



## Howard "Hardy" Johnson Lutz

April 11, 1937 - December 16, 2018

Howard "Hardy" Johnson Lutz, 81, of Woodstock, passed away Sunday, December 16, 2018, at his home. The funeral service will be held Wednesday, December 19 at 11:00 a.m. at Community Mission Church of the Brethren in Woodstock. Pastors Dale Bowers and Diann Whetzel will officiate. Burial will follow in Sunset View Memorial Gardens in Woodstock. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at Valley Funeral Service in Bowman's Crossing.

Hardy was born April 11, 1937 son of the late Roy and Reba McWilliams Lutz. He was born and raised by the river at Camp Lupton, VA. It was during these young years that he found his love for gardening, hunting and the beautiful outdoors. He never felt home any more than he did on his beloved academy farm where he knew every nook and cranny of that river bend and surrounding hollows and mountains. Hardy was married to his beloved wife, Gerlene, for 62 years and often credited her for the success of his achievements. She was his greatest supporter, his closest friend and the love of his life.

Hardy started his 30-year career at Safeway in Arlington but spent most of those years as produce manager of the Woodstock store. He loved fruits and vegetables and received many awards for his creative displays. He also learned to love and appreciate people during his career and truly never met a

person he couldn't talk to. After his retirement in 1985, he continued his produce work through his gardening—potatoes, strawberries, pumpkins, cherries, and turnips are a few of the vegetables and fruits he grew by hundreds of bushels, quarts, and gallons over his lifetime.

Hardy's greatest passion and love in his life though was the God he faithfully served. He was called to the ministry in 1972 and ordained by the Church of the Brethren in 1977. He was pastor of Community Mission Church of the Brethren for 38 of his 46-year ministry. He had served at Oak Hill Church of the Brethren for over eight years. During his ministry, Hardy officiated 402 funerals, 300 weddings and held over 100 revival services. He also served as a chaplain at Shenandoah Memorial Hospital for 20 years and served on several C.O.B. district boards, and he loved every minute of it.

Hardy is survived by his wife, Gerlene Helsley Lutz whom he married on March 31, 1956; five children, Tim (Donna) Lutz of Toms Brook, Harvey Lutz of Gerradstown, WV., Teresa (Johnny) Richard of Woodstock, Lisa (Dale) Bowers of Woodstock and Herbie Lutz of Mathias, WV.; sisters and brother, Betty Offman of Woodstock, Harold (Roxie) Lutz of Woodstock and Mary (Keith) Cramer of Mt. Crawford; 13 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Sam Lutz, Allen Bowers, Jake Bowers, Joel Bowers, Brent Lutz, and Johnny Richard.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Community Mission Church of the Brethren Building Fund, 50 Coffmantown Road, Woodstock, VA. 22664.

Hardy's passion to show and tell others of the love and salvation through Jesus Christ never wavered. He loved deeply and was loved deeply by many and his huge smile will never be forgotten.



# Cemetery Details

## Sunset View Memorial Gardens

2677 Fravel Rd  
Woodstock, VA 22664

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Valley Funeral Service  
14116 South Middle Road  
Edinburg, VA 22824  
(540) 984-3700  
secretary.valleyfs@yahoo.com  
<https://www.valleyfs.com>

## Funeral Service

DEC 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Community Mission Church of the Brethren  
50 Coffmantown Road  
Woodstock, VA 22664

# Tribute Wall



“ *Howard "Hardy Johnson Lutz*

January 30, 2023 at 03:03 AM



“ *Howard "Hardy Johnson Lutz*

January 30, 2023 at 12:44 AM



“ *Hardy was a great man and Friend to all. Gods favor for all.*

**Leonard Funkhouser** - February 04, 2019 at 10:43 PM



“ *Gerlene and Family*

*So sorry to hear of losing Hardy, a great man of God, always a friend and the great smile on his face. Lots of good memories of coming to your church to sing with The Dodds Family. Hardy always wanted Gladys and I to sing God Walks The Dark Hills.*

*Gerlene- you and your family have a lot to be thankful for in having such a Godly man serving everyone.*

*God Bless You and may he always be remembered*

*Leon and Beverly Mitchell*

**Beverly Mitchell** - December 20, 2018 at 07:08 PM



*Thank you Beverly. We indeed have a lot to be grateful for. The loss is huge though. Maybe Gladys has already sung that for him!!!*

**Lisa Bowers** - January 12, 2019 at 06:09 PM

BB

“ I have lots of fond memories of this man. He was my uncle. He always had a smile and a kind word. He had a great love for growing things. I remember picking strawberries for him one season. It was hot, back breaking work, but the reward was all the strawberries you could eat and 25 cents a basket. Amazing how many you didn't eat and how many baskets you could fill. He will be missed by so many. I bet he has already taken a stroll down the streets of gold.

*Becky Helsley Balon*

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**Becky Balon** - December 19, 2018 at 02:34 PM

AC

“ Hardy was such a good man and will be miss by many. I send my deepest Sympathy to Gerlene and entire family.  
*Arlene Cooley*

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**Arlene Cooley** - December 18, 2018 at 08:18 PM

CD

“ Hardy as I know him and Gerlene his wife daughters Teresa and Lisa and a son Herby and rest of family I remember Hardy as a True man of GOD easily to talk to very personably our family use to sing at his church and we became great friends with his family what great memories RIP Hardy we love and respect you and look forward to the day all of us will meet you and Mom in Heaven  
*Sincerely Charles*

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**charles e dodds** - December 18, 2018 at 07:04 PM

EM

“ Hardy was one of the faces I will always remember from my meeting of the Ministry Team when I was licensed into the ministry. He came up to me with that big smile and that strong hand shake and I knew right then he was a light for Christ. Hardy preached God's Word. He preached the Truth of God's Word, and He lived God's Word. I looked up to him as an example for myself and felt the Shenandoah District was Blessed by having servants like Hardy pastoring in it. He was a true and faithful servant. Rest well my friend.

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**Ed Morris** - December 18, 2018 at 03:38 PM

WS

“ We are so saddened to hear about Pastor Lutz's passing but rejoice knowing that he has been called home. We are so appreciative of his service to Community Mission and during the passing of our beloved Grandmother and Father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and we hope you find comfort in knowing that he is with our beloved Lord.

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**Wade & Michelle Sortzi** - December 18, 2018 at 02:37 PM

EW

“ He was our Pastor for a while in VA. So sorry. He will be greatly missed.

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**Edna ,& Jesse Whitmer** - December 18, 2018 at 05:39 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Howard "Hardy Johnson Lutz.



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December 18, 2018 at 03:03 AM

MB

“ *The first time i met Hardy you would have thought he already knew me.He greeted me and talked like he knew me forever.He always had a smile on his face  
He will greatly hve missed  
Peace and comfort too you all*

Margie Bowers - December 17, 2018 at 11:31 PM

PM

*I have been on the receiving end of this mans smile,comfort and prayers. As was so many of my family.A smile breaks barriers, and he broke many.Go be with your Lord,Hardy, and know that I too ,here on earth ,am delighting in you smiling at God. RIP, my friend.*

Peggy Mantz - December 18, 2018 at 12:14 PM

JR

“ *He always had a big smile on his face when church was over and he loved to talk*



Joyce Ridgley - December 17, 2018 at 09:24 PM

 Lea  
Mason  
Lezotte

“ *Prayers to all the family during this difficult time.*

*The Lezotte Family (Frank, Lea Ann (Mason), and Michael.*

Lea Mason Lezotte - December 17, 2018 at 09:19 PM

JD

“ Hardy always met me with a smile. He was always loving towards me. He truly was a wonderful kind hearted man. He was my uncle, my pastor for years and a very special part of my life. Thank you Hardy for being such a great example. You will be missed by so many.

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**Joyce Draper** - December 17, 2018 at 08:31 PM

OA

“ To us he was a great influence in our spiritual growth.. He was definitely a "Man of God".  
Thank you Hardy for always being there.. Olivia, Ruth & Ed Aumiller

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**Olivia, Ruth & Ed Aumiller** - December 17, 2018 at 08:12 PM

MS

“ Humble, gentle, sincere man.

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**Marsha Snyder** - December 17, 2018 at 06:16 PM