



## Wayne Miller McKirdy

June 9, 1929 - January 26, 2025

Wayne's funeral service will be viewable at <https://vimeo.com/1053104800>

Wayne Miller McKirdy, 95, was the 13th of 16 children born to Herbert and Dagmar (Miller) McKirdy on June 9, 1929, at Gladstone, ND. He lived as a man of integrity with a joyful intensity all the years of his life.

He served as a United Methodist pastor. Being a minister is not something you do; it is who you are to the core of your being. This was Wayne.

Wayne served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict in the early '50's. This proved to be a gateway for him following his service to enter into higher education on the GI Bill. For education, Wayne graduated from Gladstone High School in 1947, attended one year at Dickinson State Teachers' College (ND), one year at Utah State, and two years at Jamestown College (ND) where he graduated in 1955. He went on to Iliff School of Theology (Denver, CO) becoming a fully-ordained Methodist pastor in June 1958. He married Maybelle Ralston on August 24, 1958, whom he had met at his Deacon ordination two years earlier.

As a full-time pastor, Wayne with Maybelle served at Napoleon and Braddock, ND, Tioga, ND, Edgeley, ND, Black Hills Methodist Camp and Piedmont, SD, Faulkton and Seneca, SD, Bigstone City and Revillo, SD, North Dakota

Camping Director at Wesley Acres Camp, ND. After retiring in 1991, they bought a house in Valley City, ND and were appointed to serve seven more churches during their retirement years. Maybelle passed away in 2009. She had wanted them to write a book about their life. Wayne honored her wish, spending many years writing their book, Together. He gave up his yard in 2012, moving to the North Dakota Veterans' Home in Lisbon, where he always felt he was 'treated like a General.'

In his early years he was nicknamed "Birdy McKirdy" as birding was always his passion. Whether leading Boy Scout troops, canoe trips, bird hikes, or working in his many gardens, he was connected to nature throughout his life.

Personal integrity and a deep sense of gratitude were integral elements of the legacy passed to each generation of family, church, and community. His commitment to living the love of Jesus Christ was primary to him. The preacher you heard from the pulpit, the man you met on the street, and the father who sat at the supper table were all the same person as Wayne lived with authenticity to the very best of his ability.

Wayne and Maybelle's children are Scott (Colleen), Stuart (Ellen), Bruce (Lori), and Donna McKirdy (Carlos Diaz) with 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

There will be an informal prayer service held at the North Dakota Veterans' Home in Lisbon on Friday, January 31 at 10:30am CST with pecan pie following. The funeral service will be at Epworth United Methodist Church in Valley City on Saturday, February 1 at 10am CST with more pecan pie following. Burial will be in the Gladstone Cemetery on Saturday afternoon around 3:30pm MST. Anyone is welcome to meet the family there, but you will have to bring your own pecan pie.

Memorials can be sent to Dakotas United Methodist Camping program.

There will be an informal prayer service held at the North Dakota Veterans' Home in Lisbon on Friday, January 31 at 10:30am CST. Funeral Service will be at Epworth United Methodist Church in Valley City on Saturday, February 1 at 10am CST, burial will follow in the Gladstone cemetery on Saturday afternoon about 3:30pm MST.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at [www.olivernathanchapel.com](http://www.olivernathanchapel.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Gladstone Cemetery

Gladstone, ND

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 1. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Epworth United Methodist Church  
680 8th Ave SW  
Valley City, ND 58072-3743  
(701) 845-0340

## Funeral Service

FEB 1. 10:00 AM (CT)

Epworth United Methodist Church  
680 8th Ave SW  
Valley City, ND 58072-3743  
(701) 845-0340

# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

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**Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel** - March 25, 2025 at 04:05 PM



“ *Oliver - Nathan Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of Wayne Miller McKirdy*



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**Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel** - January 28, 2025 at 02:05 PM

MR

*Today 2/26 we learned of Wayne's passing. We were sorry to hear about it, wish we knew at the time so we could have made it to a service. We visited Wayne a couple times at the Veteran home and he loved it there, it was a beautiful place. We send our sympathy to his family, but happy to know he is back with Maybelle.*

*Mike and Barb Ralston  
Chippewa Falls WI*

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**Mike and Barb Ralston** - February 26, 2025 at 06:30 PM

JM

“ *Wayne and I shared James McKirdy as a great great grand father. On the two occasions we met we learned much about our shared background. John McKirdy, Kingston, Ontario.*

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**John McKirdy** - May 29, 2025 at 07:06 PM

PS

“ My Mother (Karen Enger Soderberg) always spoke very highly of her Uncle Wayne (my Great Uncle), and of course Uncle Wayne lived with the Enger family in Dickinson for a while.  
The Soderberg family has many truly wonderful memories of visiting the McKirdy family in Faulkton SD in the 1970's ... what very fun times those were.  
One particular fun/unique memory is of the “bicycle shop” in Faulkton, which supplied a few childhood “banana-seat” Schwinn bikes for the 3 Soderberg boys (some fellow PK's).  
Thanks also to the McKirdy family for posting the funeral service to see.  
Seems like time goes by faster the oldest one gets.  
Condolences and sincere best wishes.

*Peter Soderberg (of Gilbert, Arizona).*

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**Peter Soderberg** - February 09, 2025 at 04:25 PM

CK

“ Connie K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Miller McKirdy.

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**Connie K.** - January 31, 2025 at 05:27 PM

MS

“ Mark and Georgann, Holly and Sheila planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Miller McKirdy.

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**Mark and Georgann, Holly and Sheila** - January 30, 2025 at 08:54 PM

MS

“ *Mark and Georgann, Holly and Sheila purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Wayne Miller McKirdy.*



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**Mark and Georgann, Holly and Sheila** - January 30, 2025 at 08:54 PM

JE

“ *So sorry to hear of Rev. McKirdy's passing. He officiated my parents wedding almost 58 years ago. He touched may lives in such a positive way. My prayers are with your family.*

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**Joy Janssen Erstad** - January 30, 2025 at 07:30 AM

CB

“ *We were always honored to have Wayne worship with us when he could.  
He was always ready to welcome me, when I did my turn doing a chapel service at the Soldiers Home. A man of faith, rejoicing to his final day.  
Bless his memory.*

*Pastor Chuck and Kaye Belzer*

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**Chuck and Kaye Belzer** - January 29, 2025 at 06:40 PM

MJ

“ *Want to extend our sympathy to Wayne's family. We always enjoyed Wayne when he came to Lisbon UMC. He was always glad to see you and visit with you. Just a great guy. He would always compliment me when I played the piano and organ.  
Don and Mary Jo Smith*

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**Mary Jo** - January 29, 2025 at 04:50 PM

ER

“ Wayne was always a conscientious, consistent man of faith. His steady influence was always a breath of fresh air at conference. He will be missed

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**Eldon and Donna Reich** - January 29, 2025 at 10:24 AM

JE

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Your Mom and Dad were one of a kind. They had the church in Napoleon when I was in high school. He also was a fill-in in Wimbledon. He was loved, and will be missed by many people.

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**Joanne Etter** - January 29, 2025 at 09:48 AM

GK

“ Wayne and Maybelle WERE Wesley Acres Camp when I was fairly new in North Dakota! But we also enjoyed sharing in the ILIFF LUNCHEONS at Annual Conference, and I know he was influential in the life of the Lisbon UMC as frequent supply pastor after he moved to the ND Veterans' Home. After he wrote his book TOGETHER, he got a copy to me, and it was a warm account of his and Maybelle's life and ministry. I visited him at the Veterans' Home where he seemed to be quite involved in the life there with other residents, but also with the community. He will be missed! May you, his family, cherish the memories that are shared with you (as well as your own). He left quite a few of those memories! -- Genie (Butler) Kistler

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**Genie Kistler** - January 28, 2025 at 07:47 PM



*He was such a speial man/Pastor. He served many churches with Wimbledon being one of them . He and Maybelle were just such a special couple with a wonderful love story. I loved reading the book He wrote. We visited him about a year ago in Lisbon. They touched many lives.*

January 29, 2025 at 08:49 AM



*That was From Donna Peterson in Wimbledon*

January 29, 2025 at 08:51 AM

WA

“ Wayne was Barnes County Historical Society board president when the Fair Store building was gifted to the Society in 1996. It was his brainchild to move the museum downtown, which ruffled some feathers and caused many to question his sanity. He also hired me as the first paid director for BCHS in 1997 (Which also ruffled some feathers and caused many to question his sanity). He helped me weather many a storm and was a patient teacher and constant cheerleader as my first boss and subsequent great friend. He and his wife Maybelle were devoted volunteers for many many years. He will be sincerely missed.

**Wes D Anderson** - January 28, 2025 at 06:09 PM