



## Paul J. Smith

January 31, 1942 - December 9, 2021

Paul J. Smith, age 79, of Marysville, went home to be with the Lord on Dec. 9, 2021. He was born on January 31, 1942, in Detroit, to the late Russell and Norma Smith.

He married Claudia L. Fenner on March 20, 1963, in Port Huron. She preceded him in death on November 19, 2019.

He was a minister who faithfully shared the Lord Jesus Christ with all whom he met.

Paul was a interim minister at Richmond Church of God, with affiliation with Franklin Walden Ministries, Valdosta, Georgia.

He enjoyed portraying Santa and viewed this as part of his ministry.

He and his wife worked at Woodland Developmental Center; he was known as Grandpa, and was loved and adored by the students and staff.

He was enjoyed watching western movies, he was a fanatic about football and baseball and was a big University of Michigan fan, and Detroit Lions and Tiger fan. He also enjoyed golfing, boating with family and friends.

He is survived by his three children, Sharon (David) Richards, Paul (Michelle) Smith II and Tim (Jodi) Smith, grandchildren; David Richards II, Andrew Richards, Kaitlin Hughes (Zeb), Taylor Smith, great grandchildren; Evelyn

Hughes and Lincoln Hughes, brother, Erwin (Deborah) Smith, sisters-in-law, Carol Smith and Beverly Smith.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Donald Smith and Gene Smith.

A memorial service will be scheduled soon, for some time in March 2022.

Arrangements in care of Jowett Funeral Home – New Haven

# Tribute Wall

KT

“ We met Paul and his family when we went to the Lighthouse Church. Wonderful family. We became friends with them. I haven't seen them since we moved in 1984. So sorry for your loss.. I will be praying for the family.

*Kathy Teeple*

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**Kathy Teeple** - December 16, 2021 at 08:43 PM

BS

“ May Paul Rest in Peace. He was a very nice person to know. Knew him from when he grew up in the Applegate area and went to Cros-Lex School. He never had a bad word about anyone. He loved the Lord very very much. He is now with his brother, mother and dad may they all RIP. He is now walking the road with his Lord and Savior.

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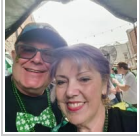
**Beverly (Jones) Smith** - December 16, 2021 at 09:29 AM

LP

“ We first met Paul and Claudia at a Senior Project Fresh event in the summer of 2015, sponsored by the Council on Aging, where we were distributing farmers market vouchers to seniors. In speaking with them my assistant Jason Crawford and I both knew immediately they had loving hearts and a lot to give; we knew they would be wonderful Foster Grandparent volunteers, our other project. So we shared about the program and set up an appointment for them to apply. It was always a joy to be with them in training or meetings or special events. When they shared they were Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause, we found it easy to believe they just might be the real pair! We placed them at Woodlands to volunteer with special needs children and it was the right fit for them. They were very loved there by children and the staff. Both were always eager to help however else they could at our meetings and events for both the Foster Grandparent Program and the Council on Aging's Port Huron Senior Center. It was very sad when we lost Claudia and we did what we could to help and support Paul, but then shortly afterwards COVID hit. So for the next year and more we could only meet the volunteers outdoors in the parking lot, one or two at a time. Paul generally still showed up when there was an outdoor meeting or event. Unfortunately he wasn't able to serve at his volunteer station and he expressed to us missing the staff and the youth he had helped. Through everything that was going on and he was having to deal with, he tried to always have a good word and a smile for us. We both felt such a strong respect for him, and he will be sadly missed. It was a privilege to having had the opportunity to know them for the time that we did. Our hearts go out to their family. Laura Nestle, Foster Grandparent Program Director.

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Laura Nestle, Foster Grandparent Program - December 14, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ Paul Smith was a man who walked the walk. He loved Jesus and was willing to share this love with those around him. I knew him for a shorter time frame than many, which might cause some hesitation in writing about him, but sharing thoughts about him should be welcomed to help paint a lasting picture.

I came to know Paul through the marriage of Shelley. I was welcomed into the family with open arms. I stayed with Claudia and Paul when I moved to Michigan until Shelley and I got married. He was kind and loving to me from the start. He impressed me as a man of God who displayed the fruit of the Spirit in his actions. He listened when we talked and often used scripture to help support his advice. He was always willing to pray for any request made. He frequently encouraged others to pray and read the Word. I was blessed to have him as my brother in law.

Something that has stuck in my mind was a conversation we had dealing with his salvation. He told me that he had an intense love for people after he got saved which was not there before. I could sense his love when I was around him,

I heard that in his final hours he shared with the nurses the hope he had in Jesus. He ran the race well and finished well.

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**Gary Morin** - December 14, 2021 at 05:32 AM

KS

“ Grandpa was one of the kindest, gentlest men I have ever encountered. He reminded me so much of my own grandpa. He always found the good in people. It was a privilege to know him.

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**Karen Schneider** - December 13, 2021 at 10:53 PM

BP

“ *This has been such a difficult time for family and friends of this wonderful man. I've known him many many years and it has been a privilege. A great man of God. Now with the Lord and his precious wife. Praying for you all. Love you all. Bonnie Phelps*

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**Bonnie Phelps** - December 13, 2021 at 08:41 PM

CM

*Paul married me and my wife 41 years ago*

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**Charles Moseley** - December 18, 2021 at 05:51 PM

CM

*He we'll be missed r.i.p. Paul*

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**Charles Moseley** - December 18, 2021 at 05:52 PM