



# Rev. Dr. Arthur Backus

JUL 23, 1923 - JAN 15, 2020



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FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORIUM

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Rev. Dr. Arthur Backus**

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**R**ev. Dr. Arthur G. Backus, son of Mertie L. and Arthur H. Backus, born July 23, 1923 in Gad, West Virginia, died January 15, 2020 in Millsboro, Delaware at the age of 96.

Arthur and his wife Marilee V. Miller married in August 1946. They were together 72 years before her passing in 2018. He is survived by his four children: Howard (Sue Ann) of Laurel Delaware, Harold (Sue) of Millsboro Delaware, Steven (Diane) of Millsboro Delaware, and Janice (David Erenrich) of Hagerstown Maryland. They had ten grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Arthur served in the Army during World War II. After the war, he managed his family's farm and general store before pursuing a career in ministry. Arthur was a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College--from which he was also awarded an honorary doctorate--and Wesley Theological Seminary.

His ministry spanned more than 50 years, serving churches in Dagsboro and Millsboro, DE including, Zoar, Hickory Hill, Providence and Carey's Church, and the West Virginia United Methodist Conference churches of Cedar Grove, Morris Memorial, Simpson in Moundsville, Spruce Street, First Church Clarksburg, and First Church Parkersburg. He also provided leadership as the Beckley District Superintendent and later the Development Officer for United Methodist Charities in West Virginia.



## Obituary

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Arthur lived a life of great integrity, compassion, kindness, and a deep concern for justice. His life has been a testament to his faith in God and the goodness of others. In addition to delighting in his ministry Arthur enjoyed gardening, reading Westerns and family time.

A viewing will be held from 5 PM - 7 PM on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at the Watson Funeral Home, 211 S. Washington St., Millsboro, DE 19966. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 from 10 AM - 11 AM at Zoar United Methodist Church, 24463 Gravel Hill RD, Millsboro, DE 19966. The funeral will start at 11AM. Interment will be held at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Zoar (Millsboro) United Methodist Church c/o Carisa Pepper, 24491 Gravel Hill RD, Millsboro, DE 19966 or Carey's United Methodist Church c/o Josephine Dorey, 22750 Carey's Camp Rd, Millsboro, DE 19966.

Electronic condolences via [www.watsonfh.com](http://www.watsonfh.com)



## Tribute Wall

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DM

**David And Rita Friend, Morgantown Wv** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

Rev Backus married my husband and I at Spruce Street United Methodist Church on July 25,1970, almost 50 years ago! He was a wonderful minister. 🙏❤️

January 21 at 8:00 PM



CW

**Connie Clogg Webb** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

I have known Rev Backus & children since he came to Christ United U. M. Church in Dagsboro which use to be across from Clayton Theater. He & Marilee have been friends of my family up to this present day. I have loved this man since I first meant him to his death-he was a wonderful minister, had the most beautiful blue eyes & that soft Virginia twang sling with that beautiful smile. He & I have always joked with each no matter were we where.In these latter years I didn't get to see him as often but we did exchange Christmas cards. Our last conversation was when he was at Hickory Hill United Methodist Church & his spoke- Rev Backus was highly respected & loved. He is now with Our Father & his dear friend & wife, Marilee- God be with each of you 4 children & your families-you had wonderful parents & grandparents-as the members use to say "here comes the "preachers kids" & all wondered if the kids would drive the minister & his wife crazy-ha ha-well, we know they didn't-they all followed in his footsteps! am proud & happy I had the privilege to know this living & wonderful family-prayers yo all of you

January 16 at 8:00 PM



MF

**Melanie High Fields** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

Arthur Backus and his entire family were a blessing to us at Morris Memorial United Methodist Church in Charleston, West Virginia....It was a wonderful time and left us with many memories. Our love,thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this time. Velma High and Melanie High Fields

January 19 at 8:00 PM



PW

**Philip Weeks** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

To Howard and Sue. Dick Walker sent info about your Dad. I welcome hearing from you. Email bishopweeks@gmail.com. Philip from Charleston years ago.

January 19 at 8:00 PM





# Tribute Wall

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KR

**Ken Ramsey** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

Art was a wonderful and faithful servant and a true encourager to me early in my ministry. I thank God for his life and faith and pray that the Lord's comfort and peace would be near to all of you.

January 18 at 8:00 PM



CH

**Carl Harris** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

My wife and I had the pleasure of attending Spruce Street UMC for three years while I was in law school. When we told him we were leaving and moving to Montgomery, he told us Montgomery was getting a new minister the same week we were arriving there and we should be there that Sunday. We were and have been attending there since June 1974. He was a true inspiration and his sermons resonate still today. I also remember his children's talks at the second service. One Sunday he produced a sheet of paper with a black dot in the center and ask the kids what they saw. Obviously surprised by one child's response (a white sheet of paper with a dot--most only saw the dot, which was his point) he asked further about that answer and the child said "I listened to your kid's service on the radio during the first service". He was truly a great servant of the Lord and I am sure he will be missed by all of his family and friends. Carl and Jo Harris

January 18 at 8:00 PM



DG

**Dr. Joseph Geiger** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

I am sorry for your loss of Arthur. He was a great friend, pastor, and leader for the United Methodist Church. He was genuine, caring, and mission minded. My thoughts and prayers are with members of the family, Zoar and Carey's churches, and his many friends. May's God give you peace, even as you thank him for the gift of this great person. Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Geiger Lewisburg, WV

January 18 at 8:00 PM



DS

**Denise Snyder** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

Prayers for comfort to the family of Reverend Backus. His warmth and smile were always a comfort to all he encountered. His gentle loving demeanor was truly a sign of his greatness.

January 17 at 8:00 PM





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SB

**Sandra K. Giffin O'Brien** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

Janice, I am sorry to hear of your dad's passing. He had a very rich and full life. He touched many people during his ministry and life.

January 17 at 8:00 PM



JL

**Judy Summers Leydig** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

Rev Backus married my husband and I December 27, 1969. Janice, his daughter sang at our wedding. Blessed to have just celebrated 50 years. He was a man of God's word. Our sympathy to Janice and the family.

January 17 at 8:00 PM



KH

**Kathy Hanko** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

I remember Rev Backus from Church Camp Caesar. He delivered a hell, fire and brimstone sermon that has stuck with me almost 60 years later. RIP.

January 17 at 8:00 PM



EK

**Emily Hastings Keene** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

The man who brought me to Christ. I am glad he had such a long and happy life!

January 17 at 8:00 PM



**Anonymous** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

January 17 at 8:00 PM





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MF

**Mark Flynn** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

When I served as the pastor at Morris Memorial in Charleston I found that Dr. Backus and his family were very fondly remembered there. When I was the district superintendent in the district which included Nicholas County, W.Va., I found that Arthur was very fondly remembered there in his home community. Your family has reason to be proud of this fine man who served his country and served his Lord. Janice, you and your family are in our prayers. Mark Flynn

January 17 at 8:00 PM



SM

**Susan Massey** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

Pastor Harold and family... I'm so sorry for the loss of your father. Not knowing you long I still remember the Sunday he had trouble with his hearing aid. Just one of those little memories I wanted to share. My prayers are with you as God gives you peace and comfort.

January 17 at 8:00 PM



DB

**Debbie Bradley** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

Condolences to Janice, David and family. Though we are far away in miles, you are close in our hearts & thoughts. May your memories bring you comfort in the coming days. Sending you love & prayers. Debbie & Jon Bradley

January 17 at 8:00 PM



WM

**William Mcilvain** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

Our hearts were sadden to hear of Rev. Backus passing .We always enjoyed him as a pleasant, kind, and caring pastor.Mother thought the world of Rev. and Mrs. Backus. Well done thy good and faithful servant.Love, Bonnie & Bill

January 17 at 8:00 PM





## Tribute Wall

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**Art Cathell** lit a candle in honor of Rev. Dr. Arthur.

We were truly saddened to hear of Rev. Backus' passing. He was an inspiration to both of us and remains one of the very best people we have known. His tenure at Carey's Church brought unity and a wonderful feeling of Christian spirit focused on doing the Lord's work. Aside from being one of the nicest people either of us has known, he was a living example kindness, compassion and warmth. We were blessed to be in his presence. Unfortunately we will be unable to attend his services as we are out of town. Our deepest condolences to his family. Art & Peggy Cathell



January 16 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Rev. Dr. Arthur by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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