



## Rev. Dr. Ronald Lee Franklin

January 20, 1939 - November 6, 2020

The Rev. Dr. Ronald Lee Franklin, 81, of Marion went home to be with his parents on Friday, November 6, 2020, after succumbing to Covid-19. A memorial service for family and friends will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. at Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Marion. A visitation will begin at 9:30a.m. until service time at the funeral home. All guests are respectfully required to wear a mask and practice social distancing. A livestream of the funeral service may be accessed on the funeral home website tribute page for Ron, under “photos and videos or media,” starting at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2020. A graveside service for family will follow on Friday, November 13th. The Rev. Tom Webster will officiate.

Ron was born January 20, 1939, in Cedar Rapids, IA, the son of Clifford and Thelda Franklin. He and his siblings were raised in Marion, Iowa, where he excelled in school, enjoyed cross country and basketball, and graduated from Marion High School in 1957. Ron loved math and also developed a much-loved family pastime of “backwards babble,” pronouncing words backwards. He graduated from Iowa State University, and later Drake University Divinity School, after changing his career choice from math to the ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination. Ron received his Doctorate in 1973 from Texas Christian University’s Brite Divinity School. He served as a student minister in St. Anthony and Delta, Iowa, and later as senior pastor for churches in Iowa, Texas, Michigan, Indiana, and Montana. Ron was married to Jamie Branson (1961-1976).

Ron is survived by his children, Steven (Mary Jo), David, and Karen Moran; sisters, Barbara Lenz (Dale) and Marilyn Rambo; brother, Robert (Sally); two step-grandchildren, Ashley (Lenard) Mendoza and Jordan (Brittney) Cappel; two step-great-grandchildren, Spencer Cappel and Annabelle Cappel; three nieces, Jennifer (Dan) Moore, Michelle Starks, and Angela (Adam) Munier; four nephews, Paul (Tonya) Schilling, Jeff Franklin, Bryan (Alex) Franklin, and Michael (Tiffany) Starks; two great-nephews, Scott (Monica) Munier and Bode Schilling; and two great-nieces, Brenda Munier and Gigi Schilling.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Thelda Franklin.

The family wishes to thank all who cared for Ron toward the end of his life. In honor of his ministry, memorials may be given to Marion Christian Church, 1050 McGowan Boulevard, Marion, IA.

# Events

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**NOV 12 Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM  
Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Service - Marion  
3855 Katz Drive, Marion, IA, US, 52302

**NOV 12 Memorial Service** 10:30AM  
Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Service - Marion  
3855 Katz Drive, Marion, IA, US, 52302

# Comments

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“ Thanks so much for streaming Ron’s service. I had forgotten that he was the one who got us all to Estes Park. I’ve been hooked on it every since. My thoughts have been with you all through this time. I only wish I could be there.

**LeAnna Franklin** - November 13, 2020 at 09:08 PM

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“ Steve, Dave, and Karen - I was so saddened to hear of your dad's passing. You three and your family are in my prayers. Hard to believe that it's been about forty years since Ron and you arrived in Corydon to pastor Corydon Christian Church. He opened our eyes to serving the community and the world. He encouraged and initiated our hosting and supporting Zbigniew and Renata, a Polish refugee couple. Ron made sure our church was open to community support groups, and we were known for that in Corydon. He was dedicated to you three and his ministry. Yes, he loved numbers! In the church newsletters, Ron made sure we knew what the percentage growths were in attendance and giving to the second decimal point! We had fun too. A group of us took Ron “clubbing” in Louisville one Friday or Saturday night ... with a summary recap in the following Sunday’s message! Personally, Ron encouraged me to become more involved in the life of the church in leadership roles. That foundation continues to this day, and I am forever grateful. I’ll miss keeping in touch via his humorous Emails and Christmas newsletters.  
God’s Blessings and Love,  
Bob Gilewski

**Bob Gilewski** - November 12, 2020 at 12:38 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Service



**Murdoch Funeral Homes & Cremation Service** - November 12, 2020 at 12:11 PM



“ He was my dad's best friend and my spiritual guide. Ron and dad are hanging out in Heaven. That gives me great comfort.

**Nicholas Bast** - February 28, 2021 at 02:52 PM

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“ I don't have a lot of personal memories, of which I'm able to remember at that age. But moving out on my own and now recently starting my own family I remain in awe of the support and kindness of Grandma and Grandpa Franklin and their family offered mine and extremely grateful. Condolences to all of Ron's family and extended family.



**Keith Tran & Family** - November 11, 2020 at 11:44 AM

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“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Ronald Lee Franklin.



November 10, 2020 at 07:38 PM

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“ Kim Tran Family's lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Ronald Lee Franklin



**Kim Tran Family's** - November 10, 2020 at 07:03 PM

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“ Ron was my best friend all the way through school. He was Best Man at my wedding and I at his. I can't remember when we first met, but we spent a lot of time together playing basketball, football and playing board games when the weather was bad. One of the things I remember about Ron was he knew exactly how long it took to go from his house to school. He always went home for lunch and when it was time to come back to school, he would run down the alley and get to school just before the last bell. Ron also liked to do backward names. Mine was Egroeg Ykstepok and his was Einnor (EENOR) Nilknarf. Every one liked Ron and I am proud to have been one of his friends.

George Kopetsky

George Kopetsky - November 09, 2020 at 01:02 PM

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“ Our sympathies go to "Pastor Ron's" family. He was very important in I and my children's spiritual growth. He even drove 4 hours to marry my oldest daughter after he "retired". Ron will not be forgotten by us. Lisa Thompson and family

Lisa Thompson - November 08, 2020 at 06:31 PM

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“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. Ronald Lee Franklin.



November 08, 2020 at 12:00 PM

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“ Bob Franklin is following this tribute.

Bob Franklin - November 07, 2020 at 10:16 PM

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“ I fondly remember Ron who was a senior during my first year of teaching at Marion High School. Although Ron was not my student, he assisted faithfully with play productions. When he and his father gave me a ride after one rehearsal to the Phillips' home where I roomed that year, I stepped out of the car into a snowbank because they accidentally parked on the opposite side of the street. I just laughed at that and had no problem, being a country girl used to walking through snowbanks. But that gesture of offering me a ride home exemplifies the consideration and thoughtfulness that carried Ron through the rest of his life. I'm am sad to see a former student pass away. My sincere sympathy to his family, among them Ron's sisters Barbara and Marilyn and younger brother Bob, all of whom were my students at Marion.

**ELIZABETH A BELDEN** - November 07, 2020 at 09:51 PM