



Leonard Wade Matheny

May 15, 1957 - April 20, 2026

Leonard Wade Matheny, 68, of Dunlap, passed away on Monday, April 20, 2026.

He was born on May 15, 1957 to Janice (Hurst) and Wade Matheny. He married his high school sweetheart, Vicki (Balzell) Matheny on June 5, 1976, and was looking forward to celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in a few weeks. Together, they had two children, Wendy (Navid) Samadani-Matheny and Justin (Andrea) Matheny. He was the proudest Papa to his three adored grandbabies, Evie (10), Lily (8), and Matthew (20 months).

He was preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Linda Crews and Diane Miller. He is survived by his wife, children, paternal uncle, Joe (Jan) Matheny, and maternal aunt, Sue Hurst.

Leonard was a longstanding member of the First Church of the Brethren of Peoria where he lived his faith through a variety of roles - from beloved Sunday school teacher and youth leader, to properties chair and sound system operator. He served the broader Church of the Brethren through both Illinois-Wisconsin District and Annual Conference activities.

He was a proud graduate and 1975 class president of Woodruff High School, a Boy Scout leader and troop-master, a devoted volunteer to Mountain Mission in southeast Kentucky, and lover of the outdoors who found joy riding his bike for miles and miles on his own and with friends. As a Caterpillar employee, he climbed the ladder from a third shift pneumatic chipper to Group Manager of the Cast Metals Organization over the course of his 38-year career.

A celebration of life will be held at the First Church of the Brethren of Peoria (4714 N. Sheridan Rd.) on Saturday, April 25, 2026. A visitation will be held from 9:00-11:00 am, followed by a brief memorial service at 11:00am, and lunch in the church fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations in Leonard's memory to the First Church of the Brethren of Peoria with a note designating "Mountain Mission," or a donation to the OSF Cancer Institute that cared for him so well in his final months.

Condolences and memories may be shared through SchmidtHaller.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **25**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Church of the Brethren-Peoria
4714 N Sheridan Rd
Peoria, IL 61614

Memorial Service

APR **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Church of the Brethren-Peoria
4714 N Sheridan Rd
Peoria, IL 61614

Celebration of Life

APR **25** (CT)

First Church of the Brethren-Peoria
4714 N Sheridan Rd
Peoria, IL 61614

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Dear Vicki and Family, So sorry to hear of the passing of Leonard. What a wonderful example he was to all who knew him. We worked together at different times and as we volunteered at Annual Conference registration under his so able command. We pray God will give you comfort, peace, and courage during this difficult time, the time just passed, and the coming days as you know Leonard is with the Lord. What a wonderful Christian friend! Love in Christ, Jim and Clareen (Dooly) Dunn

Jim and Clareen Dunn - April 25 at 12:25 PM

TG

“ I offer my condolences to the Matheny family and friends. My memories of Mr. Matheny go back to Cub Scouts at Thomas Jefferson Elementary in the 90s. Mr. Matheny was the leader of the entire troop. The gym was LOUD when filled up with all the cub scouts. I remember there was a candle burning and if it got too loud Mr. Matheny blew the candle out. If the candle went out too many times the end-of-year pizza party was at risk! Looking back upon it, I admire Leonard's patience and volunteerism. Despite his demanding career he was donating his time to the school and his kids. He also came to all our swim meets in high school. I know God has a plan for Leonard Matheny.

Tyler Goodyear - April 23 at 06:20 PM

BN

“ My deepest sympathy to your loss as Leonard is welcomed into the loving arms of Jesus. He was a big part of my childhood as a Boy Scout in Troop 140 and I fondly remember him being one of the most fun, dedicated Adult Leaders! I am grateful to have known him and believe that Heaven is blessed by his presence.

Brian Nelson - April 23 at 09:40 AM

YC

“ Your friends at CSG purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Leonard Wade Matheny.



Your friends at CSG - April 23 at 02:34 AM

YC

“ Your friends at CSG planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Wade Matheny.

Your friends at CSG - April 23 at 02:34 AM



“ Infinite Love was purchased for the family of Leonard Wade Matheny.



April 22 at 11:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Leonard Wade Matheny.

April 22 at 11:14 PM

JL

“ Leonard served the Lord his whole life. He did so much in leadership of our church...locally, District of Illinois, and Nationally. He knew how to do everything with a personal professional touch. He impacted so many lives.

Something that stands out to me was his Christian mentoring to our children from the time they were in grade school thru high school and college. He lead the GOD'S MIDGETS....started way back in the 1950s. They did fun things and grew in their Christian faith. He was a Blessing to our church in many ways and especially to the children. Will be missed so much. Hugs and prayers to his family. He is now resting in Peace with our Lord.

Joyce Lauterbach - April 22 at 11:03 PM

RK

“ Leonard and Vicki have been our close friends for nearly 15 years. Leonard and I worked together on many church projects together. His life was one of service and dedication.....the term “Well good and faithful servant” certainly applied to him.

We extend our sympathy to you, Vicki, and your family as you cope with the pain of losing Leonard and at the same time rejoice that he has been liberated from his recent life of pain and suffering and celebrates a new life in the presence of the savior!

Ray and Kitty Knotts

Ray and Kitty Knotts - April 22 at 10:58 PM

RK

Correction....friends for nearly 50 years!!

Ray and Kitty Knotts - April 22 at 11:00 PM

DZ

“ I met Leonard in kindergarten at Greeley grade school in 1962. we remained good friends all 9 years there and kind of drifted apart in high school but kept in touch. I am so sorry to hear of his passing

Dennis zehr - April 22 at 07:28 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leonard Wade Matheny.



April 22 at 06:49 PM

LI

“ So many wonderful memories with Leonard & Vicki, Wendy & Justin! Church Camp & various district activities! True friends & beautiful Christians!
Love & prayers, Thomas & Linda

Linda - April 22 at 04:58 PM

JG

“ This is Janet Greenwalt from the Church.

Leonard and Vickie both were a huge help to the church. I am so thankful as the former secretary of the church to have Leonard, always willing to help when help was needed with various projects.

My condolences and prayers are with your family.

Janet Greenwalt - April 22 at 11:21 AM

JD

“ Vicki and family! I am deeply sorry for the loss of Leonard! I have known Leonard since 1971 from Woodruff High School! He was an amazing man! He loved his family with all of his heart! ❤️ He will be missed by many people! I will hold on to all the great memories of him being at Woodruff High School! He was a very true Warrior and awesome President of the Class of 1975. In our hearts ❤️ and never forgotten! R.I.P my dear friend! 💔🙏



Judy Dagit - April 22 at 10:36 AM

FF

“ Fun Trip Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Leonard Wade Matheny.



Fun Trip Family - April 21 at 11:47 PM

FF

“ Fun Trip Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Wade Matheny.

Fun Trip Family - April 21 at 11:47 PM