



Rev. Charles F. Crist

Charles Francis Crist, 94, passed away at his residence at the Sarah A. Reed Retirement Center on June 23, 2017.

Charles was born October 12, 1922, in Cumberland, MD, the son of Dr. John Anthony and Mary Josephine Kronenberg Crist.

In addition to his parents, Charles was preceded in death by Ruth Evelyn Rawson Crist, his wife of 66 years to whom he was devoted and who died September 23, 2012. He was also preceded in death by his five siblings, Rosemary Harris, John Crist, Paul Crist, Joseph Crist and Mary Louise Smith Boyer. He is survived by his son Ronald and his wife Pat of McKean and son Douglas and his wife Lynne of Oakmont, PA. He is also survived by four grandsons: Steven and his wife Kristy of Charlotte, NC, Jonathan of Austin, TX, David and his wife Katie of Watertown, MA and Alexander of College Station, TX. He also had two great grandchildren Ryan and Kelsey.

Charles attended elementary and high schools in Cumberland. He graduated from University of Iowa in 1945 with a degree in psychology and went on to graduate Hartford Seminary in 1949, where he met his wife Ruth and whom he married on May 25, 1946. He did post graduate work at Boston University in counseling.

During his career as a minister, Charles served Congregational and Presbyterian churches in Wapping, CT and Worcester and Assonet, MA before being transferred to Ravenswood, WV. He then served Pennsylvania churches in Braddock, Cannonsburg, Muse, Girard and Conneaut Lake. After retiring from the ministry, Charles was employed by the Erie County Department of Health.

Charles was a lifelong learner and had a variety of interests including woodworking, photography, and gardening. He especially liked to take pictures of children and families and developed his own pictures in his darkroom. He and Ruth enjoyed traveling and after Ruth's retirement in 1985, bought a motorhome and traveled west to the Canadian Rockies. Charles was a Master Gardener, who was always giving tomatoes to friends and acquaintances and once raised two tons of tomatoes for the Erie Food Bank. He continued to garden at Sarah Reed and grew eight varieties of kale. In his quest for good health, he cooked his own meals until recently and took pilates in his 80s. He was a voracious reader and writer, frequently reading multiple books concurrently, which became the subject of his annual Christmas letter and the basis of his sermons. When Ruth developed dementia, he researched the disease and became her voice and her advocate and did his best to provide companionship for her. In his continuing quest to "keep up with current technology", he bought an iPad when he was 90.

Charles has willed his body to science through the Humanitarian Gift Registry, and arrangements are under the direction of the Merle E. Wood Funeral Home, Inc., 845 East 38th St. There will be a memorial service at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to a charity of one's choice.