

# In Loving Memory of Charles Wayne Dunkle

July 25, 1941 - January 28, 2026



*From his loving wife, Marty Dunkle, and his children: Sharon Booth, Rikki Kroh, Sharla McCoy (Shane), Grandchildren: Nicole Anderson (Steve), Amanda Kroh, and IsaBella McCoy, Great-grandchildren: Grayson Booth and Everly Anderson.*

Charles Wayne Dunkle, a man known for his unwavering integrity, steadfast faith, and generous heart, passed peacefully into the presence of the Lord on January 28, 2026, at his home in Clarion. He was 84 years old.

Born on July 25, 1941, in the family home in Cherry Run, Clarion County, Wayne was the son of George J. Dunkle and Estie Viola Grace (Aldous) Dunkle. Raised among a large and loving family, Wayne was one of eleven siblings, an upbringing that shaped his lifelong devotion to family, hard work, and helping others.

Wayne's life was marked by extraordinary dedication. At the young age of 18, he began a career in blacktop construction with Hager Resurfacing Company of Strattanville. What began as a job became a calling, as he faithfully served the company for an incredible 53 years, retiring as foreman at the age of 73. Known for his honesty and leadership, he was the kind of man whose word was as good as a handshake—respected by coworkers and friends alike.

His commitment extended beyond his profession. Wayne was deeply invested in his community, serving as a Supervisor on the Clarion County Township Board, a role he approached with the same sense of responsibility and fairness that defined every aspect of his life.

A gifted mechanic, Wayne could fix just about anything on cars and trucks in his garage, where he could often be found happily working on "just one more thing." Yet his greatest joy was found in the simple blessings of life—listening to old-style country music, attending church, sharing Sunday dinners with family, taking Sunday drives, traveling/ seeing the sights, flea markets and antiques. Family reunions held a special place in his heart.

Known as an incredible storyteller, Wayne delighted in sharing tales from the "good old days." He fondly recalled making butter and cream with an old separator, and being a small boy traveling to town by horse and buggy with his mother—hoping the store owner might offer a broken piece of candy to share with his many siblings. He often laughed as he told the story of listening to the radio and reaching behind it, convinced there were "little people" inside doing the talking. When the tubes squealed, he knew he was getting close. One announcement, urging listeners to "feed Wayne to your baby chicks," especially frightened him as a child—believing, quite literally, that he was to be fed to the chickens.

Wayne also cherished memories of attending the Five Points one-room schoolhouse, being pulled on a sled through deep snow by his older sisters, and his mother calling out, "Wayne, come rock this baby to sleep," as he helped care for his baby sister, Linda. Wednesday nights spent at the Belknap Auction in Dayton were another favorite tradition.

Among his most legendary stories were those including "Hoopie Rides"—joyful adventures in a repurposed old car with the top cut off and a homemade flatbed—shared with our neighbors Chuck and Judi Klingensmith and their children. Dad had all of us kids riding in the back and adults up front, he sped like the wind through hills and straightaways, laughter echoing through the countryside of Strattanville. These stories, told with Wayne's signature smile and sparkle, were a gift to all who listened and remain treasured memories for his family.

Wayne was known for his unforgettable bear hugs, infectious smile, and hearty laugh. He carried a gentle spirit and a tender heart, especially for animals, and dearly loved his faithful cat, Gimpy. His quiet faith guided his life, and those who knew him saw Christ's love reflected in his kindness, humility, and willingness to lend a helping hand without expecting anything in return.

Though Wayne has departed this earthly life, his legacy of faith, love, and quiet strength remains firmly planted in the hearts of those who knew him. As Scripture reminds us, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." His life was a testimony to service, family, and faith—and his memory will continue to bless generations to come.

**In loving remembrance of Wayne Dunkle, the Global Methodist Church in Strattanville will ring its church bells for five minutes on Friday, February 6, at 12:00 noon, honoring his life and legacy.**