.

Russell graduated from Gulf Coast Bible College in 1971 with a BA in Bible & Theology, held a MA in Biblical Studies from Wesley Seminary in 1981 and a Masters in Divinity from Anderson University in 1990.

For almost 50 years, Russ served as an evangelical Pastor in the Church of God (Anderson, IN). He served alongside many great men and women of God in churches throughout the country, specifically churches in Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Louisiana, and his last ministry in New Martinsville, West Virginia for over 14 years (2002-2016).

His joy was found in preaching the Gospel, visiting, teaching, and discipling all generations and specifically men for the furthering and continuance of the Kingdom of God.

He was active in Church of God State Leadership offices, chaplaincy, church planting, mentoring, was a friend to all, and faithful man of God who will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

His heart's desire was for everyone to come to faith in Jesus, love one another and be more like Jesus. (Philippians 2:5-11)

Family will receive friends on Wednesday from 11am until the time of the funeral services at 1pm at the New Martinsville First Church of God (Anderson, IN) 255 Russell Avenue, New Martinsville, WV with Pastors Dan Betts & Paul Casteel officiating.

Graveside services and burial will be in Northview Cemetery. Friends & family will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to: First Church of God 255 Russell Avenue, New Martinsville, WV.

Cemetery Details

Northview Cemetery

219 N. State Rt. 2
New Martinsville, WV 26155

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 28. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First Church of God
255 Russell Avenue
New Martinsville, WV 26155

Funeral Service

SEP 28. 1:00 PM (ET)

First Church of God
255 Russell Avenue
New Martinsville, WV 26155

Tribute Wall



“ *Grisell Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Pastor Russell H. Whitener*



Grisell Funeral Homes - September 27, 2022 at 01:43 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Pastor Russell H. Whitener.*



September 28, 2022 at 07:18 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Pastor Russell H. Whitener.*



September 27, 2022 at 01:15 PM



“ 119 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Grisell Funeral Homes - September 27, 2022 at 11:34 AM



“ *Blandchester Church of Christ purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Pastor Russell H. Whitener.*



Blandchester Church of Christ - September 27, 2022 at 09:20 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Pastor Russell H. Whitener.*



September 26, 2022 at 07:42 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor Russell H. Whitener.*



September 26, 2022 at 05:36 PM



“ *Judy, our prayers are with you and your family. You and Russ have a special place in our hearts and memories of our time at GBC. Thank you both for your compassion and listening ears. May our blessed Lord comfort you and give you peaceful rest. We love you.*

Karl and Linda Hartmann - September 26, 2022 at 12:36 PM



“ *Judy and family, my heart aches for each of you. I know you all find solace in the fact that A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD NOW RESIDES IN THE LORD'S HOUSE. Pastor Russ led me to God, and I was truly lucky to know such a fine and caring human being. THE WORLD WAS BLESSED BY HIS PRESENCE, AND HE IS NOW GRACED IN GOD'S PRESENCE. Much love as my thoughts are with you at this time.*

Curt Lindner

Curt Lindner - September 26, 2022 at 09:50 AM

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“ Russ was a gentle, kind and authentic follower of Jesus. I have many memories of our meetings together as a small group of pastors in West Virginia. We shared our struggles, creative ideas, we passed wisdom from one brother to another, we encouraged each other, and we prayed for each other. We certainly had many times of outrageous laughter! God's church certainly benefited from Russ' devoted leadership, biblical preaching and love of people. In our culture the little guys from the little churches are rarely recognized or celebrated but Russ was an example of a God called man who lived his life with integrity. Our best to Judy who was there to support him all the way to the end.

Brian Harrell - September 26, 2022 at 09:41 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Pastor Russell H. Whitener.



September 26, 2022 at 07:46 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Pastor Russell H. Whitener.



September 25, 2022 at 04:54 PM