

Robert Lee Hartzler was born January 22, 1936, to Ezra Jacob Hartzler and Cora Mae Yoder at Belleville, PA and died at the age of 86 on July 24, 2022, in Wayland, IA.

Survivors are his wife Phyllis (Freyenberger), five children: Jill Denise Hartzler of Washington, Tina Joy Ulrich (John) of Traverse City, MI, Faith Lugene Hartzler of Cedar Rapids, IA., Robert Reed Hartzler of Olds, IA, Ezra Drew (Teri) Hartzler of Washington, IA; eight grandchildren: Maria, Corinna, and David Ulrich, Alden and Anna Hartzler, Ashley, Olivia (Jacob) Warren, and Blake Hartzler; and one sister, Ruth Glick, of Chesterfield, VA. He is preceded in death by his siblings, Vesta (Thomas) Peachey, Mollie (Leonard) Peachey, Sara (Raymond) Hartzler, Anna Mary (Paul) Renno, and Floyd (Alma) Hartzler.

Bob and Phyllis met when Bob was doing his 1-W alternative service in Hannibal, MO and his quartet sang at Sugar Creek. They were married on November 23, 1956, and he went to work for Leonard Leichthy driving the bulldozer and scraper. He worked for the Leichthy's full time for 13 years and part time off and on throughout his years in ministry. He believed that every pastor should have a marketable skill besides the primary task of shepherding the flock.

Bob was called to the ministry early in life and on December 30, 1962, he was ordained as a youth minister at Sugar Creek Mennonite Church in Wayland, IA. He felt the need for more education and over the next six years, with the churches' generous support, he studied at Hesston, Goshen, and Iowa Wesleyan colleges earning an AA degree from Hesston and completing his BA at Goshen College in 1968. He later continued his education in Clinical Pastoral Education at the University of Iowa Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, SD.

Bob served 39 years in pastorates in Wayland, Des Moines, Washington, IA and Belleville, PA, and nine years as the Northern District Conference Minister. He was active in the Iowa Nebraska Conference and the larger church and served on many committees including the Publishing Committee at Herald Press, Hesston College Board of Overseers, Mennonite Church General Board, MCGB Nominating Committee, and the Council on Faith Life, and Strategy. Retiring in Wayland, he served as an interim pastor for five congregations, guiding them through difficult times between pastors.

Cycling was Bob's favorite pastime. He logged over 87,000 miles and completed the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa 10 times. The exercise and friendship of fellow bikers kept him healthy and happy over the years.

Memorial donations can be made to the Crooked Creek Christian Camp (2830 Coppock Rd, Washington, IA 52353) or to Sugar Creek Mennonite Church (PO Box 146 Wayland, IA 52654)

Forever In Our Hearts



Robert Lee Hartzler

January 22, 1936

July 24, 2022



¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Let each builder choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

-1 Corinthians 3:10-11

In Loving Memory Of

Robert Lee Hartzler

January 22, 1936 – July 24, 2022

86 Years, 6 Months, 2 Days

Funeral Service

10:30 AM, Wednesday, July 27, 2022

Sugar Creek Mennonite Church

Wayland, Iowa

Honorary Pallbearers

David Ulrich

Alden Hartzler

Blake Hartzler

Corrina Ulrich

Olivia Hartzler

Anna Hartzler

Officiating

Michael Swartzendruber

Music

Kathy Roth, Songleader, Lori Graber, Pianist

Kathy Yoder, Organist

Committal and Interment

Sugar Creek Cemetery

Wayland, Iowa