



## Rev. Charles Irwin Johnson

January 14, 1933 - February 9, 2026

Charles Irwin Johnson (Reverend Charles I. Johnson), 93, of Bend, Oregon, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 9, 2026.

Chuck was born on January 14, 1933, in Detroit, Michigan, the oldest of six children, born to Harold and Alta Johnson. He attended DePauw University for his undergraduate studies and later earned his degree from the Boston University School of Theology in 1957. During his time in Boston, he met the love of his life, Shirley Elouise Kinney.

Following graduation, Chuck and Shirley returned to Indiana, where he began his lifelong ministry serving congregations within the United Methodist Church of northern Indiana. He faithfully served as a United Methodist pastor, camp director, and later as District Superintendent of the Logansport District from 1983 to 1988. He continued his ministry until his retirement in 1998.

More than anything, Chuck will be remembered for his joy-filled laughter, deep faith, and unwavering commitment to serving others. He loved his calling and dedicated his entire career to the United Methodist Church in Indiana.

In his later years, Chuck fell in love with Oregon. He and Shirley spent their final years in Bend, enjoying time with their grandchildren and visits to the Oregon coast. Last year, they celebrated 67 years of marriage.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Shirley; his son, Wayne; and daughter, Amy; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and his younger sister and brother who reside in Florida.

He was preceded in death by his son, Corey; brothers, Larry and Dave; and his sister, Diane.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 21, at 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bend.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life later this spring in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) at <https://umcmmission.org/work/humanitarian-relief>.

Throughout his career, Chuck officiated many weddings and funerals, standing beside families in moments of celebration and in times of loss. His enduring joy for service will live on in the lives he touched.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 21. 2:00 PM (PT)

Trinity Episcopal Church  
469 NW Wall St  
Bend, OR 97703  
<https://trinitybend.org/>

# Tribute Wall

CP

“ Dear Shirley. Jerry and I send our love and sympathy to you and your family as you mourn Chuck's passing. Chuck was DS when I entered ministry as a part-time local pastor. Chuck and you both helped Jerry and I learn the customs and responsibilities of serving a church and being part of a District family. There we're not many male spouses at that time. Jerry appreciated the friendship of both of you. Chuck lived the life of love revealed in Christ. God bless you!



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**Connie Payne** - April 10 at 04:42 PM

MB

“ Shirley, my prayers and sympathy goes out to you and your family as you mourn Chuck's passing. I so appreciated how you and Chuck welcomed us to Grace UMC and Kokomo on our return from Ohio. Thank you both for your service to the UMC and to all the people for whom you were the light of Christ.

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**Michael Butler** - March 24 at 09:14 AM

TS

“ Shirley, Wayne, and Amy, I am sorry for your loss. I have alot of fond memories from my friendship with Corey in Marion during our high school years and then carrying over to the time spent working with Wayne at Epworth Forest. I will never forget how you all welcomed me into your home and made me feel like family. God Bless You All and find comfort knowing how Chuck and your family had such a positive impact on my life, and I am sure many others. Tony Sellers, West Lafayette, IN

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**Tony Sellers** - March 02 at 12:42 PM

PR

“ Chuck was the mentor and facilitator of the RIM group I was in when I graduated from seminary. He was such a wonderful support for our cohort and helped us to get a great start in pastoral ministry. I fondly remember our meetings, piling into his car to go to lunch, and his wonderful smile. He was a truly a pastor to our group of young pastors. No doubt he touched countless lives. Blessings to your family in this loss but what joy for gift he was to you.

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**Pastor Tom Ream** - February 28 at 05:19 AM

NS

“ To Shirley and your family ,  
I met Chuck in 1955 when he studied at B U.School of Theology  
He was a very special person to me.  
He served his time here well doing what his heart led him to do  
I sm sure the memories of your life together will ease the grief of his loss  
May his blessed soul rest in peace

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**Naomi S.Fox** - February 24 at 08:08 PM

KB

“ Diane & I worked with Chuck in the camping program over a number of those years he was Associate Director in N. Indiana. Diane was camp nurse & I counselor, etc. for a summer at Camp Adventure. As a pastor, I directed summer camps at Camp Adventure and Pine Creek and helped train counselors and Directors for certification for the camp program, so worked with Chuck during those years a lot. I really did appreciate Chuck's leadership and sense of humor and all he did for the North Indiana Conference of the UMC! I am sure thousands came to Christ during those years of camp and are now thanking Chuck for his faithfulness to serving Christ that got them there! --Kent Biller

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**Kent Biller** - February 24 at 04:12 PM

ER

“ Shirley, Jack and I had the utmost respect and love for you and Chuck. I am so very sorry for your loss. It isn't easy to go on without them but just take One Day At a Time. Blessings and Love, Ellen (Jack) Rhoades

ellen rhoades - February 24 at 02:44 PM

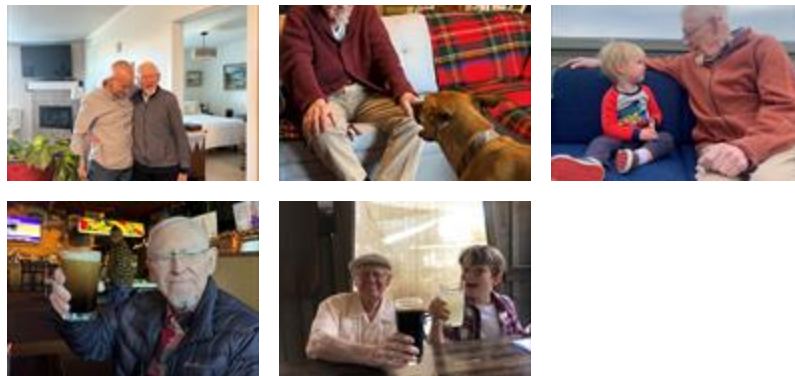
DM

“ It's been a long time since I served as Director of Epworth Forest Conference Center in Indiana, but I will always remember and be grateful for the strong support Chuck gave not only to that site, but to the entire camping ministry of the United Methodist Church in Indiana and beyond. His insight and enthusiasm were a great blessing to all who knew him. May he rejoice in glory, and may the Spirit lift his loved ones on eagles' wings. Well done, good and faithful servant!

Dave Marty - February 24 at 02:28 PM



“ 13 files added to the album Memories



Niswonger Reynolds Funeral Home & Greenwood Cemetery - February 23 at 11:56 AM