

Memorial Service for Alton Shelly

February 18, 2023

Prelude and Slide show

Praising and Giving Thanks

Welcome and opening prayer

VT 11 Mountain of God

VT 658 Nearer, My God, to Thee

Remembering

Remembrances: Jep Hostetler- long-time friend

VT 661 On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand

Remembrance: Karl, Martin and Glen Shelly- sons

Proclaiming

Scripture: Psalm 23, translation by Merritt Gardner

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-40

Homily

Special Music: "Still, still with thee"

Blessing and Sending

Sending blessing and instructions for meal

VT 832 The Lord Lift You Up

All are warmly invited to stay for a meal and time of storytelling following the service.

Worship Leader: Anna Yoder Schlabach, *Homily:* Scott Coulter,
Song leader: Scott Hochstetler, *Scripture readers:* Nathan Shelly,
Rachel Shelly, Bethany Shelly Borsotti, Jacob Shelly,
Musicians: Robin Chico, Wilma Harder, Jim Kaufmann, Leon
Bauman, Jep Hostetler, Roger Richer, Merle Sommers, Don
Blosser, Glen Shelly; *Tech:* Eric Good Kaufmann, Phil Good-Elliott

Obituary:

Alton was born August 21, 1935 in East Greenville, Pennsylvania, the seventh of nine children, and lived among the farms of southeast Pennsylvania. In 1953, he left for Bluffton College (Ohio) where he caught the eye of Elisabeth van Lier, an exchange student from Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Midway through college, Alton served for two years with the PAX program, rebuilding post-war Europe. There, he met up again with Elisabeth (coincidence?). After service, they returned to college and married in 1958. Upon graduation, they moved to Columbus, Ohio where Alton earned a master's degree in social work from the Ohio State University. In 1969, they and their three young boys moved to Wayne, Michigan.

Throughout his life, Alton was active in Mennonite and Church of the Brethren congregations. He was part of a small group of graduate students who in the late 1950s started what today is known as Columbus Mennonite Church.

As an outgrowth of his faith, Alton was passionate about civil rights and social justice for poor people, and spent much of his professional life working in the African American community. After retirement, Alton and Els moved to Goshen in 2007, and Alton delivered meals to homebound seniors for The Window, Inc.

Alton and Els shared a love of nature and travel. They took their three children on annual camping trips across North America. They also enjoyed hiking, birding, and international excursions.

Alton is remembered for his speed around the softball diamond, as a fierce competitor at the ping-pong table, and for his boisterous laugh. During his final years, when dementia had erased much of his memory, he retained his gentle spirit, his playful teasing, and his quick laugh.

Alton is survived by his wife Elisabeth of Goshen; three sons, Karl Shelly (Michelle) of Goshen, Martin Shelly (Melissa) of Fishers, Indiana, and Glen Shelly (Barbara) of Evanston, Illinois; eleven grandchildren, Jacob Shelly (Monica) of Cheverly, Maryland, Lucas Shelly (Lauryn) of Perrysburg, Ohio, Ben Gerig Shelly (Maddie) of Oak Park, Illinois, Amanda Shelly (Jesse Beal) of Westfield, Indiana, Bethany Shelly Borsotti (Carl) of Austin, Texas, Noah Shelly (Zoe) of Fishers, Indiana, Steven Swain (Sonia Gonzalez) of Fishers, Indiana, Rachel Shelly (Sam Collieran) of Los Angeles, CA, and Nathan Shelly of Seattle, WA; and 7 great-grandchildren. He also has one surviving sibling, Marjorie Nester of Normal, Illinois.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Alton's memory to Camp Friedenswald (Cassopolis, Michigan) and The Window, Inc. of Goshen.

Alton Shelly

August 21, 1935 - January 22, 2023



Assembly Mennonite Church

February 18, 2023

11 a.m.