



## The Rev. Frederick G. Overdier

June 20, 1938 - April 13, 2019

The Reverend Frederick George Overdier of Traverse City passed away quietly into eternal life on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at home in the presence of family, following an extended battle with cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, the Rev. Ruth Kilgus Overdier; by his four children and their families: Frederick C. Overdier (Magic) of Caro, MI; Joel Overdier (Bernadette Caldwell) of Madison, WI; Barbara Overdier (James Muratzki) of Traverse City; and Michael Overdier (Roxana) of Ann Arbor, MI; by his siblings: Faith Pfeiffer (Rod) of Kenosha, WI; Grace Deibert and Carol Overdier, both of Racine, WI; Timothy Overdier of Northport, MI; and Beth Overdier of Mukwonago, WI; by his grandchildren: Sarah Hudson (Brad) of Columbus, OH; Anna Caldwell-Overdier of Madison, WI; Jacalyn, Michael I., and Eric Overdier, all of Ann Arbor, MI.

He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. George M. Overdier and Adeline Groenke Overdier, and by his sister, Cynthia Overdier Boyd (David).

Pastor Fred, as he was known to his friends, attended Carthage College where he met his wife Ruth. Fred continued at Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN and was ordained in 1963. He served as a full-time pastor at Lutheran churches in Milwaukee, WI; Southampton, PA; Kalamazoo, MI; Traverse City, MI; and Birmingham, MI; and as an interim or part-time pastor to numerous Michigan congregations following retirement in 2001.

Formative years growing up in Rocky Boy, MT, and Phillips, WI provided a foundation for Fred's life of service to others. Whether participating in the Boy Scouts of northern WI; migrant ministry for the National Council of Churches in Toledo, OH; serving on the Interfaith Round Table of greater Detroit, and the Executive Council of the Michigan Synod; or acting as a liaison for community issues in Kalamazoo township and Traverse

City, MI - he was always interested in finding creative ways to serve the community and the ministry of the whole church.

Pastor Fred was known and loved by family and friends for his outgoing personality, his caring ministry to people of all ages, faiths, and walks of life, and for his passion in honoring all of God's creation, including planting trees wherever he went.

Visitation will take place at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home on Friday, May 3, 2019 from 6:00–8:00 pm. A celebration of Fred's life will take place at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City with visitation at noon, worship at 1:00 pm on Saturday, May 4, 2019, Dr. Craig A. Satterlee, Bishop of the ELCA Northwest Michigan Synod, presiding. Special music will be provided prior to the service. In keeping with Fred's wishes, cremation has occurred; the family will have a private graveside interment in Northport, MI at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that those wishing to support the memory of Pastor Fred consider a donation to the mission of ELCA World Hunger.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Fred's family at his tribute page at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com).

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Events

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**MAY**   **Visitation**   06:00PM - 08:00PM

**3**

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Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**MAY**   **Visitation**   12:00PM

**4**

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1050 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

**MAY**   **Memorial Service**   01:00PM

**4**

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1050 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

# Comments

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“ Dear Pastor Ruth and family,  
When I think of Pastor of Fred I have tears in my eyes and a smile on my face. He was a kind, gentle man with a wonderful smile. Pastor Fred and Pastor Ruth shared glorious days with my family - weddings, and baptisms. We will miss him. All of the folks at Bethany Lutheran in Northport will miss him. God Bless.  
With love and sympathy,  
Debbie Douglas

**Debbie Douglas** - May 03, 2019 at 02:25 PM

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“ Pastor Fred always carried such a welcoming presence; ready to greet us with a warm smile and friendly invitation to worship. His genuine curiosity and interest in each of us and what we had to say made me feel listened to and appreciated. We will carry fond memories of this amazing person with us always :)

**Kelcie Douglas** - May 03, 2019 at 01:47 PM

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“ It was always enjoyable to be with Fred. Two moments stand out. One was when my parents took me and my brother to Minnesota on a vacation to my Uncle Walter's cabin that included a side-trip to seeing Fred and Ruth in Minneapolis-St. Paul. It was wonderful to see a young couple so much in love. The second was just a couple of Christmases ago when Fred and I sang "The Whiffenpoof Song" together among family members at their home in Traverse City. Fred was always up for a song.

**Phil Callighan** - May 01, 2019 at 09:22 PM

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“ Very sorry to hear of Pastor Fred's passing. I have fond memories of him as Pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran in Traverse City. Such a kind man, committed to social justice.

**Rick Haglund** - April 28, 2019 at 09:19 AM

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“ I remember when Pastor Fred's family moved to Phillips, Wisconsin. He was in 6th grade. A new kid in town, he made friends very easily. We had a large Confirmation Class and he was in it, and during that time the Luther League was very active and quite large. We weren't old enough to be in Luther League, and I wish I would have asked him at the last class reunion what we were called. The senior Pastor Overdier started a Junior Luther League, just for us. I think we were called the Small Fry Luther League. Maybe someone else remembers. At any rate, we met on Sunday nights and there were quite a lot of us.

It was a wonderful time of our lives. Pastor Fred graduated in 1956 and was a class mate. He was always friendly, soft spoken and had a smile. His little sisters were precious. His mother was a friend of my mother's, and we loved it when she came to Sunday School class and told us stories about Rocky Boy Mission, where Fred's dad ministered before coming to Phillips. She taught us "Jesus Loves Me, This I know," in some Indian language. I still remember part of it, but now I am 80, so you can't expect much more than that. Many warm, memorable stories of times past. My sympathy and love are with the entire Overdier family. Toni Brendel.

**Charlotte "Toni" Brendel** - April 24, 2019 at 10:49 PM

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“ Joe and I have such warm and wonderful memories of Pastor Overdier. He married us at Our Redeemer Lutheran church in Kalamazoo over 41 years ago. He was a kind and gentle leader and his legacy will live on in his beautiful family. Ruth....thinking of you and sending all our love and prayers to the whole family.

**Joe and Char Gleesing** - April 24, 2019 at 10:26 AM

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“ Dearest Pastor Ruth - You and your husband are a glorious example of God's love and benevolence, mercy and care. Tony and I will always treasure the memory of all you did for us at Bethany. He has run the good race; he has received his promised crown. All glory to God for His truly faithful servant! May he rest in the arms of Jesus. With our love and sympathies to you and your family,  
Cheryl and Tony Adam

**Cheryl Adam** - April 18, 2019 at 04:17 PM

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“ Dear Ruth and family,  
God bless and sustain you in the love of Jesus. We've known you since Carthage days. Now he's in another Choir, with wonderful memories of the Carthage College A Capella Choir!  
With our love,  
Bob and Beverly Walters

Pastor Bob Walters - April 17, 2019 at 10:00 PM

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“ Sincere sympathies to Ruth and the family of Rev. Fred, and most especially daughter Barbara and son-in-law Jim Muratzki. I feel so blessed for having the opportunity to get to know this mild mannered, compassionate man on several visits to Traverse City, even sharing a meal with he and Ruth, on one occasion. His life was one of service, asking not, "What would Jesus do?", but rather doing what Jesus did ... teaching and ministering to his flock. He truly did care about all God's creation. What an example for all of us, to plant trees! Three of my favorite lines from Joyce Kilmer's Trees, sums up Rev. Fred's legacy: "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree." "A tree that looks at God all day, and lifts her leafy arms to pray." and lastly, "Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree." Thank you, Fred, and rest in peace good and faithful servant.

Violet Dalla Vecchia

Violet Dalla Vecchia - April 15, 2019 at 07:25 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joel Overdier - April 15, 2019 at 06:27 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joel Overdier - April 15, 2019 at 06:06 PM

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“ Glorious maple tree planted by Dad



Joel Overdier - April 15, 2019 at 06:01 PM



“ "He that plants trees loves others besides himself." Quote from Thomas Fuller, enacted many times over by Fred Overdier! May his goodness continue to propagate throughout the world! with love and gratitude, Bernadette

**Bernadette Caldwell** - April 15, 2019 at 06:21 PM



“ Pastor Fred was at King of Kings Lake Orion for a short time, I think only six months. But I remember him fondly as a very special person.

**Nancy Heulitt** - April 25, 2019 at 03:01 PM

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“ You have my deepest thoughts, prayers and sympathy at this time. Fred will be missed by many. He was a wonderful person to know.

**Jeanne A Lenz** - April 15, 2019 at 02:27 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Pastor Fred Overdier



**Magic Overdier** - April 15, 2019 at 01:01 PM