



Rev. Curtis W. Dubble

December 28, 2020

The Reverend Curtis W. Dubble, 98, of Lititz, PA, died Monday, December 28, 2020 at Brethren Village where he resided. He was a man who deeply loved God and deeply loved people. His personal relationship to God was central to the way he lived and responded to life. His life of service as an ordained minister and spiritual leader in the Church of the Brethren was predicated on the belief that God's love is expressed through our human relationship with one another.

Curtis Dubble was born in 1922 to a rural Pennsylvania Dutch family within a Brethren faith and farming community in Reistville, PA. His parents were William Reno Dubble and Estella Mae Crouse Dubble. He was the middle son of 5 children. All his siblings have predeceased him. He graduated from Elizabethtown College in 1949 and Bethany Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1952. He was granted an Honorary Doctor of Divinity at Elizabethtown College in 1974.

In 1944, Curtis married the love of his life and his spiritual life partner, Anna Mary Forney. Together they raised 3 beloved daughters: Sharon Dubble, Cindy Dubble and Peentz (Connie) Dubble. In addition, Curtis received much joy from spending time with his two treasured granddaughters, Japhia Mirin Kendall and Anya Dubble Olson. After an extraordinary life of love and service, Anna Mary passed away in 2003.

Curtis accepted the call to serve several full-time pastorates including Brethren congregations in Canton, Ohio; Westminster, Maryland; York, PA; Lampeter, PA; and Lancaster, PA. He retired from full-time pastoral work in 1998.

Reverend Dubble was also an inspirational leader regionally and nationally within the Brethren denomination. This included service to Bethany Seminary Board, General Board of the Church of the Brethren and serving as Moderator of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in 1990.

Curtis was a man who listened deeply, took time to reflect and ponder, and then spoke

passionately from his heart. He was a man of nature, who was drawn to the beauty and quiet inherent in nature's splendor. He enjoyed daily walks and was an avid gardener. Curtis was a person who laughed with unbridled joy, whether playing a wicked game of badminton, volleyball, Ping-Pong, or Aggravation!

There was a visible light within him that yearned to connect with the light within another. Curtis took joy in lighting the spark of recognition or curiosity within each person with whom he engaged. He was a teacher and mentor for the youth, young adults and new pastors, and a source of inspiration for many who met him throughout his life.

Curtis was lovingly cared for and supported by all the wonderful staff at Brethren Village in his final years. He passed from this earth peacefully, surrounded by the music he so loved, while in Hospice care at BV Rehab Center on December 28, 2020.

A Memorial Service to celebrate his life will be scheduled at a later date when all can safely join together.

In lieu of cards or flowers, donations in his name may be sent to the Good Samaritan Fund at Brethren Village, Lititz, PA. <https://www.bv.org/giving/make-a-donation>.

Comments



“ Uncle Curtis has been part of my life since childhood, thus for a long time. I still remember those long car trips from Pennsylvania to Ohio to visit with Uncle Curtis, Aunt Anna Mary and my cousins. One of my favorite uncles, Curtis always had a twinkle in his eye and a gentle manner. Over many years our lives would intersect at various family functions until finally Curtis and Anna Mary and my parents both settled at the Brethren Village. With more frequent visits to PA to help my parents, I always contacted Uncle Curtis to spend some time together. I was continually impressed with his intelligence, humor, open mind and determined fast walking that became slower but still determined over the years. He and my Dad, Henry, always exchanged some jokes and words in Pennsylvania German. We also shared the same birthday that was always a special link. What a long, wonderful and inspiring life Uncle Curtis lived!

Ann Lehman - February 07 at 03:04 PM



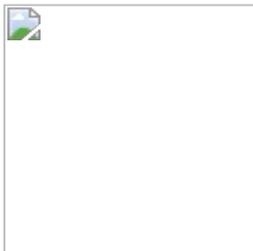
“ I have so many fond memories of Curtis and Anna Mary when they joined our church, Lancaster Church of the Brethren, in the early '90's and soon began to lead our New Directions small group of young couples and families. We had a lot of fun and joy getting to know one another and forming lasting relationships. Curtis was always a man of faith, strength and comfort. He will be forever missed. God Bless you and rest in peace, Curtis.

Greg Hughes

Greg Hughes - January 31 at 02:27 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Service Music



Matthew Kramer - January 15 at 08:21 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Suzanne Schaudel - January 13 at 12:51 PM



“ As we mourn for our beloved Curtis, I remember all the great conversations that we had. Thanks to Curtis for being such a good role model of how to live a good life.

Suzanne - January 13 at 12:53 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cindy Dubble - January 13 at 09:24 AM



“ Curtis, Curtis, where do I begin! First off, looking at the picture, you look identical to my grandfather, your brother, Myron. Secondly, I remember listening to you at many family reunions give the prayer & sharing your faith, which is a great example of God's Love:) Lastly, I feel guilty for not getting over to BV to visit you:(Also, I wish I would have learned to know your daughters & granddaughters before they all moved away. Tell my grandparents & my mother hello & sing the glories of God:;) I'll see you someday!

TAMME F BARLEY - January 10 at 06:43 PM



“ I would like to offer my condolences to the three of you and your families on your Dads passing. If you would like to contact me my phone number is 717-653-7291. My address is: 103 Ridgwood Manor, Manheim, PA 17545. I wish the best for all of ou in the future. Kean Dubble (written by his niece Tamme Barley as he does not have a computer).

TAMME F BARLEY - January 10 at 06:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lance Olson - January 10 at 11:27 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Lance Olson - January 10 at 11:26 AM



“ Extended story about Curtis' contributions in Jan. 9 CoB Newsline - click or copy/paste link: <https://www.brethren.org/news/2021/brethren-bits-for-jan-9-2021/>

Lance Olson - January 10 at 11:20 AM



“ Curtis was always ready to see how ministry connects to other leadership and share his insights. Sunday dinners were a great time to start the conversation and keep learning.

Lance Olson - January 10 at 11:16 AM



“ On May 23rd, we called Curtis to ask him if he recalled what he was doing on that day 50 years ago. He chuckled and remarked that he sometimes has difficulty recalling what he did earlier in his day. We shared that 50 years ago at York First Church he was the Celebrant at our wedding. Curtis was tickled that we would call him on our most special day to remember him as well. He has always been a most special person in our life. Our Pastor and our Friend. Rest in God's peace, Curtis.

Joe & Pat Kochansky - January 08 at 06:34 PM



“ Curt was my pastor at Westminster COB. He taught my membership class for baptism. I have always appreciated his kindness, his friendly smile, and his deep spiritual insight. What a wonderful human being. Sending my love to Peentz, Cindy, Sharon.

Kathy Fry-Miller - January 06 at 12:34 AM



“ I was blessed to be nurtured by Curtis during his years at Lampeter COB and beyond. The tribute summarizing his life captured so much of what was true and steadfast about him , his life and his devotion to Jesus Christ. I am sorry to see the end of a legacy, but he is now safe in the arms of Jesus and reunited with the love of his life! Well done, Curtis, you have finished very well.

Tracy Murray - January 05 at 08:01 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to Sharon and the rest of the family. I am sure the Reverend's influence will continue to direct your lives! Barbara and Rich McLean

Barbara McLean - January 04 at 04:37 PM



“Curtis was a great man of unwavering faith which he lived each day. Thank you God for placing him and Anna Mary in our presence for a short period of our lives.

Leroy & Judy Keeney

Leroy Keeney - January 04 at 04:36 PM



“Curtis was a great, fun and friendly brother-in-law. When he was dating my sister, Anna Mary, she was also dating another guy. Curtis wisely told her, "You have to make a choice." She made the right choice!

Curtis and Anna Mary worked together very well as he pastored various churches. Curtis lived and practiced what he preached--a kind and truly dedicated man.

Dorothy Rice

Brian Rice - January 04 at 01:37 PM



“In 1979, I met Curtis when our fledgling group at the Lampeter Church of the Brethren Fellowship was searching for its first full-time pastor. As the church board chairperson, I traveled to York, Pennsylvania, and met the man who would eventually lead our flock. Leaving a large city church and coming to pastor a small group of worshipers who were at that time meeting in a fire hall, he established expectations that we strove to meet. His sermons were challenging, his manner gentle and compassionate, and his spiritual leadership inspiring.

In Curtis we found exactly what we needed as a pastor—firm and compassionate direction. Not only did our church grow and blossom under his leadership, but my family found a dear friend. He became a lifelong treasure of our family. He will be missed by all.

Bob and Bonnie Frick

Robert Frick - January 04 at 12:10 PM



“ I wanted to say hello to our immediate and extended families. My memories of Uncle Curtis and Aunt Anna Mary are mostly from when I was growing up and our families vacationed together, usually camping or at the beach. Hanging out with Connie was always a favorite time of the summer for me. Uncle Curtis was such a gentle soul. He and my dad had that in common. I remember Uncle Curtis for his humor and quick laugh and his ability to make a very shy girl feel comfortable. I loved listening to his stories and jokes. I know that he touched the lives of many people. The world is a better place for him having been here.

Jo Ellen (Fike) Bowman

Jo Bowman - January 03 at 05:47 PM



“ Sharron, Mary and I are saddened to hear of your family's loss. A very difficult time to lose a loved one for sure. Hopefully you can take some comfort in that he lived a long and accomplished life and touched a lot of people's lives in a positive way. Take care and peace be with you. Mark & Mary Winters

Mark & Mary Winters - January 03 at 10:04 AM



“ We have enjoyed our visits with Uncle Curtis. We will always remember him. He had a part in a very special time of our lives. 57 years ago Uncle Curtis married us. God's comfort and peace be with all of you.

Ivan & Darlene Dubble Fahnestock

IVAN FAHNESTOCK - January 02 at 07:15 PM



“ Curtis was a highly respected leader in the Church of the Brethren, serving as moderator of the denomination, a model to those of us who followed him in serving in such roles. I appreciated having opportunity to talk with Curtis about all of that in a visit with him at Brethren Village a few years ago. Praying together was a very significant part of our time together. I am grateful for Curtis' heartfelt concern for the church and the Good News we are able to proclaim in the midst of a world so fraught with need and desperate want. Curtis' example will continue to challenge us to be faithfully engaged in God's work through all our years, in whatever ways God calls us to minister to the needs of people around us. - Jim Beckwith

Jim Beckwith - January 02 at 04:10 PM



“ Curtis was one of the pillars of the Church of the Brethren worldwide! When he came to the Lancaster church in 1991 as Interim Pastor, he faced a divided congregation. He left at the end of that year with all differences forgotten, thanks to his meaningful sermons and sunny personality. After a year of voluntary service at denominational headquarters in Elgin, IL, Curtis accepted an invitation to return to Lancaster as part-time Associate Pastor. Such an invitation would have been unwise for most situations. But with Curtis and then-Senior Pastor Guy Wampler in agreement, they formed an outstanding team of spiritual leadership for the congregation. It was my privilege as Moderator during that period to work closely with Curtis and Guy. My only "criticism" of Curtis was that he habitually worked more hours than were expected of him. His spiritual depth and warm manner continued to bless us. After he retired from that position, he continued as a favorite member of the Lancaster church. I always found it a special moment to chat with him at the church, and to provide an occasional personal favor that he requested. Curtis will long be remembered by many people and those memories will continue to inspire.

Rich Bohn

Rich Bohn - January 01 at 03:25 PM



“ The many fond memories I cherish of Curtis and Anna Mary can't be contained in a short space like this. I sum them up by saying, "Thank you, God, for the privilege of knowing the Dubbles, and for the positive influences they have had on my life! To honor them, I hope I can "play it forward" and be an inspiration to others as they were to me.

Joyce Bohn

Joyce W. Bohn - January 01 at 02:07 PM



“ Mr. Dubble was a force of pure positivity and love. The fact that I met him at family gatherings only a handful of times but he has had more of an impact and lasting impression on me than most others, speaks volumes to who and what he was. His energy will influence me forever.

Stephen Carnevale

Stephen Carnevale - December 31, 2020 at 06:49 PM



“ My Uncle Curtis was a special person indeed! As a young man I could talk to him about anything. When it came to spiritual things, he always "gave a reason for the hope that he had--always with gentleness and respect." I loved how his face would turn red with laughter, which happened about every 5 minutes. He mentored so many people and pastors, so his loving spirit continues to spread exponentially as we reach out and care for others. I am glad for him that he will see his beloved Anna Mary again, whom he missed terribly.

John Layman told me once that when he started pastoring under Curtis, he idolized him and thought he was God's gift to the world. Anna Mary took him aside and warned, "You have him on a PEDESTAL! You take him down before he falls down!"

Great advice from his best friend, wouldn't you say?

I love you, Curtis.

Kent Rice - December 31, 2020 at 11:19 AM



“ Prayers for the entire family during this time of both grieving and celebrating a life well lived. Curtis was not only a relative (I believe last of his generation of Dubbles) but an inspirational Godly leader in so many ways. I always enjoyed talking to Curtis a family reunions but also as a student in ministry preparation classes that he taught - He provided many insights into scripture that I still cherish today!

Scott Moyer - December 31, 2020 at 10:19 AM



“ Blessings for Curtis & Anna Mary's daughters and his friends which were countless and from so many walks of life. I will share something that happened in 2014 here although I've already shared it with my friends on Facebook.

I was writing a sermon and trying to convey that God is love and I couldn't come up with the words. I turned to my husband to help me think it through. And I reminded him about our beloved friend and mentor Curtis Dubble. "He's pretty well over 90 years old now and he's amazing!" I said. "I see a guy like Curtis walking around and everything about him is Love – everything he does and says and the way he smiles and walks and talks and helps everyone and loves everyone and gives of himself and his heart all the time – every time I've ever seen him and everything I've ever heard about Curtis is LOVING - - and I think to myself, 'Was he like that when he was 50 because if not, there's some hope for me over the next 45 years!'"

So here I am in 2020 still thanking God for Curtis' loving example for my life and the lives of so many others! In his example, it is so clear that GOD IS LOVE!
 THANK YOU GOD FOR CURTIS!

Misty Wintsch - December 30, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ My condolences to Cindy, Sharon and Connie. Wonderful memories of the Bond Street Church, Curtis' patience while nudging me toward baptism, playing sports with and against him at Church camp, and friendships with all of you growing up. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. When in Lancaster please contact me at drebert@homesale.com so I can participate in celebrating this wonderful man.

Doug Rebert - January 03 at 01:03 PM



“ Curtis was a blessing to my husband and myself. He will always have a special place in our hearts. Prayers to the family.

Patty Schappell - January 03 at 02:55 PM



“ I didn't know Curtis well but a couple of memories came to mind quickly. We were so honored to be Worship Leaders at the Annual Conference Curtis moderated. We prayed for he and the other officers of the conference the night we led. He was kind enough to remark the next day how he was helped by the prayers of many in his responsibility.

When he was Chair of what was then the General Board, he was asked to make the statement before the offering at Annual Conference on Sunday morning. The offering was to go to ministries of the General Board. I had my money out of my wallet ready to give before Curtis ever started his statement. When he was finished, I put my money away and doubled my offering I was so moved by what he said and the vision for the ministries of the board. So inspiring!

I attended the funeral of Charles Bieber at Brethren Village. When my parents were at BV, my dad Wip Martin loved to play water volley ball and he loved it when I went along and played too. Curtis often played as well. When I attended the funeral, Curtis was in the pew behind me. I turned around and simply smiled as the service began. When the service was over, he tapped me on the shoulder and said, "You smiled at me earlier, do I know you." Spoke to me of Curtis's sensitivity and graciousness. His love for God and for the Church inspired us all and the eloquence with which he spoke inspired many to deeper faith and commitment. Blessings to family. Know our prayers.

Tim Ritchey Martin - January 04 at 11:49 AM



“ Our prayers and condolences to Cindy, Sharon and Connie on the loss of your father and Terry's uncle. I didn't know Curtis well, but whenever we were around him, he always had a smile on his face and was quick to laugh. We always enjoyed talking to him and catching up on other relatives. He was a very special man.

Jacqui and Terry Hostetter

Terry Hostetter - January 04 at 12:39 PM