

**MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
HERBERT D. OLVER  
MAY 23, 2009**



**THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH  
GERRY, NY**

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## Memorial Service for Herbert Olver

Prelude		Dick Zahniser
Invocation		Rev. Ray McGinnis Chaplain Emeritus, Heritage Village
Hymn of Worship	“Joy to the World”	Hymn #125
Scripture Reading		Responsive Reading #667
Pastoral Prayer		Rev. Forrest States, Pastor of the Gerry FMC
Hymn of Praise	“It is Well with My Soul”	Hymn #493
Tributes	Rev. David Harvey, Superintendent, New York Conference Rev. Sam Shreffler, Head Chaplain, Heritage Village	
Family Anthem	“What Are These That Are Arrayed?”	
Tributes	Dr. Wes Vanderhoof, Roberts Wesleyan College Dr. John Martin, President, Roberts Wesleyan College	
Hymn of Praise	“When I Can Read My Title Clear”	Hymn #538
Meditation		Rev. Dr. Arthur Lindsley Senior Fellow, C. S. Lewis Institute
Hymn of Faith	“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”	Hymn #43
Benediction		Rev. Ray McGinnis

Reception Invitation: there is a reception for family and out-of-town friends of the family following the conclusion of the service at the dining room on the lower level of Schwab Manor on the Heritage Village Campus.

## The Story of Herbert D. Olver Jr.

Herbert D. Olver Jr. was born on July 29, 1916, on the family farm near Beach Lake in Wayne County, Pennsylvania. He graduated from the Beach Lake, PA, three year high school in 1932, and from Honesdale, PA, senior high school in 1933. For the next two years (1933-35) he worked on the farm with his father and on township roads in Wayne County part time. In the early fall of 1935, he left the farm to attend Chesbrough Junior College, in North Chili, NY. After three years there, and traveling with a well known male quartet during the summer and many weekends, he transferred to Greenville College, Greenville, IL, and graduated in the spring of 1939.

Rev. Olver pastored Free Methodist churches in the New York Conference for 22 years, beginning with appointment as pastor of the Trucks-ville, PA, FMC, (near Wilkes-Barre PA) in the fall of 1939. While pastoring there, Herbert married Grace E. Lindsley on August 20, 1940. He was appointed to the Maplecrest, NY, FMC in September, 1942, (Windsor District, also in the NY Conference). In 1948 he was elected Conference Superintendent of the New York Conference, serving in this capacity for a total of 18 years (two terms of office). During his first term, in 1949 he began facilitating church planting with Spanish-speaking people in the New York City area—which has expanded to include several dozen churches and church plants in at least five other languages, and led to a denominational movement that now encompasses numerous language groups and areas. In 1956 Rev. Olver was appointed as pastor of the Sixteenth Street Brooklyn, NY, FMC where he served for six years before being elected New York Conference Superintendent again in 1962; this time the family moved to new conference parsonage at Dallas, PA. In 1968 the conference office was moved to South Canaan, PA. After completing a second term of ten years as superintendent, in 1972 he was appointed as pastor of the Walton, NY, FMC, serving there until 1978. During that time, Herbert also served as chaplain at the Delaware County, NY, Infirmary at Delhi, NY, beginning in April, 1974, and continuing after retirement from the pastoral ministry until 1990. Another seven years of chaplaincy fol-



lowed at Heritage Village, Gerry, NY, where his final retirement took place at Heritage Village in November, 1997. He continued to live on the retirement campus of Heritage Village, first in an apartment after his wife of 62 years died in 2002, and for the last ten months in the campus health center where he died on April 17, 2009.

Herbert Olver authored brief histories of the Maplecrest and Walton FM churches, and co-authored *The Vision Glorious*, a book commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the New York Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America. His most recently completed book is titled *The Impact of The Arthur K. Lindsley*, published in 2006 about his father-in-law's family; he had also completed writing the content for a final book of stories about his family, to be published posthumously.

Herbert and Grace had five children: Miriam - a professor and private coach for professional level English as a Second Language in Indianapolis, IN; Melvin (Eileen) - an attorney in Rochester, NY, and Town Justice, Town of Chili, NY; Howard (Linda) - pastor of Kingsview Free Methodist Church, Toronto, Ontario, and adjunct professor of missional leadership at Tyndale Seminary, Toronto; Luella (James) O'Brien: - Vocational Rehabilitation Technician with the State of Florida Dept. of Education; and Paul (Delia) - pastor of Rainier Avenue Free Methodist Church, Seattle, WA. Herbert and Grace also had four grandchildren and three step-grandchildren: Kristin Olver (Scott) Jackson; Susan Olver; Daniel (Melanie) Olver; Matthew (Laurie) Olver; Dea (Ronan) Heffernan; Timothy O'Brien; James (Tolu) O'Brien Jr.; and 8 great-grandchildren.

Service to the denomination includes 38 years as a member on the Roberts Wesleyan College Board of Trustees (ten years as secretary). He was elected delegate to General Conference five times, and served for two terms as a member of the Commission on Christian Education.

Herbert Olver died peacefully on April 17, 2009, at Gerry, New York. Prior to his death, he made arrangements to donate his body for medical research at the University of Buffalo Medical School. The interment of his ashes will take place at the cemetery in Beach Lake, PA, in the future at the convenience of the family.