

In Memory of
The Rev. Kevin L. Kershner
Disciple of Christ
and
Member of the Family of St. Paul's UCC

April 30, 1934 to March 9, 2022

*{We share in this memorial rite today to offer prayers
and show our love, support, and care
for this member of our family of St. Paul's United Church of Christ}.*

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

SENTENCES *(Leader)*

God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts. The desires of those who fear God are fulfilled, their cries are heard; they are saved.

When we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into Christ's death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with Christ and shared Christ's death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of God, so too we might live a new life. For if we have been united with Christ in a death like Christ's, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like Christ's.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Unison)* *{From Paul's letter to the Romans}*

**We believe that there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus,
and we know that in everything God works for good
with those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.**

**We are sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING *(Leader)*

O God, our strength and our redeemer, giver of life and conqueror of death, we praise you with humble hearts....

....Keep us all in communion with your faithful people in every time and place, that at last we may rejoice together in the heavenly family where Jesus Christ reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Leader: Let us offer our silent prayers....

{Silent Prayers}

SENTENCES *(Leader)*

We would not have you be ignorant brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Unison*)

**O God, whose days are without end
and whose mercies cannot be counted,
awaken us to the shortness and uncertainty of human life.**

**By your Holy Spirit,
lead us in faithfulness all our days.**

**When we have served you in our generation,
may we be gathered with those who have gone before,
having the testimony of a good conscience,
in the communion of your holy church,
in the confidence of a certain faith,
in the comfort of a saving hope,
in favor with you, our God,
and at perfect peace with the world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

Leader: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of Christ Jesus our risen Savior. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, be among you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

*The above is reprinted with permission from the Order for Thanksgiving for One Who Has Died
and the Order for Committal from the United Church of Christ Book of Worship (1986)
United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership*



In Loving Memory of
The Rev. Nevin L. Kershner
April 30, 1934 -- March 9, 2022

Our brother in faith, The Rev. Nevin L. Kershner, age 87, a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Robesonia, passed away March 9, 2022, after a short illness and an eventful life.

The record of his life includes his birth in 1934 in Leesport, Pa, the first child born to George and Emma (Leshner) Kershner, graduation in 1952 from the former Ontelaunee High School, in 1956 from Franklin and Marshall College (Lancaster, Pa.), and 1959 from Lancaster Theological Seminary.

He was ordained into ministry in the United Church of Christ and first served the two churches of the Gibraltar-Grill charge, south of Reading, Pa. This was followed by a call in 1964 to the United Church of Christ in Warminster, Pa.

It was while serving at Warminster he received a call to oversee The Philadelphia Protestant Home for the Aged (PPH), an interdenominational organization then serving approximately 110 residents. The industry was changing with increasing government regulation – Nevin was one of the first to earn Pennsylvania’s Nursing Home Administrator license – and the growth of for-profit firms providing additional options to what was then the “old folks home.” For the next 25 years PPH evolved to add additional levels of nursing care and independent (apartment-style) living, growing to more than 500 residents while continuing the historical PPH promise that no resident would have to leave if they exhausted their funds.

Serving PPH was his call and his pulpit, allowing him to remain active in the United Church of Christ’s Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and its Philadelphia Association, serving on and leading several committees over the years. He was also a familiar face in local churches, serving supply and interim positions and, more frequently, providing Sunday coverage where needed.

Prior to retirement Nevin joined the Phoebe organization to transition their newly-acquired Slate Belt Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (Bangor, Pa.) into the non-profit organization.

His professional career was further blessed by participation in several community organizations. As a young man he was active in Boy Scout Troop 154 sponsored by Salem (Bellemans’) Church (Dauberville, Pa.), earning the Eagle Scout rank and, later as an adult, serving as the troop’s Scoutmaster. In the 1970s he served as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 226 in Philadelphia, where his sons were members, each also earning the Eagle Scout rank, followed by five grandsons earning the Eagle rank. He received the Silver Beaver Award for his additional work with the Philadelphia Council and the council’s Frontier District.

He was an active member of the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging (PANPHA) and its regional chapters, and at various times was a volunteer firefighter, treasurer, and bingo caller with the Washington Township Volunteer Fire Company, (Bangor, Pa.).

Nevin is survived by his four children: Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel (Kenneth), David (Rhonda), Timothy (Debbie), and Thomas (Denise), eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, his sister Jean Grim (Robert), numerous cousins and other relatives who will miss him and his old family stories and perhaps even his jokes at their summer reunions

Visitation is scheduled for Thursday, March 17 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Robesonia, Pa., followed by a Memorial Service at noon. Light lunch will follow in the church's Miller Fellowship Hall. In lieu of flowers, Nevin asked to be remembered by gifts to Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, Pa. He also encourages you to remember your local church pastors, their families, and all those in the community serving our volunteer fire companies and all first responders.

Dates & Times:

Visitation: Thursday, March 17, 2022 from 11:00am-12:00noon
at St. Paul's UCC, Robesonia

Memorial Service: Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 12:00noon
at St. Paul's UCC, Robesonia

Prayers of Remembrance: Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 10:15am during the Worship Service
at St. Paul's UCC, Robesonia