



## Rev. Michael D. Hughes

April 11, 1955 - May 4, 2022

Rev. Michael Hughes passed away suddenly in his sleep on the morning of May 4, 2022.

He was one of eight children born to Frank and Polly Hughes in Nashville, TN, on April 11, 1955. He spent his early years in Nashville and various parts of Texas. He attended Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he received a B.A. in Greek New Testament in 1977. He attended Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and received a Master's of Divinity in 1982. While in graduate school he also served as an Air Force reserve chaplain. Mike received his first pastoral call as an intern at the Hornbrook United Methodist Church in Bradford County, PA. This is a call that would shape the rest of his life, and Bradford County became home to him.

A woman in yellow pants asked him to lead a church retreat at Sky Lake camp. That woman was Lynn Hamill, and they were married at Maine Federated Church, Maine, NY, in May 1985. They were married until she passed away from cancer in 1997. They had one daughter, Bridget. Mike was very proud of his daughter's accomplishments and emphasized to her, "I raised you to know and believe that as a woman, you can do anything." Additionally, he was "Dad" to Kimmy (Venezuela) and Gabby (Ecuador) who joined the family as exchange students when Bridget was in high school. Throughout his life, he served the following Twin Tiers churches as pastor: Rome United Methodist (Rome, PA), North Orwell United Methodist (Rome, PA), Maine Federated Church (Maine, NY), Warren Center United Methodist

Church (Warren Center, PA), Providence Presbyterian (Scranton, PA) and First Presbyterian Church (Towanda, PA). He was active in campus ministry at Marywood University and served as the Volunteer Fire Department Chaplain in Towanda and Wysox for several years. He also was trained in disaster response and responded to all manner of crises throughout his long career. In 2009, Mike furthered his education by completing a Clinical Pastoral Education externship. It was after this he received a long-awaited answer to prayer: he became the chaplain at Robert Packer Hospital. He was honored to assist so many families through the worst days of their lives—he said it was as if he got to walk into a room and say to Death itself “You are a thief and a liar. And I know you do not win.” He retired in 2020 to enjoy his time with his loving companion of 9 years, Dolly Powers, and they had many adventures together, including spending time with her family and grandkids. They all brought such joy to his life and a sense of home he had not felt in many years. Mike’s newest thrilling role was that of Grandad with the arrival of Amelia. He was her own personal Mr. Rogers. She most enjoyed spending time in the hammock with him, going out to breakfast, and his hilarious animal noises. He resided in his beloved cabin “Stillpoint” on Mount Pisgah in Troy, PA, which he and Lynn purchased early in their marriage. He was an active member of the Sylvania Presbyterian Church and volunteered at all manner of community activities.

You could hear Michael’s laugh and his voice before you saw him. He almost never needed a microphone. He loved hunting, fishing, hiking, and reading books in coffee shops, and was impossible to beat at Scrabble. He could hold a conversation about almost anything and could navigate many places from memory. He loved to sing but most of us would rather hear him eat.

He was an emotionally intelligent man, a man well-traveled, well-read, well-rounded, and most of all, well-loved. He built community like no other and taught us that relationships are the best things to invest in. He had the most thoughtful, nuanced Christian worldview of anyone you ever met.

Michael was preceded in death by his mother and father and his sister

Colleen. He is survived by his daughter Bridget Mooney (Joshua) of Manhattan, KS; his sisters Kathy Cooke (Jim), Donna Blake, Sharon Bell (Bob), Peggy Randall (Tony), & Tammy Duffy (Mike); his brother Tim (Mary); his in-laws: mother-in-law Marceil, brother-in-law Don (Sue), and sisters-in-law Jan (Ed) and Diane. He was an uncle and great-uncle to many. In addition, he leaves behind wonderful friends too numerous to list.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to: Hezekiah's Hands (which Mike helped found in the early 2000s), Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Annunciation House (El Paso Texas), or Samaritan's Purse.

The family would welcome cards with favorite stories, memories, or pictures so that Amelia can know the life of her Grandad as she grows. These may be sent to Bridget Mooney, 2633 Elmwood Court Manhattan, KS 66503.

Visiting hours will be at First Presbyterian Church (5 Court Street, Towanda PA 18848) on Thursday, May 12, from 4 to 7 pm. The funeral will be held at the church on Friday, May 13, at 5 pm (doors will open at 4), with arrangements provided by Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home, Towanda. The Reverend Jeff Hale and several other pastors will preside. A private burial will take place on Saturday. Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting [www.bowenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.bowenfuneralhomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 12. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
5 Court Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

## Service

MAY 13. 5:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
5 Court Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Michael D. Hughes*

October 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ *Rev. Michael D. Hughes*

October 08, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ *Rev. Michael D. Hughes*

October 06, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ *Rev. Michael D. Hughes*

October 06, 2023 at 03:29 AM



“ *Rev. Michael D. Hughes*

October 05, 2023 at 02:02 PM

JT

“ Mike was my resident advisor at Oral Roberts University when I was a freshman. He did much to shape my life and faith. His senior year, he would sometimes take weekend jobs as a mover for Mayflower and occasionally I would go with him as extra labor. I loved the many hours with Mike traveling in the truck and we had many wonderful conversations about God. His easy way of encouraging my faith had a great impact on me and is something for which I'll always be grateful.

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**John Towriss** - July 06, 2022 at 12:02 PM

BM

John, thank you for sharing this memory of my dad.

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**Bridget Mooney** - July 26, 2022 at 03:15 PM

TO

“ Rev. Hughes was a wonderful part of the Guthrie team. He always responded to my requests for help for both patients and families, and a few times for myself personally. He was so caring, non-judgmental, direct, and knowledgeable. He met people where they were in regards to their religion/spirituality (or lack of) and didn't come across as pushy to people, thereby enabling him to reach people who wouldn't otherwise benefit from his warmth and humor. I enjoyed many a conversation with him. He had an infectious laugh. I miss him still. Our loss. Heaven's gain.

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**Teri O'Brien** - June 01, 2022 at 08:47 PM

CH

“ Claire Holton-Lizon lit a candle in memory of Rev. Michael D. Hughes



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**Claire Holton-Lizon** - May 21, 2022 at 01:52 PM

AM

“ Anne Marie lit a candle in memory of Rev. Michael D. Hughes



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Anne Marie - May 14, 2022 at 11:51 AM

GG

“ It is with great sadness over Pastor Mike,s passing.I so enjoyed the countless hours in conversations at the hospital where we spend many lunchs talking of hunting and of course,our beloved JESUS.Rest in the mighty arms of our savior in Paradise.You are all in my thoughts and prayers as you say ,NOT goodbye,but See you later.

GOD BLESS

Gary Gee

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Gary Gee - May 12, 2022 at 06:47 PM

CC

“ We are very saddened to learn of the passing of Michael. He was certainly a loved pastor and friend to many, and he was God’s devoted servant. Our condolences and prayers go out to Brigitte and his family. May our Lord bless them and bring them comfort and peace.

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Chuck and LaVaughn Chenot - May 11, 2022 at 09:01 PM

FD

“ From the USD 475 Speech Department purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Rev. Michael D. Hughes.



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**From the USD 475 Speech Department** - May 11, 2022 at 10:24 AM

MB

“ Rev. Hughes was very compassionate and made time to get to know people. I'm so grateful he was able to serve at Guthrie and fulfill that dream. He touched many and will be greatly missed!

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**Michele Browning** - May 11, 2022 at 08:12 AM

ES

“ Sending my condolences and prayers to Rev. Hughes's family and friends. I knew Rev. Hughes through Guthrie. He was such a kind, positive man. Always very warm and welcoming. He will be missed.



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**Erin Silata** - May 10, 2022 at 05:07 PM

JC

“ Such a wonderful man. He has helped my family so many times and in so many ways over the years. Love and Prayers to his family and friends. He was special to all that knew him. A little bit of Heaven on Earth.

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**Jody Campbell** - May 10, 2022 at 03:19 PM

JC

“ *Jody Campbell lit a candle in memory of Rev. Michael D. Hughes*



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**Jody Campbell** - May 10, 2022 at 03:16 PM



“ *Rev. Hughes was such a kind soul. I will forever be grateful for the time he spent with my father in the ICU, praying with him and offering words of encouragement. I extend my heart-felt condolences to his family and friends.*

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**Kristin Denlinger** - May 10, 2022 at 02:57 PM

CH

“ *Claire Holton-Lizon lit a candle in memory of Rev. Michael D. Hughes*



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**Claire Holton-Lizon** - May 08, 2022 at 03:00 PM