



## Edward Leon Yoder

July 26, 1929 - December 21, 2016

Edward "Ed" Leon Yoder, 87, of Charlotte entered his eternal life on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 at 'high noon.' Ed was born July 16, 1929 in Auburn, IN to Ervin and Crystal (McNaab) Yoder. He graduated from Auburn High School in 1947, and continued his education at Western Michigan University earning a Master's Degree in Education in 1953, while also working at Kalamazoo State Hospital as recreation director until he completed his degree.

Ed will always be known as a fun guy, who would always bring a smile to your face. Early in his adult life he decided to take a job as a bartender at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island; to be close to a special girl who also worked at the Hotel. That was the best decision he made as a young man and in August of 1958 he married the love of his life, Dorothy Galloway, who was also a teacher. They were great examples of the value of hard work, and Ed worked during the summers as lead bell hop at Lake Geneva Wisconsin; doorman at Cedar Point's Hotel Breakers; and owned and operated the Dunes Restaurant at Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes; and owned and operated Yoder's Mini Golf and Archery Range during the summer seasons in Oscoda, MI from 1965-76.

They were role models to their three children, Sally, Rita, and Eric and showed their faith, commitment to each other and marriage, love of family and friends,

and the importance of creating and nurturing relationships with people in their community, church and work. Ed always said "relationships matter." He lived and taught these values each day of his life

To say Ed was passionate about schools and education would be an understatement. He began his career in Chesaning, MI before moving to Charlotte. His career spanned 42 years and included teaching positions in Math, Physical Education, Science, Shop and Home Construction and Driver's Education. He advanced into administration and held positions of Athletic Director, High School Assistant Principal, and ended his career as Principal at Weymouth Elementary. He had a passion for athletics and coached basketball and baseball teams, and continued to maintain relationships with some of his players today. He was the President of the Capital Circuit League for 10 years. Combining his love for building with his love for his students, he lead his home construction class in building three houses in Charlotte, providing homes for local families. In addition, he built five other homes where he raised his children with Dot, and also spent his retirement.

Post retirement, Ed's passion continued to be his family and also community service. He said "if you have a Hummer and a trailer, you are never really retired." He was involved in the Friends of the Library book sales and events, helped the Chamber of Commerce food drive for 14 years, led recycling for the Congregational Church and Eaton Area Senior Center, and became a celebrity with his 10 performances in Musical Madness. Ed was an active member at the First Congregational Church of Charlotte, serving 12 years on the Board of Trustees. He was also on the Board of Directors at the Eaton Area Senior Center for 10 years. He was an avid woodworker, enjoyed the annual family trip to Frankfort, MI for the Fourth of July, and loved the annual fishing trips to Rice Lake in Canada with his son Eric, and friends.

He was an awesome husband, father, father-in-law, brother, uncle and

grandfather. He was active and present, spending quality time with each of his family members over his 87 year life. He has left his handprint on all of them. Ed is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Dorothy Yoder; daughters Sally (Chris) Edwards, and Rita (Dave) Kauppi; son Eric (Michelle Halle) Yoder; four granddaughters, Mackenzie Fowler, Caroline Edwards, Madeline Yoder and Anna Kauppi; two grandsons Broc Edwards and Maxwell Yoder; his sister Marie Moody, of El Paso Texas; and many loved nieces and nephews in Michigan and Texas.

Visitation will be held at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte, MI on Monday, December 26, 2016 at 2-4pm and 6-8pm. Memorial services are planned for Tuesday, December 27 at 10am at the First Congregational Church in Charlotte with Pastor Phil Hobson officiating. The family also extends an invitation to a luncheon, immediately following the funeral service, at the Eaton Area Senior Center. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Eaton Area Senior Center and the Charlotte Congregational Church. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Ed on his tribute page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Ceremony

DEC 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Congregational Church of Charlotte  
106 S. Bostwick  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall

GP

“ *Mr. Yoder Was A Very Nice Man, I Knew Him When He Was The Athletic Director in Charlotte, He Was Always Kind To All Of Us Kids At The Charlotte High, And That Smile Of His Would always Cheer You Up Especially When You Were Having A Bad Day, R.I.P Mr. Yoder, and God Bless You and Your Family.*

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**George Pope** - January 04, 2017 at 07:02 PM

GP

*Class Of 77*

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**George Pope** - January 04, 2017 at 07:07 PM

BC

“ *WE HAVE TRIED THREE TIMES TO INCLUDE OUR REMARKS ; WILL TRY AGAIN!  
ED YODER WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AS AN EXAMPLE OF A TERRIFIC FRIEND. HE HAD MANY TALENTS AND A KIND HEART, ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP OTHERS, QUICK TO SMILE AND PLAY A TRICK ON A FRIEND FOR A HEARTY LAUGH. WE CANNOT REPLACE A FRIEND LIKE ED AND WITH HEAVY HEARTS, WE BID FAREWELL.  
BOB AND SALLY CHANT, CARLISLE. PA*

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**BOB AND SALLY CHANT** - December 30, 2016 at 02:46 PM

MM

“ I entered Mr. Yoder's general shop class as a Freshman in 1966. One teacher with 20 students operating power tools probably would not even be allowed - but he did; everybody completed the class with the same number of fingers they started with. His patience was extraordinary! In word-turning, my bowl looked like an ashtray; he graded the quality of the ashtray - not the fact that it was a crappy bowl. He respected his students and their efforts. My metal project, a tool tray, looked like an ... ashtray. The Plexiglas box project ended with yet another ashtray. Because he saw each of us as an individual, he provided us positive feedback. Another teacher would have said I failed three projects. Mr. Yoder complemented me as a great ashtray maker. Teaching Freshman, Mr. Yoder was responsible for a lot of successes over four years of school. He helped us see our work had value; that we were valued.

Mark Miller  
CHS 1966-70

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**Mark Miller** - December 27, 2016 at 04:29 PM

RW

“ So sad to learn of Ed's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dorothy, Sally and all the family at this difficult time. Ron and Dawn

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**Ron Ward** - December 24, 2016 at 12:21 PM

AV

“ I don't know many people who can say everyone he knew liked him but that would be Ed. He was kind, unassuming and a friend to many. He was like we all want to be but fall short. It came natural for Ed. I worked with him over 20 years ago and still think of him like it was yesterday. While no longer living in Charlotte I'm aware of how he continued to serve his community and touched so many lives during his retirement years. How lucky it was for all of us who knew him. Our deepest sympathy to Dot, Sally, Rita, Eric and family. Thanks for sharing him. PS. We owned one of the school home construction houses Ed built. What a talented guy! Al & Mary Vercellino

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**Al Vercellino** - December 24, 2016 at 10:58 AM



“ Mr. Yoder was the principle at Weymouth when my children attended. He was a great man. He loved those children and they in return loved him. He was a pleasure to work with on the parent/ teacher group. May he Rest In Peace.

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**Donna Colegrove** - December 24, 2016 at 09:26 AM

SC

“ Rarely have a met a person of better character, hard work , and kindness. You made Weymouth School a better place everyday. Keep looking up!  
Sandy Carey

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**sandy carey** - December 23, 2016 at 09:50 PM

GM

“ You are in my thoughts and prayers, Dot and family with the loss of Ed. An abundance of memories come to mind, especially the Chesaning Days. Ed touched many lives throughout his life and their lives have been blessed simply by knowing him. I'll always remember his wit and humor. May past memories sustain you in this difficult time. Rest In Peace, Ed, you will be missed ...

Gerry Mohre - December 23, 2016 at 04:46 PM

PS

Our sympathy to the family of Mr Yoder from the class of 1959 in Chesaning. We had a mini reunion yesterday and Ed was the topic of conversation. Well loved by many of us way back!!! He was a well loved .

patricia schroeder - October 21, 2017 at 10:06 AM

GW

“ I had Mr. Yoder for shop class and I think a history class. I wasn't his best student but he always treated me and his students with respect. Always had the upmost respect for him. A real asset to the Charlotte School system.

Gary Wells - December 23, 2016 at 12:38 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rita Yoder kauppi - December 23, 2016 at 08:41 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Yoders passing. He was my absolute favorite principal of all time. During the time that I was a student at Weymouth, he would never fail to make me smile. He had a way of making all of his students feel special and for that, he always held a special place in my heart. My sympathies to the entire Yoder family and to all who loved him.

Kerrin Hetland (Sudrovech) - December 23, 2016 at 07:42 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Madi Yoder - December 23, 2016 at 07:00 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Edward Leon Yoder .



December 22, 2016 at 09:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward Leon Yoder .



December 22, 2016 at 07:59 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rita Yoder kauppi - December 22, 2016 at 07:03 PM

JC

“ Dear Dot and family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I have always appreciated Ed and how he's always willing to jump in and help wherever needed. Ed was a wonderful Friend of the Library. He set up book pickup and delivery for the annual book sale long before I became involved with it. Not only did he coordinate the pickup and delivery, he also enlisted high school students and teachers to help with this job. He always did this with a smile on his face and such a joy in his job. Ed always seemed to have a joke to tell, as well.  
I will miss Ed deeply, as will the Friends of the Library, and our community as a whole.  
Thoughts and prayers are with you as you bid Ed good-bye.

Janet Chauvin - December 22, 2016 at 07:02 PM



“ One of the high points of marrying into this family was Uncle Ed and Aunt Dot. I found out what a giving and loving person he was. The things he did for others and his family. There is a huge empty spot in the family, but Ed definitely left his mark. As he always said when he was coaching, "I never lost a game, I just ran out of time. "

Don Wagner - December 22, 2016 at 05:54 PM

JW

“ Ed was one of the first friendly faces I met at the Senior Center, or rather his "twin brother, Ward". Then a little while later I met Ed when he came in wearing different clothes saying that he heard I'd met his brother earlier. He was full of humor and kindness, and always willing to lend a hand. I enjoyed his stories and jokes and will miss them so much. My heart is heavy from the loss of my dear friend, however, I consider myself blessed to have crossed paths with Ed. He was truly one of a kind. My love, thoughts and prayers to Dot and family for your loss.

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**Jessica Wells** - December 22, 2016 at 05:32 PM

DH

“ that man was such fun to be around, he was always playing tricks on us in the office at the Sr. Center. He WILL be missed. Love ya Ed. Diane Hudson

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**Diane Hudson** - December 22, 2016 at 02:59 PM

LE

“ I knew Mr. Yoder from shop class in Chesaning in 1961. He was also varsity basketball coach. My thoughts go out to Mrs. Yoder who was one of my 6th grade teachers and my 7th grade math teacher. She took me to his varsity baseball games at Easton, which was where Chesaning played their games in the late 50's and early 60's until the new high school was built. I felt a loss when they moved to Charlotte. To Mrs Yoder; I hop you can keep that great smile in the future.

*Les Schwartz*

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**Les** - December 22, 2016 at 02:26 PM

AR

“ Ed was a wonderful man absolutely full of personality. He has changed my life! He has always made me feel like I could do anything and when I lost my husband earlier this year, he did not stop making me feel that way. He made sure I was okay and would even bring me popcorn to my office and always tell a joke. There was such a warmth I always felt from him and I can not thank him and my Senior Center family enough for all they have done for me. I want to clarify that my husband died at 38. I am not even close to a Senior but that did not matter, Ed knew I could do anything and knowing that he felt that way - I made sure I did! I will never forget his smile, jokes and subtle reassurance he always gave me. There is never going to be another Ed Yoder, but I challenge everyone to aspire to do their best. Ed would have wanted that.

Aimee

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**Aimee Robles** - December 22, 2016 at 02:14 PM

JK

“ *Dot & Family:*  
Had it not been for Coach "Easy Ed" I would have never been a basketball player! He "barrowed" that rim and net from CHS and built and installed the backboard on the garage at 225 N. Chapman so I could shoot hoops with him and Orra Morningstar and sneek a beer behind the pine trees by Wilcox's. The family friendship thru the years has been wonderful. Thanks Coach. RIP You did make a difference in many many young lives.

John W. Kaser  
Chesaning & Manistee

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**John W. Kaser** - December 22, 2016 at 02:13 PM

WC

“ I didn't know Ed very well until I worked with him for our Eaton Area Senior Center's "Musical Madness" variety shows. Oh, the things he was willing to do on stage, all with a smile and a willingness to learn another dance routine. Whether acting like a Cheerleader, Showgirl or Ballet Dancer, he always came through with shining colors. When Ed was around, you could always be assured of a good time. He was always helping with something or other at the center. Dear Dot and family, please know that he will be greatly missed and it was an honor to know him.

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**Wilma Campbell** - December 22, 2016 at 01:45 PM

DA

“ Ed was a wonderful educator as well as a caring loving person. He will be missed. I worked at Weymouth one year. He treated me so good. I was a paraprofessional in reading. I will never forget him treating me like I had always been there. RIP Donna Allen

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**Donna Allen** - December 22, 2016 at 01:30 PM

LL

“ Our Family has been blessed to have shared our lives with Ed. Neighbors to the Yoder Family for many years on Carlisle Hwy., we lived life sharing many memorable moments. Our hearts will hold the memories of a man filled with time for sharing, laughs, jokes and a friendly smile. As we all know, Life is filled with many unexpected paths. It's the special friendships we collect along the way that are true gifts in our journey. Thanks Ed for being our gift and our friend for life. God Bless  
The LaFave Family

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**Lori LaFave** - December 22, 2016 at 11:16 AM

GC

“ Ed along with Dot were involved so many activities, charities and do good projects. The Family will of course miss his presence including his wit and his care and concern for them

Also our entire community will miss his wit, humor and hard work

There are few people that leave such a big footprint.

Church, schools-education, CPAC, EASC, the library and so many more

Dot said once that Ed liked to work, we as a community benefited greatly.

It was a privilege and honor to know him as a friend

Gene and Ruth

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**Gene Conley** - December 22, 2016 at 10:43 AM

HA

“ I am saddened to learn of Ed's passing! I have so many memories that I will cherish! Dot and family, please accept my condolences. Thinking of you during this difficult time!

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**Hollie Auten** - December 22, 2016 at 10:38 AM