



Rev. James Anton Winters

October 1, 1937 - August 1, 2023

The Reverend James A. Winters went to be with God on August 1, 2023 at the age of 85 and just sixteen days before his 60th wedding anniversary to wife, Suzanne.

Jim was born to Jacob and Helen Winters in Mountain Lake, MN on October 1, 1937, and raised, the youngest of four boys, on a farm in nearby Bingham Lake. He attended a one-room schoolhouse during his early years and graduated in the Class of '55 from Mountain Lake High School. Spring of 1959 saw Jim earn a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science/ Minor in English from Anderson College in Indiana. He did his graduate work at the Oberlin School of Theology in Oberlin, Ohio, eventually obtaining a Masters of Divinity from Vanderbilt University when the two programs merged. In 1984, he would take the family on a Sabbatical to California where he did Doctoral studies at The Claremont School of Theology.

While at Oberlin, he met Suzanne Kimes whom he married August 17, 1963.

From this union were born four children: David Carroll (March 6, 1967-March 7, 1967), Richard Erik, Elizabeth Ann "Lisa," and Stephen James. He was greatly beloved as a husband and father.

Jim's favorite avocation was photography which captured the many good times this family had, especially from the various interesting trips he took them on through our vast, beautiful country. Jim had a newspaper column called "Just So" and wrote, directed, and starred in a play entitled "The Riverboat Follies" while at Anderson College. He would joke that sometimes he forgot

his lines during play practice even though he had written the script! Jim founded the Douglas County Camera Club, was a member of Rotary, acted in several community productions through the Alexandria Area Arts Association, and directed the church youth in many a touching Christmas performance. He had a gift for bringing out the best in young and old alike.

Through kindness and understanding, he forged many beautiful relationships, visited numerous parishioners in need, and was well liked by all who knew him. In his sermons and conversation, he had a gift for explaining the profound understandably. Both his children and grandchildren have fond memories of playing basketball and watching sports with Dad/Grandpa. Jim and Sue enjoyed almost daily games of Scrabble and a weekly, computer version of the game with son Steve and friends "McHugh" and "Bogda." In his retirement, Jim looked forward to weekly Wednesday morning breakfasts with other former pastors in the Indianapolis area. Jim was an avid reader his entire life even as his eyesight almost completely failed him.

As his field work at Oberlin, Jim served a United Brethren Church in Ceylon, Ohio, and also spent a summer serving various congregations throughout the Hawai'ian Islands. After graduation, he and Suzanne moved to Hopkins, MN where he served at Mizpah Congregational until 1967 and then to Alexandria, Minnesota where he shepherded the First Congregational United Church of Christ for 21 years (until 1988) and where all their children were born. Their family moved to Arlington Heights, Illinois where Jim led St. John's UCC for eight and a half years before accepting the call to pastor Faith UCC in Indianapolis, Indiana, which he served for four years before his retirement. While at St John's, Jim officiated at the marriage of his daughter, Lisa, to Richard Milon Dujmovic, Jr. Lisa and Rich gave Jim two grandsons, David Richard Dujmovic and Jacob Milon George Dujmovic. The last service Jim would perform would be the marriage ceremony of Jake to Reilly Sue Geistfeld in August of 2022. Jim had also officiated at the marriage of son, Stephen, to Svitlana Filonik in Morley, Alberta, Canada, from which union he would become grandfather to Charlotte Elizabeth "Lottie" Winters.

When asked from where his remarkable knowledge of the Bible came, he would credit his mother reading him Bible stories when he was a child. True to his Mennonite heritage, Jim was conscientious in his work and always dependable in his home life. He will be greatly missed, but his wonderful spirit will inspire us through the years.

Jim stoically led the funeral services of both of his parents, his three brothers (Leslie, Kenneth, and Clarence) as well as sisters-in-law Ruby and Eloise.

During Clarence's funeral, Jim recalled his older brother waiting for him at the school bus stop to walk him home each afternoon. He remembered it gave him great comfort to know Clarence would be there waiting for him back then and had a feeling that Clarence would once again be waiting to walk him Home when it was his time to join their family in Heaven.

SERVICES:

A Funeral Service will be held Monday, August 14th at 11:00am (visitation 10:00am) at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home, 515 Hwy 96 West in Shoreview, MN. A Graveside Service will be held Tuesday, August 15th at 3:00pm at Delft Cemetery, 49314 Co Rd 3 in Windom, MN

Livestream of service available at <https://youtube.com/live/tdT4AAUeZ1A?feature=share>

In case anyone wishes to honor Jim with a charitable gift, one of his favorite non-profits was Habitat for Humanity.

Tribute Wall

CP

“ Rest in peace, James. You were everything a minister should be, and I shall always remember all the kindness you showed me during the trying times in my life. I regret I only learned of your passing just now, over a year later.
Charles Lawrence Perkins

Charles Lawrence Perkins - August 04, 2024 at 12:11 PM

JC

“ We are very saddened by Jim's passing. We have SO many memories of Jim and your family. It was because of Jim that we joined the church. And we are still there. It was very special that Jim and Sue were able to attend the 150th Anniversary of the church where he served so well for 21 years in Alexandria. Great to sit with you at the dinner and catch up a bit. We were so grateful to be able to join with you today in spirit online for his funeral service. The boys captured so much about this wonderful man. When we are in the Cities sometime it would be a great pleasure to see you again. Bless you all in the days ahead.

Joe and Linda Capistrant - August 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ Dearest Suzanne, Richie, Lisa, Steven and Families,
Sending you all our love and happy memories. Will write.
With love, Evelyn and Bob

evelyn Luise - August 14, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ With deep sympathy and love. May our Lord watch over and comfort you

Sherry and Larry Nieminski - August 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ Sue

I don't know if you remember me, William Bull from Hopkins UCC 1966 and 67 but you two were an inspiration to our youth Senior High at the church. It was indeed a great pleasure to correspond with Jim these past few years on FaceBook, it brought back many good memories of my high school day.

William Bull

William Bull - August 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ Sue

I don't know if you remember me, William Bull from Hopkins UCC 1966 and 67 but you two were an inspiration to our youth Senior High at the church. It was indeed a great pleasure to correspond with Jim these past few years on FaceBook, it brought back many good memories of my high school day.

William Bull

William Bull - August 11, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Lisa, thank you for letting me know about your father's death. I have so many good memories of the years we shared with your parents when you were in Alexandria and we were in Benson, including those Bicentennial celebrations in both churches. Whenever Dick directed a camp at Pilgrim Point Jim was usually on staff, and had his camera ready. His framed photo of Pilgrim Point was your parents' gift to us when we moved to South Dakota, and I think of him every time I see it on my wall. We have kept in touch all these many years from a distance, and I wish I could be there to give thanks for Jim's friendship, faith, and ministry with you on Monday. Please give Sue a hug from me. If the winter weather cooperates I may be in your area for Thanksgiving week. My daughter lives in Lino Lakes and her daughter in Ham Lake, so perhaps there will be a chance for me to offer her my sympathy in person then. In the meantime, I will send a memorial gift on Jim's behalf to our local Habitat for Humanity group from our Keithahn family. Love to all of you at this sad time.

Mary Nelson Keithahn - August 10, 2023 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ (Photo from our Alexandria church's Bicentennial celebration, 1976)
It was so amazing how my dad, when his beard was grown out,
looked like Abraham Lincoln, because I've always thought he also
shared many of the same personality traits and ideals (at least what
we know from history books) as that great President.

My dad loved as Christ taught us to love- unconditionally and with
abandon. I am blessed beyond measure that I got to be his
daughter.

He was my biggest fan (and my brothers can probably say the
same), and I will be able to carry that in my heart forever.

Thank you, Daddy, for everything-

Love, Your Lisa



Lisa Dujmovic - August 08, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Mary Jane and I are saddened at the death of our friend and
pastoral colleague, Jim. We have enjoyed good times with Jim and
Sue, and we will savor those happy memories. We are grateful for
Jim's years of faithful ministry within the UCC. We are lifting Sue
and the family in our prayers, trusting they will know God's peace in
a special way amidst these days of grief.

Donald I Kaufman - August 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ You will be missed greatly Grandpa, Love David.

David Dujmovic - August 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ to Jim Winters' family: many of us in this area join you in grief at Jim's passing, but with great joy in reviewing and acknowledging his devoted and faithful ministries. May you know the healing and comforting embrace of the God Jim taught us to worship and whose teachings Jim encouraged us to follow! Shalom



John Gantt - August 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Reverend Winters performing his last wedding ceremony.... So many Church plays, Confirmation classes, pre-marriage counseling sessions, Board meetings, newspapers, school stories, communions, sermons, basketball shots made, Hymns sung, caring for the sick and hurting, donuts made, crochet balls whacked, videos recorded, celebrations, listening, marriage ceremonies performed, badminton birdies smashed, candlelight services, slide shows, youth retreats, funerals, coffees with the Pastors, miles driven, books read, board games played, Vikings games cheered, poems shared, crossword puzzles mastered, stories told, pictures taken and shared, children hugged and tucked in, farm memories, vacation adventures with the family,.... Whatever Dad did, he did it with excellence, joy and love. I was so fortunate to know him for these past 35 years. If the world had more Jim Winters, it would be a much better place. Thank you Jim for the blessing you are to our family and all who know you. You are forever in our hearts.



Rich Dujmovic (Husband of Lisa Winters) - August 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ I am Jim's cousin Glen who grew up a a farm across the road from Winters. The picture is of Jim and his cousin Dale Wiebe at Glen and Mary Lou's wedding in 1958.

We were saddened to hear of Jim's passing and wish Suzanne and the rest of the family our sympathies. We plan on attended the funeral.



Glen Wiebe - August 06, 2023 at 12:00 AM