



## Richard Alan Bayles

July 3, 1937 - October 2, 2024

Pastor Richard Alan Bayles, a man that devoted himself to several churches and congregations over the years, died Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at the Dimondale Nursing Care Center. Richard, 87, was born on July 3, 1937 at the family home in Dimondale, the son of Daniel McClain Bayles and Katherine (Smith) Bayles. He graduated from Dimondale High School in 1955. Richard attended Olivet College before transferring to Michigan State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Arts and Social Science. On his birthday in 1958, Richard married the love of his life Wilma Jean Caruss, and together they spent the next 66 years creating many lasting memories. In 1968 he earned a Bachelor's of Divinity from Garret Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, then began pastoring for numerous churches around Michigan and Pennsylvania. Alongside pastoring he worked for the American Red Cross, The State of Michigan, janitorial work for different companies, and Field and Leik Funeral Home as a handyman.

Richard was a member of the Dimondale Masonic Lodge, where he was a member since he was 21 years old. He was also a Lions Club member. Richard was a man who was very reliable, responsible, and had a humorous side. He was a very talented woodworker, and he built most of the furniture around his home. Above all, Richard was a man who loved his family and the Lord.

Richard is survived by his wife, Wilma; sons, Marshall (Blanka) Bayles, and Michael Bayles; grandson, Jacob Bayles; sister, Patricia Leonard; nephew, Kevin Leonard; and cousin, Mary Cilley. He was predeceased by his daughter, Diana Kay Wolan; and his parents.

Friends are encouraged to support Richard's family by sharing memories on his Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com) <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>. A private family graveside service will be held at Dimondale Cemetery. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Masonic Home in Alma, Boys Town, St. Joseph's Indian School, Lions Club International, or to your own church in Richard's name. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Cemetery Details

## **Dimondale Cemetery**

5661 N. Canal Rd.  
Dimondale, MI 48821

# Tribute Wall

MZ

“ I worked with Dick at Social Services, he was a wonderful co-worker that cared for each of his clients and he was a wonderful friend.

Maureen Zapolski - October 08, 2024 at 10:23 AM

WG

“ Dick and Wilma have been our neighbors since we moved here eleven years. Dick was a kind, funny man who was always thankful for every little thing we did. We appreciated him very much.  
"Jesus said I, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.' ”  
Rest in Pease, Dick. Lee and Wendy

wendy Greve - October 05, 2024 at 06:38 PM

DH

“ Dick was a member of 1st Congregational U.C.C. in Charlotte, In a pinch he'd read the Bible message on Sunday. I loved the way he would explain about what he was going to read with humor and knowledge. Lovely man! We will miss him greatly

Diane Hudson - October 04, 2024 at 01:09 PM

SR

one of the nicest man I ever met and it was always a treat when he gave the Sunday message. He and Wilma were always very special to our family and we will miss him greatly. Shalom my friend

Shirley M Ripley - October 05, 2024 at 02:06 PM

GC

*We met Dick at Church in Charlotte. A great guy, we always looked forward to when Dick did the sermon, he always had a humorus story. Dicks passing is a loss to family, community and church. The world is a better place thanks to Dick*  
*Gene and Ruth Conley*

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**GENE P CONLEY** - October 11, 2024 at 01:17 PM