



## Reverend William E. Brown

March 29, 1942 - July 2, 2020

On Thursday, July 2, 2020 The Reverend William Edward Brown, loving husband and father of two children entered eternal life at the age of 78. Bill was born on March 29, 1942 in Milwaukee WI to George and Lenore Brown.

After high school and two tours of duty in the U.S. Army, Bill graduated from the University of WI and later from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. On June 8, 1969 Bill was ordained to the ministry at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee where he served several years as a youth pastor.

On May 23, 1970 Bill and Vickie Lynn Laber were united in marriage in Oakland, Iowa. Together with love they raised two children, Julie Lynn and Christopher Andrew.

Bill was creative, artistic, deeply spiritual, with a quiet manner and a ready smile. All of these traits were fueled with a love of science, architecture, music and preaching. Bill's dream of completing a Frank Lloyd Wright inspired home was fulfilled by the time he reached retirement from full time ministry in 2007. He enjoyed many years at "Aerie" on Kentuck Lake near Eagle River, WI both before and after retirement.

Bill spent his life as a dedicated pastor to Presbyterian congregations, serving

38 years in full time ministry, in Milwaukee, WI; Brighton, MI; Jackson, MI; Des Moines, IA, and Macomb IL. After retirement Bill served as interim pastor to four WI UCC churches located in St. Germain, Rhinelander, Neillsville, and Three Lakes.

Bill was preceded in death by his beloved grandmother, Jeannie Liston, and loving parents, George and Lenore Brown. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Vickie; his children, Julie Lynn Pryor (Corey Pryor) of Jackson MI and Christopher Andrew Brown of CA; four grandchildren, Jaelynn Ringer, Cierra Pryor, Corey Pryor II, and Nolan A. Brown; brother Thomas Brown of Oconomowoc WI; many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

The family would like to thank Dr. Koepl, the caregivers at Milestone Senior Living, Pastime staff, dear friends Marty Rosenthal and Ed Stoever, and St. Matthias Episcopal Church friends and priest Dr. Erin Kirby for caregiving, regular visits and support. We would also like to thank our friends and family far and wide for their kindness and support.

A Zoom Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at 1:00 PM. If you would like to be included in this Zoom Memorial Service please email Kay Norton at [kaynorton75@gmail.com](mailto:kaynorton75@gmail.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to McCormick Theological Seminary at <https://support.mccormick.edu> or Seminary Relations and Development McCormick Theological Seminary, 5460 S. University Chicago, IL 60615.

# Previous Events

## Zoom Memorial Service

JUL 18. 1:00 PM (CT)

St Matthias Episcopal Church  
403 E Chicago Ave  
Minocqua, WI 54548  
(715) 356-6758

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ Bill served as interim pastor at the church I had served in Neillsville. I didn't know him well, but listened to him preach on the radio and each time came away with a new, fresh insight. Our sympathy to his family.

*Jim and Karen Mohr*

---

**James D Mohr** - August 27, 2020 at 04:31 PM

DS

“ Vickie & Family,  
Our thoughts & prayers are with you during this difficult time.  
Donna & Ron Schultz (Milestone)

---

**Donna & Ron Schultz** - July 17, 2020 at 04:31 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Reverend William E. Brown.



---

July 17, 2020 at 03:17 PM

JF

“ Janella Goy and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Reverend William E. Brown.



---

**Janella Goy and family** - July 16, 2020 at 01:51 PM

ND

“ Dearest Vickie: It was a long and brave trail both you and Bill walked. I'm sure you are feeling a huge emptiness now without your partner, and I hurt for you. I have wonderful memories of meals at your beautiful home, and revel in the tales you both told about building it. Bill was a gentle spirit, a very bright man, and oh, so talented. He will be missed by many. May you find the comfort and strength you need to guide you through the days ahead. Thinking of you, and your family.

With love,  
Nancy Diepenbrock

---

Nancy Diepenbrock - July 16, 2020 at 12:18 PM

AN

We are so sorry for your loss! We are praying for the Brown family. Uncle Bill was a wonderful man! He was so good with kids! With Love, Ryan, Andrea, Ashley, Grant, and Alyssa

---

andrea - July 17, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Reverend William E. Brown.



---

July 11, 2020 at 05:27 PM

RB

“ I can't think of Bill without thinking of the dream house he built for his beloved in the North Woods. Not only was it stunning, it spoke to the care and intentionality that defined his life, and every decision he made reflected a pattern of excellence in both.

*I was always delighted when Bill was called upon to be the liturgist at First Congregational UCC in Eagle River. He strode to the pulpit with reverence and purpose ... always choosing to read from the chancel Bible. When I was privileged to officiate the 125th Anniversary of the church, I chose Matthew 1:1-17 as the New Testament passage. That scripture is the account of the genealogy of Jesus, listing in those 17 verses all of Jesus' Hebrew antecedents. And I chose the Rev. Bill Brown to read the passage because I knew that he would do so with solemnity and grace. I can say with assurance that more congregants remembered his reading than those who remembered my sermon.*

*I will always be grateful to Bill for his guidance and wisdom ... even more so for his kindness and friendship.*

*Well done, good and faithful servant.*

*Love,  
Mary Anne Biggs*

---

**Rev. Mary Anne Biggs** - July 07, 2020 at 11:21 PM

TV

“ I will so much miss this compassionate, smart, funny dear friend. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Vickie, Julie, Chris, and families- my prayers are with you. Marion VanLoo, Grass Lake MI

---

**The Rev. Deacon Marion VanLoo** - July 07, 2020 at 09:18 PM