



Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz

January 17, 1945 - November 10, 2024

Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz, age 79 of Kearney, died on Sunday, November 10, 2024 at St. Luke's - Good Samaritan Center in Kearney. Funeral services will be on Friday, November 15, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Kearney. Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm will officiate and burial will be later. Visitation will be on Thursday, November 14, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney. Memorials may be made in Jerry's name to the Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation or First United Methodist Church of Kearney's East Lawn Food Pantry. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

The life of Gerald Hugo Schwarz began in Denver Co. On January 17, 1945. Jerry was a healthy baby until a series of health issues required his parents to seek medical attention. The doctors were baffled by the huge boils that covered his face and body. The doctors said it may be the altitude in Denver that was causing the problem. After much discussion, it was decided to move the family to the Schwarz farm located on the original homestead six miles north of Herndon, Kansas. They resided in the house built by Jerry's dad which had no water and no electricity. Electricity was provided after they moved in. Shortly after arriving at the farm, Jerry had a close call with death. Since there was no water in the house, four-year-old Jerry decided to get a

drink from the holding tank. He fell in the tank and if it were not for his older sister hearing him scream, he would have drowned. He told this story at her funeral which he conducted.

After graduating from high school with the class of 1963, he attended McCook Junior College followed by the University of Nebraska Lincoln, graduating with a teaching degree.

On August 5 1967, Jerry married his high school sweetheart Phyllis Anne Adams after six years of courtship. They moved to Mead in 1967 where Phyllis taught high math for four years. Jerry taught mathematics in Fremont Junior High School for three years and then took over the teaching position vacated by Phyllis after she resigned to begin the family.

They were blessed with three sons - Brian, Andy, and Jim - while living in Mead. Jerry taught high school mathematics for six years and became involved in civic responsibilities through the rescue squad, fire department and planning committee. They enjoyed square dancing and following the sports activities. Jerry was pep club sponsor in the high school for four years often riding on the bus with his son Brian.

God called Jerry to the fulltime ministry in 1977. After counsel with the pastor of the Wahoo UMC, Jerry and Phyllis and sons left for a small community in Georgia to serve as a student pastor so seminary training at Candler School of Theology could be completed. They returned to Nebraska in June of 1980 to begin ministry at towns across Nebraska, including Cedar Hill and Greenwood, Arnold, Arapahoe, Ainsworth, ending his time in full time ministry at Callaway and Morning star UMC. Jerry ministered to thousands, playing a major role in life events such as baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals as well as sharing the love of Christ day in and day out.

In 2010 Jerry retired and he and Phyllis moved to Kearney, Nebraska. He was retired for just three months before serving as an interim pastor at many churches in the area. These include Pleasanton, Morning Star, Elm Creek, Overton, Culbertson, Trenton, Greeley, North Loup, Scotia, and Shelton. After serving these churches, he was hired as Parish Visitor by the Kearney UMC until 2019. He would visit over 100 shut ins, nursing home residents, and assisted living residents on a regular basis.

Jerry desired to have a deep relationship with Jesus and for his family to grow close to Jesus, to each other, and to be used by Him. He loved everyone and wanted others to know the love offered by God through His Son Jesus Christ.

He enjoyed woodworking and gave many, many gifts to his children and grandchildren, along with countless others. Often he would make so many gifts that he had difficulty giving them away. But he wanted to be remembered for his love for life and his desire to give himself away to help others. He and his wife spent their years serving others and his love for her was very deep.

Jerry was very proud of the partners that were sharing their lives with his sons. He deeply loved his grandchildren and they were the apple of his eye, cherishing time spent with them and making things for them. For decades, Jerry was a fixture in bleachers across Nebraska as he and Phyllis watched their beloved grandchildren participate in countless sporting events.

Jerry is survived by his wife Phyllis; sons Brian and Tanna, Andy and Patti, and Jim and Carrye; sister Sharon and husband Darrell. Also grandchildren Alexis and husband Andy with great-grandson Daxon, Chase and wife Erica with great-grandchildren Xander and Lana, Eamon and wife Rachel with great-grandson Bolton, Blake and fiancée Shelby Luppen, Bailey, Bryn, Carson and significant other Bailey McGowen, Mia and Drake.

Preceding him in death was his father Hugo, mother Helen, sister Glenda, and brother Larry.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **14**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

NOV **15**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall

KW

“ *My condolences to Jerry's family. All who knew him from East Ward on will remember him fondly as a kind person.*
Kent Wright

Kent Wright - November 17, 2024 at 07:20 PM

SJ

“ *Always hard to lose another classmate. Jerry was a classmate of mine from grade school through high school. My sincere condolences to Phyllis and all their family. They were a beautiful couple in high school and I was fortunate enough to keep up with their moves through Alan, Phyllis' brother. May you all find solace in the wonderful memories you shared.*

Sue Jewell - November 17, 2024 at 10:54 AM

BB

“ *While in Ainsworth, Pastor Jerry was a real friend and encourager to me while I was church planting in a different denomination. His smile and laughter were infectious as was his faith. I owe him a debt of gratitude.*

Bruce Beebout - November 16, 2024 at 10:48 AM

BH

“ Jerry, lived less than a block away from me growing up and we went to East Ward, Junior Hogh and High school together. He was a very close friend back in the 50s and 60s and have been very impressed with his life since high school. His decision to become a minister not only benefited himself and his family but also thousands of others. God bless you Phyllis with your loss of Jerry. I remember your courtship very well and you made Jerry happy and proud. You and Jerry have created a wonderful family and legacy. We are all proud of you. God bless you in the future.

Bob Harris - November 15, 2024 at 09:52 AM

TK

“ Jerry was a great witness for Jesus Christ. He was a wonderful inspiration for me

Pastor Todd Karges

Todd Clark Karges - November 15, 2024 at 08:31 AM

CS

“ Colton Schied planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.

Colton Schied - November 14, 2024 at 04:48 PM

CS

“ Colton Schied purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.



Colton Schied - November 14, 2024 at 04:48 PM

BL

“ Donna and I were sad to hear of Jerry’s death. Jerry and I were childhood friends along with Bob Harris, Bob Swan and Bill Lyons. Even though we eventually went our own ways, I still have fond memories of those carefree years. Bob Lundberg

Bob Lundberg - November 14, 2024 at 03:14 PM

NG

“ I met Jerry at the Senior Center in Kearney when he was helping ladies with keeping their physical bodies healthy. A very nice man and sorry to hear of his passing.

Nancy J Gumb - November 14, 2024 at 02:27 PM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.



November 14, 2024 at 09:37 AM

WA

“ Jerry was not only a friend but a steadfast partner in ministry, and it was an honor to serve alongside him in the Central District of the Nebraska Conference. He had a remarkable way of weaving his deep love for Christ into every interaction, extending warmth, humor, and wisdom to all who knew him. Jerry's faith journey inspired countless lives, and his generous spirit left an indelible mark on countless parishioners and colleagues. He truly embodied the heart of a servant, and his legacy will continue through those he touched. I am blessed to have known him. I am praying for comfort and strength to his wife, Phyllis, and his family.

Wayne Alloway
Pastor, St. Mark's UMC, Lincoln

Wayne Alloway - November 13, 2024 at 01:03 PM

JT

“ I did a few walk to Emmaus events with Jerry. Also, Linda and I visited the Holy Lands with Jerry and Phyliss. Many great memories with Jerry and Phyliss. A true servant of God.
Jeff Thurman

Jeffery A Thurman - November 13, 2024 at 10:40 AM

LT

“ I was so blessed to have Jerry conduct the funeral for my husband Bill Thieben in 1991.
Bill and Jerry graduated together in 1963. I hope your family finds the peace that Jerry gave mine. Linda Thieben

Linda Thieben - November 12, 2024 at 09:51 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.*



November 12, 2024 at 07:57 PM



“ *Pastor Jerry was pastor to me for many years! At my ordination, he stood with me as mentor and friend. I too have a couple wood pieces he created, and they are cherished gifts. His love for God was contagious, and we worked many Walk To Emmaus weekends together as friends, then later as clergy colleagues. I owe him a deep debt of gratitude for how to live, how to love, how to study, how to pray, how to teach, and how to follow Jesus. I think of him often, even though we were separated by many miles the last few years. Pastor Corey Jenkins*

Pastor Corey Jenkins - November 12, 2024 at 06:58 PM



“ *My condolences to Phyllis and all his family. Many fond memories of him as a classmate at MHS and MJC.*

Judi Trail Johnson - November 12, 2024 at 06:25 PM



“ *Jerry loved God and loved people, and was a good servant to both. May his tribe increase. He was also a friend and colleague, and will be missed.*

Paul Blanchard - November 12, 2024 at 03:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.

November 12, 2024 at 01:11 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.



November 12, 2024 at 01:11 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.



November 12, 2024 at 12:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.

November 12, 2024 at 12:43 PM

CA

“ Brian, we at Insulet (Manufacturing Quality) want to offer our condolences for the loss of your father. We wish you and your family peace and comfort during this difficult time. C. Artis and the Quality Team, Acton MA.



Charles Artis - November 12, 2024 at 12:28 PM

MS

“ Max and Joan Smith of Arnold thinking of the Family. Sending prayers and hugs.

Max/Joan Smith - November 12, 2024 at 10:54 AM

TD

“ Terri, Suzanne, and Diane purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.



Terri, Suzanne, and Diane - November 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM

RF

“ Ryan and Megan Smith and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.

Ryan and Megan Smith and Family - November 11, 2024 at 10:13 PM

RF

“ Ryan and Megan Smith and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.



Ryan and Megan Smith and Family - November 11, 2024 at 10:13 PM

LG

“ Phyllis and family. Please accept my sincere condolences. If the class of 63 can do anything for you please reach out to me. Thinking of you and your family. Lorraine Rose Goldstein.

Lorraine Rose Goldstein - November 11, 2024 at 10:11 PM

WS

“ With love, Alan, Annie, Judy & Sheri purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.



With love, Alan, Annie, Judy & Sheri - November 11, 2024 at 08:17 PM

JG

“ There are so many memories. My Uncle Jerry was a role model and a good man. My favorite memories are of times he and Phyllis made my life fun. When I was quite little, they took me to the Lincoln Children's Zoo, gave me a camera and helped me have a great time. One memory of Jerry, when I visited he and Phyl in Georgia, I still laugh about. I had a newly minted driver's license and he insisted I could drive when we all (Brian, Andy & Jimmy) traveled to Daytona Beach to camp. I had never pulled a camper (and on the interstate!) and was terrified, but he kept telling me I could do it and everything would be fine. We made it there safely, but I couldn't believe how much he trusted me and my driving skills. Then there was the time he told my childhood secrets while marrying my husband and me. I was blessed to have Jerry, Phyl, Brian, Andy and Jim in my life. I will miss you always, my kind, loving Uncle Jerry.



Judy Goodman - November 11, 2024 at 07:37 PM

DP

“ Darrell and Sharon Pebley purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.



Darrell and Sharon Pebley - November 11, 2024 at 04:07 PM

DP

“ Darrell and Sharon Pebley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jerry" H. Schwarz.

Darrell and Sharon Pebley - November 11, 2024 at 04:07 PM