



Larry Staples

March 21, 1952 - March 9, 2020

Reverend Lawrence Walton Staples, Jr. (Larry), 67, of Lenoir, passed away Monday, March 9 at Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care – Lenoir. He was born on March 21, 1952 in Columbia, South Carolina to the late Lawrence Walton Staples, Sr. and Dorothy Kirby Staples.

In addition to his wife of 45 years, Donna Hart Staples, he is survived by two daughters Kelli Brentnell (Jonathan) of Salisbury and Hannah Romero (William) of Lenoir; three grandchildren James Walton “Walt” and Charles Gabriel “Charlie” Brentnell and Gabriella “Gabby” Romero.

Larry was a United Methodist minister for 30 years, 13 of which he spent at First United Methodist Church of Lenoir. He had a special love for youth ministry and continued to be active in all aspects of FUMC – Lenoir. He loved growing and selling (and sometimes giving away) flowers at the Lenoir and Sawmills Farmer’s Markets. Larry was also an avid supporter of Duke University athletics. He always put others before himself. He was kind, generous, and never met a stranger.

A celebration of Larry’s life will be held at First United Methodist Church – Lenoir, on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 2:00 PM with Reverend Dr. Dave Melton officiating. There will be a reception in the Christian Life Center immediately following the service.

Memorials may be sent to the Youth Travel Fund or the Backpack Ministry, First United Methodist Church, 309 Church Street, Lenoir, NC 28645.

Comments



“ Larry was a wonderful friend to my family. The service was beautiful and so fitting for him. In particular, his work with the youth at FUMC benefitted so many. It was on a college tour that Garrett met Celeste, who later became his wife! We send love and prayers to Donna, Kelli and Hannah as they endure this loss.
Laura Ball

Laura Ball - March 14, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ So sorry for your loss! Always enjoyed talking with him! Prayers for whole family!
Love you all!



Frances Malcolm - March 12, 2020 at 04:33 PM



“ I have SO many memories of Larry. Riding to and from soccer games, ALWAYS hearing Larry in the stands over everyone else, sleepovers with Hannah, always having chocolate chip pancakes in the morning (with their cockatiels of course), his love of flowers etc... too many memories to count. He will be dearly missed. Donna, Kelli and Hannah -- you will be in my thoughts and prayers through this difficult time. I love ya'!!! -Grawyn

Grawyn - March 12, 2020 at 06:31 AM



“ Donna, Hannah and Kelli We are so sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He brought life to our little church while there and love to our family. So look forward to our Christmas cards every year. Michael and I reminisce of our time with him often. . He will be missed by many. Love and prayers

Lisa White - March 11, 2020 at 05:29 PM



“ Sending our deepest condolences. We have great memories of Larry at FUMC and appreciated his generosity and love to the youth he worked with. Love and prayers to you.

David and Carolyn Woodard

Carolyn Woodard - March 11, 2020 at 11:01 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Larry Staples.



March 11, 2020 at 07:30 AM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Larry Staples.



March 11, 2020 at 12:45 AM



“ I loved going to the farmer's market in Lenoir to buy flowers from Larry. I took him flower pots to use. Even though I could plant the pots myself, I was more fun to buy them from Larry. He introduced me to do many interesting people at the market. Donna, you were a wonderful caretaker. Will miss my friend.

Allison Jensen - March 10, 2020 at 08:44 PM



“ Donna, I wanted to let you know that Cathy and I send our love and prayers to you and your family. Our daughter, Rebecca let me know of Larry's death. We were serving Whitnel UMC there in Lenoir when I met Larry. I was there for 8 years. Also, I believe that your daughter's were in school with our kids. In all the years that I had known Larry I didn't realize that he was 5 years older than I am. After all, age is just a number when you get past 60 I guess.

May the love of God, his power and strength be with you during this time and afterwards...

David Lookadoo

David Garth Lookadoo - March 10, 2020 at 08:31 PM



“ I will always remember the day we all were huffing and puffing while dragging our "minimal" (HA!) gear up 5 flights of stairs into the condo at Duck. What a trip. Rest well old friend!

George Milstead - March 10, 2020 at 08:17 PM



“ Donna I am so sorry for your loss. I was actually shocked when I heard the news. I pray for peace in the days to come and pray that you hang on to all the wonderful memories and all the lives that Larry has touched.

Teresa Goble - March 10, 2020 at 06:31 PM



“ A great man gone way too soon, but thank the Lord, we shall meet again! Sending and comforting s to the family!



Rita Joines - March 10, 2020 at 04:31 PM



“ Donna, our heartfelt sympathy to you and the girls at this time. We are so sorry to hear of Larry's passing but know that he has been welcomed with open arms into the heavenly kingdom. We pray for strength and comfort for you and your family.

Love,
Lui and Olivia

Lui & Olivia Greene - March 10, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Larry Staples. He was a remarkable man.
Love you Kellie.

Debbie McMaster - March 10, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Larry Staples.



March 10, 2020 at 02:12 PM



“ Rev. Staples was a wonderful person and helped Zion UCC in Lenoir many times when we were without a minister - Our Love and Prayers go out to all of his family during this time of sadness and we do certainly will honor his memory forever.
Leona Schell, Consistory Secretary - Zion UCC, Lenoir.



Leona Schell - March 10, 2020 at 02:07 PM



“ Larry was my colleague in ministry, my brother in the LORD, my friend. He always had good things to say to me and was an encourager to me when I began my ministry at FUMC/Lenoir as part time associate pastor. He was an encourager to everyone in the church. Whenever anyone had a part in the service or what ever else, Larry could make us feel like no one else could have done what we did any better than we did. I* wioll forever remember his part in the memorial service for my husband 20 years ago. His most eloquent and sincere words are still a comforting memory. Someone said he had said yesterday that he wanted to go be with Jesus. Now he is there enjoying Heaven's glory, whole and well again. And one sweet day, we will all be in Heaven with him and all those other angel faces we have loved long since and lost a while." Larry, you will be forever in our hearts. Thank you brother! Amen.



Rev. Marietta Smith - March 10, 2020 at 02:06 PM