



Louis "Woody" Bedell

February 12, 1950 - November 1, 2020

Louis Wood "Woody" Bedell Jr., 70, finished his 8 ½ year journey with cancer on November 1, 2020. He never considered his cancer a battle but instead an experience from which to learn and share with others.

Woody was involved with church work for more than 26 years, most of it spent with the United Methodist Church – first with the Virginia United Methodist Conference as Executive Director of Pensions and Benefits, the General Board of Pensions in Evanston, IL, and most recently with the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church as Director of Human Resources. Woody was born in Virginia and lived there until he moved the family to the Chicago area in 1999. In his early years, he graduated from St. Christopher's School in Richmond, Virginia, and Hampden-Sydney College, where he majored in religion and philosophy. He had a love of teaching and taught history and religion in a private middle school for years before going into the business world.

Being an athlete, Woody competed in the Hawaii Ironman Competition in 1981 and 1982, followed by smaller ironman competitions. He was an avid swimmer all his life. In 2012 he purchased a strength training studio called The Exercise Coach in Bannockburn, IL, where he made an impact on so many people. For the last 20 years, he enjoyed exploring and living a program called HeartMath, an approach to life that enabled him to indulge a passion for helping others, especially in dealing with stress and anxiety. Woody was a wonderful listener, deeply caring and compassionate, and always an inspiring

example for others. He lived life fully, as an adventure, always seeking to learn and with a variety of interests and pursuits ranging from playing in bands to keeping an online journal for friends as he made his way through the years of cancer successes and setbacks. Woody was one, to quote Henry James, “on whom nothing was lost.”

He is survived by his wife, Joyce (Fulk); his children, Louis Wood Bedell III (Tres), Michael Alan Bedell, David Johnston Bedell (wife Laura Guilstine Bedell); his granddaughter, Chaley Lena Pai Bedell, and three-month-old grandson, Brooks Timothy Bedell, who was blessed to have that time with his Papa. Woody was already giving Brooks drumming lessons. He also leaves behind three loving brothers and their wives: Reginald (Jenny), Dickson (Lee), and Alan (Lisa).

Woody was a devoted father and loving husband and was loved by many for his wonderful wisdom, sense of humor and intellect. He loved his church community and was a member of the United Methodist Church of Libertyville, where he taught adult Sunday School for the past 21 years and played the drums for the contemporary worship service.

In the summers, you could find Woody rowing in his ocean kayak along the shores of the family cottage in Canada, where he loved to vacation with his family and teach his children water sports. He loved his family intensely and was proud of his three beautiful sons.

We know that Woody’s sweet spirit will live on in each of us. He touched so many lives and truly made a positive difference in the world.

-A visitation will be held from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 20, 2020 at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Avenue in Libertyville, IL. Due to the current health guidelines, for those attending the visitation, we ask that you pay your respects and kindly exit the building to give others the opportunity to enter.

A private funeral service will be held for the family on Saturday at the United Methodist Church in Libertyville with a link provided on the church and funeral home website for virtual viewing that afternoon.

Memorial donations would be appreciated to the United Methodist Church. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Link for Woody's service - <https://www.facebook.com/umclibertyville/videos/491536545120769>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **20**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Tribute Wall



“ *Burnett-Dane Funeral Home created a Live Funeral Footage in memory of Louis "Woody" Bedell*



Burnett-Dane Funeral Home - November 23, 2020 at 04:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Louis "Woody" Bedell.*



November 20, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ *Woody embraced life fully whether playing the drums in the Contemporary service or launching into a deep discussion on faith and religion or fighting the cancer that slowly took his life. We spent many wonderful evenings with him and Joyce over dinner and beers always enriched by the time we spend together. Woody dear friend we miss you already. Much love, Dennis & Louise*

Louise Wood - November 19, 2020 at 10:41 AM

SC

“ Susan & Stuart Chagrin purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Louis "Woody" Bedell.



Susan & Stuart Chagrin - November 19, 2020 at 10:22 AM

GG

“ Geryols, Hendricks, Verbetens, Brays, and
Gaharts purchased the Sentiments of Serenity S
pray for the family of Louis "Woody" Bedell.



Geryols, Hendricks, Verbetens, Brays, and Gaharts -
November 16, 2020 at 09:54 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Louis "Woody" Bedell.



November 15, 2020 at 12:09 PM

JS

“ I was privileged to know Woody and his wife Joyce, when I was
Associate Pastor for a time at UMC Libertyville - where I thoroughly
enjoyed his drumming during the contemporary worship service.
Years later Woody was a wonderful resource person to me as I
progressed through my final year of pastoral service following my
retirement in the Northern Illinois Conference. My prayers for
strength and comfort go out fir his family at this time.

Judith Sherk - November 11, 2020 at 05:30 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Louis "Woody" Bedell.*



November 09, 2020 at 12:05 PM



“ *Our sincere condolences to the Bedell family. We hope that it is of comfort to you that so many people are keeping you in their prayers.*

Charles and Paulette Peters - November 08, 2020 at 09:42 PM



“ *Joanna Kolakowski (kreska consultants) purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Louis "Woody" Bedell.*



Joanna Kolakowski (kreska consultants) - November 06, 2020 at 03:28 PM



“ *Mike's friends at Convene purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Louis "Woody" Bedell.*



Mike's friends at Convene - November 06, 2020 at 09:19 AM

BT

“ *Brian, Gerianne, Brad, and The Exercise Coach Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Louis "Woody" Bedell.*



Brian, Gerianne, Brad, and The Exercise Coach Team -
November 05, 2020 at 03:58 PM

EW

“ *Woody was a wonderful human being. He shared openly in the small groups I was fortunate to attend with him. He touched everyone he came in contact with in a loving way. I feel blessed to have known him. May the Lord's Peace be with his family.*

Ed Walters

Ed Walters - November 05, 2020 at 03:56 PM

JB

“ *It is rare that you meet someone who has lived a life well-lived. I am certain everyone who was touched by Woody would say he lived a life well-lived. I dare to say he will continue this process in heaven. Though we know he is in a much better place, he will be deeply missed by those who knew him. Joyce, If I could, I would take away your pain, but the greatest price of loving is the pain of losing. May our loving God wrap his loving arms around you and grant you the peace only he can. Much love, Janis Brown*

Janis Brown - November 05, 2020 at 01:19 PM

RZ

“ Our deepest sympathy and love to the Bedell family. Woody was a very caring person, always ready to help . May the Peace of the Lord be with all members of the family.

Rev. Zaki L. Zaki - November 05, 2020 at 12:20 PM

NR

“ One of the nicest most caring people you will ever meet. It was an honor to know Woody. He made us all a better person I am certain he will be looking down upon us and we will feel his warmth and his contagious smile and positive energy
Norm and Rhea Roth

Norman Roth - November 05, 2020 at 11:38 AM

AH

“ Our deepest sympathy and love to the Bedell family. The Peace of the Lord be with you.
Andrea & Frits Huntjens

Andrea & Frits Huntjens - November 04, 2020 at 08:30 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Louis "Woody" Bedell.



November 04, 2020 at 08:11 PM