



Chester Ray Dorsey

August 29, 1938 - July 14, 2025

On July 14th, 2025, at the age of 86, Rev. Dr. Chester Ray Dorsey was welcomed into the arms of the Lord as a good and faithful servant. Chet was born to Chester Gilbert and Nile Fern Dorsey on August 29, in Garnett, Kansas, and was the oldest of 4 children: 2 brothers, Ralph and Charles and one sister, Linda.

Chet grew up in St. Louis and at a young age, he felt the calling of the Lord to pursue a life in ministry and sharing God's word. He followed this call wholeheartedly, graduating from Sterling College in 1961, graduating from Dubuque Seminary in 1965, and graduating from Fuller Theological Seminary with a doctorate degree in Theology and Ministry in 1983. While attending Sterling College, he met and began courting Barbara and they married in St. Louis on October 2, 1965. In March of 1969, they welcomed a son, David, and in February of 1973, they welcomed their daughter Kristen, who was chosen to join the family through adoption.

During Chet's 45+ years in ministry, he served congregations in Stanley, ND, Lime Springs, IA, Omaha, NE, Phoenix, AZ and Ephrata, WA. He reluctantly retired in 2003 but continued to preach as a pulpit supply pastor for many more years in churches located in Wenatchee, Quincy, Marlin, Yakima and several other locations. Countless wonderful and lifelong friendships were established because of the communities and congregations Chet served.

Known for not sitting still very long, Chet participated in a variety of groups throughout his years of pastoral service; Mariners, Stephens Ministry, Lions Club, Interchurch Council, and was very active in Presbytery here in Washington State. Along with his regular day to day responsibilities, he performed a multitude of weddings, baptisms, and funerals for families in each state.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the nurses and caregivers at Garden Oasis Assisted Living and the North Wing of Columbia Basin Hospital in Ephrata, who cared for Chet over the past 7 ½ years both in good times and not so good times. We also thank Hospice for their guidance and care during the last 4 months of Chet's life. Finally, we thank our loving pastor, Mark Bassett, our wonderful congregation at Our Redeemer Presbyterian Church, and many family members and friends, for the prayers, visits, cards, flowers, love and care Chet received.

Chet was preceded in death by his parents, Chester Gilbert and Nile Dorsey, his brothers, Ralph and Charlie and his sister, Linda. He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Barbara of Ephrata, son David and grandsons, Kasey and Andrew of Casa Grande, AZ, daughter Kristen of Ephrata and granddaughter Shannon (Michael) Sloan and great granddaughter Lucina RaeAnn of Tacoma, WA, and granddaughter Caitlin (Stephen) Manell, as well as many cherished nieces and nephews. A celebration of life will be held on August 2nd, 2025, at Our Redeemer Presbyterian Church, 172 Ivy St SE, Ephrata at 10:30am with a luncheon to follow. Please express your thoughts and memories for the family at www.nicolesfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 2. 10:30 AM (PT)

Our Redeemers Presbyterian Church
172 Ivy St SE
Ephrata, WA 98823

Tribute Wall

KV

“ Chet came to Ephrata the same year we did. We were looking for a new church home and I was very impressed by his sermons, the church music and the friendly atmosphere of the Presbyterian church. One time we went to church in two separate vehicles because I was doing choir and we had practice right before the service. John and I left church and show up at home missing child number four, we both thought the other had taken her in their vehicle. Right behind us was Chet with Sarah in his car, smiling and saying “I think you forgot somebody”. I am glad when you retired you continued to go to our church. Our Redeemer Presbyterian Church will miss seeing you decked out in your three piece suit! You were and are an inspiration for many of us.

Katrina Vanderwaal - July 28, 2025 at 09:09 PM

MG

“ I worked for the Presbyterian Church as nursery attendant for 12 yrs. In those years I came to know Pastor Dorsey. I don't believe I ever saw him without a smile. He definitely was a true man of God. Marilyn Graffe



Marilyn Graffe - July 24, 2025 at 04:55 PM

RE

“ Chet was a wonderful man who was very closely involved in my ordination and early development as a pastor, advising, encouraging, and supporting me each step of the way. As a pastor in Ephrata he prayed for our disabled daughter Sarah every Sunday for years. Years later when I started a non-profit Beautiful Gate Ministries for training pastors in Africa, Chet and Barb faithfully supported and continue to support the work. Chet was a beloved brother, colleague and friend and we will miss him dearly.

Rev. Andrew and Mary Ekblad - July 22, 2025 at 06:15 PM

JW

“ I will be forever grateful for the special sermon Uncle Ray did for Mom's memorial. Even though it had to be done over speaker phone he did his best to spread a special message about his baby sister and the life she shared with all of us. Rest in peace Uncle Ray and give Mom a big hug for me.



Janice Weir - July 21, 2025 at 05:29 PM