



Reverend Melvin G. Sponsler, Jr.

February 1, 1934 - February 12, 2018

The Reverend Melvin G. Sponsler, Jr., 84, of Willow Valley Communities went to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, February 12, 2018. He was the husband of the late Marilyn Derk Sponsler who died in 2008. He is survived by four children; Timothy (Melanie Bryan) Sponsler of Windermere, FL; Tamara (Daniel) Johnson of Mount Joy; Theodore Sponsler of Mountville; Thomas (Sharon Buttemere) Sponsler of Lititz, seven grandchildren: Sarah Ressler of Lancaster; Jenna Kianka of Mountville; Luke Johnson of Lancaster; Mark Johnson of Bainbridge; Andrew Sponsler of Lititz; Jessica Klinger of Sarasota, FL; Jordan Sponsler of Lititz and a great grandson Jackson Kianka.

Mel was a graduate of Quincy High School, class of 1951, Lebanon Valley College in 1955 and received his Master of Divinity Degree from United Theological Seminary, Dayton OH, in 1958. As a pastor, Mel served in United Methodist ministry for over 40 years. Throughout his career, he ministered as Student Pastor of Lebanon Valley College, at three rural churches in the Enders Powells Valley; Student Pastor of Clarksburg Christian Church of Clarksburg, OH during seminary; Assistant Pastor of the Manheim United Methodist Church, (UMC), 1955-58; Campbelltown UMC, 1960-73; Trinity UMC, Allentown 1973-82; St. Paul's UMC, Mountville 1982-90 and Mount Hope UMC, Aston 1990-98. In addition to being a pastor, he taught at United Wesleyan College, Allentown; was evangelist and Bible teacher at retreats and Bible conferences; was pastor supervisor for seminary students, and was

chairman for the Board of Evangelism of East Pennsylvania Conference.

Mel enjoyed spending time with his family and participating in many sports including ping-pong, golf, tennis and pickleball. He also enjoyed photography and computers. Born in Halifax, he was the son of the late Reverend Melvin G. Sr., and Mary G. Minnich Sponsler. He is also survived by a sister Marie (Ned) Clark of Northumberland.

A Funeral Service honoring Reverend Sponsler's life will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Glossbrenner United Methodist Church, 713 Church Street, Mount Joy at 11 AM. A viewing will be held from 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM. Please Note: The service will begin promptly at 11 AM. Interment will be private and held at the convenience of his family in Camp Hill Cemetery, Mount Joy. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Glossbrenner UM Church, 713 Church Street, Mount Joy PA 17552 would be deeply appreciated. Online condolences may be sent through www.sheetzfuneralhome.com

Sheetz Funeral Home, Inc.

Mount Joy, PA

Tribute Wall

PK

“ I grew up going to the United Methodist Church in Campbelltown, PA. Our whole family grew up in that church and it was never the same when you left....so many people missed your sermons on a Sunday Morning! Rest in Peace Reverend Sponsler.

Pauline Keefer - October 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Mel exuded his love of table tennis with us novices at Willow Valley; always encouraging; always willing to teach us the sport he so loved. When I shared my missionary calling with him, he passionately agreed and was my biggest advocate. Thank you Mel.

Mary Theresa Webb - February 24, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ I developed a great friendship with Rev. Sponsler when he was active. We played table tennis and bowled together and we went out of Willow Valley at times for meals. As I went to the Glen and he became less active, I really lost track of him. I did enjoy our relationship. I send my sympathy. I know you will miss him. God has given us the gift of memory. I am sure all of you have many wonderful remembrances and your faith will help you through this difficult time. God bless all of you
Henry Wentz, a Willow Valley friend.

Dr. Henry S. Wentz - February 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ I was blessed to work with Mel in his retirement when he would preach as a guest at Grace UMC in Millersville. I was so excited each time he sent his message for me to work on the powerpoint and couldn't wait to read it. He oozed the love of Christ and was such a special man of God. I worried about him when we didn't receive one of his wonderful Christmas letters this year, but it brings me joy to know he's in Heaven with Jesus, reunited with his wife Marilyn and back to playing ping pong with Pastor Barry Wolfe. My prayers are with all of you as I know his move to Heaven has left a gaping hole. May the Lord bless you each with beautiful memories. Remembering Pastor Mel with much joy and gratefulness to God for the gift of him.

Sarah Hamblin, Mount Joy - February 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ A Designers Choice Vase Arrangement was sent on February 16, 2018 May the sure arms of Heaven enfold and comfort All.
Love,
Kathryn Sponsler

Expression of Sympathy - February 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to the Sponsler Family. Mel and Marilyn were a wonderful team at St. Paul's, Mountville. Mel will be greatly missed. James Fox

James Fox - February 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ A Designers Choice Garden bouquet was ordered on February 15, 2018

Expression of Sympathy - February 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ On behalf of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church, please accept our deepest condolences for the loss of your dad and our colleague. May God's peace be with each of you today and in the days to come and may the promise of eternal life bring you comfort and hope. Bishop Peggy A. Johnson

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson - February 15, 2018 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ Pastor Mel was our pastor for many years at Mt. Hope and he was a wonderful person.

Valerie and Frank Burgess - February 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ My condolences to the Sponsler family. His dad, Melvin Sr. retired while serving at my boyhood church (Highspire UMC), so I probably met Mel Jr. on occasion. I want to celebrate and praise God for the Sponsler legacy of Christian service. May God continue to bless your family. Rich Fetzer.

Rich Fetzer - February 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ I still remember the time he came and spoke at the Lafayette Christian Fellowship. He spoke of the purification process and removing the dross. A process which requires the heat of many trials . It's a talk that has lingered with me and returns to mind when needed. My condolences to My friend Tom and all his family. His memory will live on in all who's life he touched, which is a great host.

Ryan Kemble - February 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *Grandpa, I love you. There's a hole in my heart now that you are gone, but I know your with grandma now and that puts a huge smile on my face. February birthday buddies forever! Love, Jenna*

Jenna Kianka - February 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM