

Russell Farnaby Metcalfe, Junior, was born December 15, 1930, in Nyack, New York.

Russell met Helen at Akron First Church in 1945 when his parents came to the church as ministers of music. Russell was 15 years old, very broad-shouldered, and had curly hair. Russell thought Helen was the "prettiest girl in the church." They sat together in church and held hands. They attended Eastern Nazarene College in the early 1950s and were married on August 27, 1954. Russell and Helen had four sons, John, Stephen, Mark, and Russell III.

Russell served as Senior Pastor of seven churches: Cherry Valley, Ohio, 1956-1957, Atwater, Ohio, 1957-1962, Butler, New Jersey, 1962-1965, Poughkeepsie, New York, 1965-1969, Edison, New Jersey, 1969-1975, Melrose, Massachusetts, 1975-1977, Wollaston, Massachusetts, 1977-1999

In May of 1987, Russell had the Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him at Eastern Nazarene College.

When Russell and Helen retired, they moved to their home in Falmouth on Cape Cod. They lived there for nine years, where Russell served as interim pastor for a number of churches, as well as Associate Pastor at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

In 2008, Russell and Helen moved to Mount Vernon, Ohio, near his son Stephen and Sharon who were professors at MVNU. Russell and Helen attended the Gay Street United Methodist in Mount Vernon.

Russell was predeceased by Helen in September of 2019. As his health declined, Stephen and Sharon provided support and care right up to his last breath. Russell finished his ministry on earth on December 8, 2024.

Russell leaves a large family and a great legacy:
John David Metcalfe, spouse Veronika Steinlechner. John's children: John David Jr., Danielle Nikole (spouse: Peter Cayatte; her children: Rose Madelyn, Nina Mae), and Joseph Joshua (spouse: Amy Stapinski)

Stephen Paul Metcalfe, spouse Sharon Knox. Stephen's children (with Judy Rudolph): Benjamin Paul (spouse: Amanda Johnson; his children Aiden Nathaniel Colligan, Mason Paul Metcalfe), and Jacob Stephen. Sharon's children: Kara Diane Nichols (spouse: Jason Govoni; her children, Carter James, Willow Ilene, Sawyer Hutchinson, Hazel Esther), and James William Joseph Nichols (spouse: Claire McPartlan, daughter Bria Sol)

Mark Andrew Metcalfe, spouse Joy Crawford. Mark's children: Miranda Joy (spouse: Nathan Patnode; her children, Olivia Grace, Luke Wesley, Levi Emmanuel), Jessica Rose (spouse: David Young; her children, Hannah Sophia, Malachi Christopher, Esther Evangeline), Emily Pearl (spouse: Justin Weners; her children, Hezekiah James, Elijah Timothy, Noelle Celeste), and Andrew Crawford (spouse: Joline Jeffrey; his children, Ethan Crawford and Allianna Nicole).

Russell Farnaby Metcalfe III, spouse Nancy Jordan. Russell's children: Jennifer (spouse: Matthew; her children Rowan, Annabelle, Estella), Melissa Ruth (spouse: Jason Armstrong; her children, J.D., Madison, Weston Robert), and Russell Farnaby IV (spouse: Alicia Harding; his daughter Ava Rose)

In Loving Memory of



Russell F. Metcalfe II

December 15, 1930–December 8, 2024



Saturday, December 14, 2024

Gay Street United Methodist Church

18 N. Gay St.

Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Celebration of Life

Russell Metcalfe Jr.

Pastor Remarks (Homily) – Rev. David Young

Covenant Prayer:

I am no longer my own, but Yours.

Put me to what You will, Rank me with whom You will.

Put me to doing, Put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by Your or laid aside for You.

Exalted for You or brought low by You.

Let me have all things, Let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

You are mine, and I am Yours. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it be ratified in Heaven. Amen.

The Commendation:

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Thou only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou created me, saying “Dust thou art, and unto dust shall thou return.” All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Russell. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen

Benediction: Rev. Christopher Liberati

POSTLUDE

Janet Guetle



PRELUDE

Janet Guetle

WELCOME

Rev. Christopher Liberati

Opening Scripture: Rev. 21:6–7

Rev. David Young

Prayer of Invocation

Rev. David Young

Scripture Readings:

–2 Cor. 5 & 1 Cor. 15:49

–Psalm 91:1–2, 11–12

–Psalm 121

–Rev. 22: 1–4

John Metcalfe, son

Stephen Metcalfe, son

Mark Metcalfe, son

Russell Metcalfe III, son

Russell Metcalfe III, son

Unison scripture reading: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Congregational Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

UM Hymnal 121

Family and Friend Remarks [facilitated by Rev. Christopher Liberati] – open to congregation

Congregational Hymn

Oh Jesus I Have Promised

UM Hymnal 396