



Donald R. Shover Jr.

October 23, 1937 - March 14, 2026

The Rev. Dr. Donald R. Shover, Jr., of Mechanicsburg, formerly of Lemoyne, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2026, at the age of 88.

Born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, he was the only child of the late Donald R. Shover, Sr., and Dorothy Mae (Brymesser) Shover.

Dr. Shover was a 1955 graduate of the former West Shore High School, where he served as class president for four years, was a member of the National Honor Society, and lettered in both football and baseball. In 1953, he was named first-team center on the All Lower Susquehanna Conference Football Team, and in 1954 he was co-recipient of the Harrisburg Area Fourth Annual B'nai B'rith Sportsmanship Award.

He continued his education at Juniata College, graduating in 1959, where he was a member of the Student Senate and the J-Club, and again lettered in football and baseball. He was also a proud member of the Dec. 2, 1956 Tangerine Bowl football team.

Answering a call to ministry, Dr. Shover earned both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. His doctoral project, "Developing a Responsive Process for Adult Learning in the Local Church," was

published in the Review of Religious Research in Spring 1980.

Dr. Shover faithfully served for 50 years as a clergy member of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. Throughout his ministry, he served congregations in Hagerstown and Ellicott City, Maryland; and in Lock Haven, Williamsport, Mechanicsburg, and State College, Pennsylvania. His home congregation was Calvary United Methodist Church in Lemoyne. In retirement, he was a member of First United Methodist Church in Mechanicsburg.

In addition to his pastoral work, Dr. Shover held numerous leadership roles within the Conference, including Dean of Senior High Youth Camps at Camp Penn, Director of the Chi Rho Singers, member of the Conference Minister's Choir, Chair of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and District Superintendent of the Harrisburg District from 1987 to 1992. He also served for more than 25 years on the Property and Casualty Insurance Committee of the Conference Board of Trustees and later as Clergy Assistant to the Bishop from 2000 to 2008.

Dr. Shover was also active in the greater Harrisburg community, serving on several nonprofit boards, including the Neighborhood Center, where he was a former board president, and The Ecumenical Community of Harrisburg.

Don enjoyed traveling with his wife, hunting, and fishing with family, playing golf, reading, and spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.. He especially cherished attending their school, musical, and sporting events.

He was preceded in death in 2017 by his high school "sweetheart"; his loving

wife of 59 years, Barbara Ann (Searer) Shover.

He is survived by his sons, The Rev. Mark R. Shover and his wife Heidi of Cogan Station, and David C. Shover and his wife Carolyn of Camp Hill ; one daughter, Dawn Marie Shertzer and her husband Brian of Middletown; seven grandchildren, Jon Shover (Raquel) of Philadelphia, Lauren Krebs (Donovan) of Enola , Emily Shover of Williamsport, Michaela Shover of Lancaster, Taryn Shover of Camp Hill, Jeremy Shover of Camp Hill, Dakota Shertzer of Middletown, as well as four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at Bethany Village, The Rife Center, 325 Wesley Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA, on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. The family will receive relatives and friends from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church Endowment Fund, 1801 W. Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethany Village, The Rife Center
325 Wesley Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bethany Village at the Rife Center on the East Campus

Burial

MAR 21. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Cemetery
4605 E Trindle Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Tribute Wall

LD

“ Almost 29 years ago, Rev. Shover married us in State College and launched our lifetime together. We enjoyed getting to know him a bit as we prepared for our wedding and still remark on how small our rings looked in his strong hands. We feel blessed to have known him and for having him be such an important our lives.

Lisa Davis - March 22 at 01:27 PM

LM

“ Love Always, Michele and Marie Miele purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Donald R. Shover Jr..



Love Always, Michele and Marie Miele - March 19 at 09:50 PM

TT

“ The Amen Train purchased the Country Basket Bl ooms for the family of Donald R. Shover Jr..



The Amen Train - March 19 at 01:27 PM

SK

“ When I was a little girl in the 70s, our family lived pretty far away from the church we attended and where Pastor Shover served. Once he came to our front door on a visit. I recognized him-even though he wasn't wearing his usual white robe-and I announced to my mother that Jesus was here! He taught me about how far a single person can carry love and affection and kindness and smiles and caring when he traveled all the way to our house that day. Surely we will miss him. May he rest in peace.

Susan Knipe - March 18 at 07:08 AM

DS

I remember Dad telling us this story!

Dawn Shertzer - March 18 at 10:23 AM

JR

I grew up in Williamsport at St Paul UMC. My whole family went there. My Great Grandparents also. I remember Dr Shover coming there to be our pastor. His children were very close to my age. He was very active with the Youth. He helped get us around driving lots of us in his big station wagon to hayrides, roller skating, sled riding, and anything else we could think about doing. I learned so much from him. Always had a smile or a laugh. I missed him a great deal when he and his family moved away. Looked forward to visits when they came back for a special occasion. May God Bless his family through their grief. We will all be together in heaven someday.

Janice Rahr - March 18 at 07:47 PM