



Dr. James Joseph Menninger

March 19, 1953 - February 15, 2025

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 Dr. James Joseph Menninger entered into God’s Kingdom on February 15, 2025 at the age of 71. Jim was born on March 19th, 1953 to Jim and Rosemary (Spivey) Menninger. Jim’s life and ministry was characterized by his deep faith in Jesus and the desire to share His word with others. Jim was born and raised in Fairfield, Ohio where he was known to many in the community as the local, reliable paperboy. At Fairfield High School, Jim served as student body president for three years, lettered in several sports, was active in the German club and was selected as the Most Outstanding Citizen of the class of 1971. After high school, Jim attended Princeton University in New Jersey, graduating with a BA in Historical Studies. He later attended Ashland University where he earned a PHD in Theology. He had a love for learning and also completed postdoctoral work at the University of Cincinnati, University of Arizona and University of Vienna. Professionally, Jim served as a youth leader at Immanuel Baptist, Director of Religious Life at Ashland University, Adjunct Professor at both Wilmington and Ashland Colleges, and consultant/lecturer at the University of Cincinnati. He also founded and led the Campus Life Organization, served as a life coach for Miami University athletic teams, ministered with missionaries in both Germany and the Philippines and served as Senior Pastor at Washington Baptist and Columbia Baptist, as well as working with several other church communities. Additionally, Jim served as a

councilman for the city of Fairfield. Jim loved people and did not know a stranger; he always took the time to ask questions, to listen and to get to know each person as an individual. Jim loved and enjoyed competition. Whether it was during his time on Princeton University's Varsity Lightweight football team, fishing on Lake Erie with his sister and brothers-in-law, challenging a friend on the tennis court, a backyard picnic cornhole game or a friendly card game with family, he was a competitor. Jim's memory will forever have a place in the hearts of his family and friends that loved him, but also, in the countless lives of those hearts that were changed through his ministries. He had a true gift for learning, teaching and a passion to share the gospel with others. Jim was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Neal Menninger. He leaves behind four sisters: Terrill (Rick) Broshear, Linda (Bob) Krause, Judy (John) Philpot, and Leah Menninger. "Uncle Jimmy" will be dearly missed by many loving nieces and nephews. A visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Weigel Funeral Home, 980 N. W. Washington Blvd., Hamilton, OH, 45013. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Bethel Community Church, 2015 N.W. Washington Blvd, Hamilton, Ohio, 45013 the public may call from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service at 10:00 a.m. at the church. Interment will follow at Arlington Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions can be made to Fairfield High School, 8800 Holden Blvd, Fairfield, OH, 45014 in his name. Please include Menninger Scholarship Fund on the memo line. Online condolences are available at www.weigelfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Arlington Memorial Gardens

2145 Compton Road
Cincinnati, OH 45231

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Weigel Funeral Home
980 N.W. Washington Blvd.
Hamilton, OH 45013
(513) 892-1524
<https://www.weigelfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

FEB **20**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Bethel Community Church
2015 N. W. Washington Blvd.
HAMILTON, OH

Service

FEB **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethel Community Church
2015 N. W. Washington Blvd.
HAMILTON, OH

Tribute Wall

LM

“ Jim was a classmate at Princeton a year ahead of me. We were in a campus Christian fellowship together. I was always encouraged by his cheerful walk with the Lord and his willingness to talk with a younger Christian and help explain the Scriptures as I came across confusing sections. He was someone I could rely upon to build me up as a fellow believer. I thank God for Jim and his life of ministry.

Laura Megill - February 24, 2025 at 09:33 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. James Joseph Menninger.

February 21, 2025 at 02:13 PM

AK

“ Jimmy and I went to Elementary and Junior High together. I am not amazed that he excelled in everything. He was the one I wanted my grades to be like and my competitor in four-square on the playground. He was my crush for so many years. I don't think he knew and he was always busy because all the girls liked him. One day I saw him at a reunion I was attending and found out he was a 5th or 6th cousin. I saved him a seat on the school bus every day but was disappointed he did not sit with me on the Marietta bus trip. I had not seen Jimmy since graduation but I do feel his absence. I do know he is in a better place and I am positive more than one angel took him home. Just look at that smile. Rest in Peace my childhood friend! Save me a seat. Anita (Hooker) Kupchunas

Anita L Kupchunas - February 21, 2025 at 02:01 PM

AJ

“ We were very new believers in Christ when we met Jim. We truly appreciate that he took time with us and helped us grow in our faith. Our condolences to his family and all who miss him.
Gerald and Angelika Jackson

Angelika and Gerald Jackson - February 20, 2025 at 02:48 PM

DL

“ Jim was intelligent, enthusiastic, humorous, encouraging, and highly motivated with a sincere zest for living the Christian walk for our Lord. I miss him and the good times we shared at Bible studies, ball games, picnics, and concerts etc. My sincere prayers and sympathy are extended to the rest of the Menninger family.
Matthew 5:16
Doreen Lopina

Doreen Lopina - February 20, 2025 at 08:54 AM

RD

“ Jim was my best friend for decades. He made my transition to Fairfield much easier by befriending me when I started FHS during my Sophomore Year. We were both active in FHS's InterVarsity Christian Fellowship during our high school years, worked out at the Fairfield YMCA, played racquetball, often double dated with our most recent girlfriend :^). When Jim returned to Fairfield, after Princeton and his teaching positions, he attended my wedding as my best man, presided over my mom's funeral, and joined us during holiday picnics. He was one of the kindest souls I've known.
Blessings Jim, you are with your Lord now.



Richard Dyer - February 19, 2025 at 12:14 PM

MB

“ I met Jim when he was the Director of Religious Life at Ashland University. I worked with him as a leader of H.O.P.E. student ministry. He always had a big smile on his face. He was part of the creative genius that created The Banana Split celebration. It still goes on today as "Banana Split-in" on AU campus. My prayers are with Jim's family during this time of loss.

Mark Britton - February 19, 2025 at 08:49 AM

PM

“ Patrick, Tara, Megan & Abby McDonell purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. James Joseph Menninger.



Patrick, Tara, Megan & Abby McDonell - February 18, 2025 at 09:01 PM

PM

“ Patrick, Tara, Megan & Abby McDonell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. James Joseph Menninger.

Patrick, Tara, Megan & Abby McDonell - February 18, 2025 at 09:01 PM

SR

“ Sharon Runyon purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dr. James Joseph Menninger.



Sharon Runyon - February 18, 2025 at 04:08 PM

PD

“ *Sorry to hear of his passing. Patricia Davis*

Patricia Davis - February 18, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. James Joseph Menninger.*



February 18, 2025 at 12:12 PM

MR

“ *I have known Jim since I was 10 yrs old! 57 years! He graciously let me take over his Journal News paper route when I was 11 after a year of training! (LOL) Jim and I would meet up for lunch once a year for most of those years, and it seemed like it was the previous day since our last lunch. His enthusiasm and smile we will all cherish forever! His love for our Lord and his willingness to help other people regardless to his schedule was unbelievable. Jim lit of the room when he walked in.. his laugh was infectious ... He called me when I made City Council and then 4 years ago when I was elected Mayor and we reminisced his time on Council.. What a great guy who will be missed by everyone that knew him. We must remember he is in a much better place now... that has been promised by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Praying for the family this week... Love you man... and will miss you!!*

Mitch Rhodus - February 17, 2025 at 11:44 PM

SW

“ I had the honor and privilege of working with Jim for several years at the Oxford United Methodist Church. He always entered my office with a great big smile on his face and would always comment when I asked how his day was going with “I’m rockin’ & rollin’!” He was the most generous, kindest and giving man I have ever met. He always had kind words to say and often brought me gifts. Once he left we stayed in touch sporadically and I went to see him once. I knew then something was not right with him physically but his spirit was great and always positive. I sent him many text messages the past few years to let him know I was here and praying for him. He will be deeply missed and wish I would have had that one last chance to tell him what an inspiration he was to me! Love you Jim! RIP ❤️

Susan Walker - February 17, 2025 at 10:56 PM

JB

“ Jim was a close friend and former college roommate. To my kids he is warmly known as "Uncle Jim". They all fondly remember our vacation with him (that he planned) at Lakeside on Lake Erie. Fishing for perch on a late night charter boat was a highlight. Earlier (when we were both single), I remember vacationing with him at Hilton Head where he met Stan Smith (professional tennis player) after church one Sunday. More recently, he came to Wheaton (IL) to help keep me away from my surprise retirement party and then emceed the affair. His smile has always been contagious!

We all will miss him and our prayers go out to his family.

John Bauer

John Bauer - February 17, 2025 at 10:30 PM

BC

“ I knew Jim when I was a med student at UC and he helped out with our CMDA chapter. He had a contagious joy in and zeal for the Lord and he was a great source of encouragement during those years. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing but I rejoice knowing he is with the Lord now.

Ben Cox - February 17, 2025 at 07:40 PM

CS

“ I was friends with Jimmy's sister Leah & have find memories of him. What a career & life of ministry - blessings to his friends & family. Sorry for this great loss. (I've lost touch with Leah & would love to reconnect ❤️) Blessings, Cindy (Barger) Schmidt

Cindy Barger Schmidt - February 17, 2025 at 05:23 PM

PH

“ My family lived on the next street by Jim. We weren't close, but I remember how nice and friendly he was, always smiling. Doesn't surprise me that he became a minister. Such a nice guy. My prayers and condolences to his family. Our loss is Heaven's gain for sure.

Patty Lewis Helton - February 17, 2025 at 05:08 PM

CN

“ Jimmy was always a bright light and a great help to many. These past years were a struggle for him and all who loved him. May the Lord look with great favor on Jimmy's soul and give the rest and comfort he needs and deserves.
Chris Norman

Chris Norman - February 17, 2025 at 02:26 PM

OJ

“ *My sincere condolences on the passing of Jim. My wife grew, Linda Clark Oberdorf, grew up just several doors down from Jim on Southview Dr. in Fairfield. Jim was also a welcoming person with a smile on his face. My prayers go out to the family and friends.*
Sincerely,
Jerry Oberdorf

Oberdorf Jerry - February 17, 2025 at 02:12 PM