



## Rev. George W. Fisk

February 26, 1920 - July 16, 2012

Rev. George W. Fisk after a long illness was peacefully released from this life July 16, 2012 at the age of 92 in Kalamazoo. Cremation has taken place. Family visitation will be at 1pm, Friday, August 10, followed by a memorial service at 2pm at the First Congregational Church of St. Joseph, MI. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Dey-Florin Chapel, Florin Funeral Service of St. Joseph. Memorials can be made to the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation ([alzinfo.org](http://alzinfo.org)) or the First Congregational Church of St. Joseph. Please share messages, memoires or photos at [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

Born the fifth generation of his family in Green Bay, WI in 1920, George won a Bausch and Lomb prize for being the best math student in his high school. He was active in Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle. He graduated from Lawrence College, Appleton, WI in 1941. He initially majored in physics, changing to English at the beginning of his sophomore year. A member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, he was dubbed "professor" as one of three in "the brain trust" which upheld the fraternity's academic average. An avid athlete, he swam on the varsity swim team, ran the hurdles on the track team and was a founding member of the Aquatic Club.

Instead of entering the family insurance business, he felt called to serve as a minister. He completed his college education at Union Theological Seminary

in New York City. He met the love of his life, Jean Sweetman, at a Christian education class there. They were married in 1942.

His career in the Congregational (later United Church of Christ) Church started in Spring Valley, NY, then took him to Omaha, NE, Wichita, KS, Rapid City, SD, and finally St. Joseph, MI, where he was senior minister from 1964 to 1984. He was awarded honorary degrees by Yankton College of Yankton, SD, and Olivet College in Michigan.

He strived to put the Bible in the context of both ancient and modern times to bring out the deeper meaning of its passages. His adult education class in St. Joseph was always well-attended. He was a leader in the Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship, both locally and at the state and national level. He was a pioneer in the use of bio-feedback techniques to alleviate pain and other ailments. He remained an active member of the St. Joseph/Benton Harbor Rotary Club well into retirement.

He loved music, especially classical and jazz, and played piano, organ, baritone horn, and sang. He was very fond of a good laugh, even in his sermons. He enjoyed traveling and was an avid photographer. Some local residents may remember the beautiful slide presentation on the cathedrals of Europe he and Jean created following a sabbatical trip to France and Germany. He spent several years studying conversational Greek for both reading and traveling.

He was a huge fan of his home-town football team, the Green Bay Packers.

After retirement at age 65, he started a publishing business, Cosmic Concepts Press. His goal was to provide books with positive spiritual influence. He published nine books (two of which he authored) before his health began to interfere. Always an avid reader, he authored many book reviews for

amazon.com.

Although he was diagnosed with heart disease in his sixties, he adopted a strict program of restricted diet and daily walking, swimming and tennis to improve his health. As a result, surgery was never needed.

His wife, Jean, died in 2001 at the age of 85. He is survived by four children, Kate (Richard) Schultz of Las Cruces, NM, Jonathan (Pat) Fisk of St. Joseph, Cynthia (Don) Sweeter of Plainwell and Molly (Mark) Kehoe of Grand Rapids, sister-in-law Marcia (George) Caldwell, eight grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Earl, mother, Marion, brother, William, sister, Charlotte Astor and granddaughter, Rachel Fisk.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **10**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church UCC of St. Joseph  
2001 Niles Avenue  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

## Service

AUG **10**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Congregational Church UCC of St. Joseph  
2001 Niles Avenue  
St. Joseph, MI 49085

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ George was my Grandpa. I remember many years of being measured on "The wall of height", the goodness that he shared and the love he had for all. It made my heart soar when he gave me a book for christmas one year. It was my favorite poet Emily Dickinson's complete works. The day he passed I found the book in my library and read the blessing words he wrote to me. I read his Benny the Lazy Beaver book to my children almost every night when they were babies. His kind words and his love will always be in my heart. I don't know if I ever got to be as tall as he was but I still measure my kids the same way he measured all of the grandkids. I miss him.

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**Jennifer "Luna" Fort** - July 30, 2012 at 05:48 PM

JS

“ From Joan Stewart of San Diego....Dr. Fisk was George to me. He not only was a spiritual being he was a spiritual teacher who wasn't afraid to push the envelope to help others find and develop their own spiritual gifts. He was also a friend to all he came in contact with. I send condolences to his loved ones and family and also ask each of them to trust George in his beliefs that we do go on and that there is much more to life than the life we know. Love and blessings to all....Joan

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**Joan Stewart** - July 29, 2012 at 06:49 PM

FK

“ George Fisk was one of the most influential people in my life. He introduced me to the world of meditation and healing. I am ever grateful to him. He set me on a path of spiritual discovery. Thank you George. I love you.

*Frances Kozlowski*

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**Frances Kozlowski** - July 26, 2012 at 10:34 AM

PK

“ Molly and family.....

*Sharon and I have you and your family in our prayers during this time of sadness and loss. Your dad brought some great moments as well to my Dad during his years in St. Joe and for that I am personally grateful.*

*Paul Koehneke*

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**Paul C. Koehneke** - July 24, 2012 at 02:45 PM

CL

“ Thank you Dr. Fisk for my earliest memories of church and fellowship. You saw me through Baptism and Confirmation. Thank you for the many blessings you provided me in my youth. Rest in Peace!

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**Chriss Lyon** - July 23, 2012 at 05:46 PM

CE

“ I met Dr. Fisk many years ago through his bio-feedback program and have never forgotten him. He was a good, kind man.

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**Carol Enos** - July 22, 2012 at 04:09 PM

HB

“ Thoughts & Prayers are with his family....



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**Heidi Nicole Becht** - July 22, 2012 at 10:13 AM

MR

“ The Rev. Fisk married us and he was such a Loving and Caring Man of God~ I'm so sorry for his families loss. He went home to be with his loving God and Savior. God called his Angel home~



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**Mr. & Mrs. Bob (Brenda) Reznicek** - July 20, 2012 at 07:30 PM