# Let Me Tell You About My Friend Jim Cline

Jim Cline was born July 18th, 1942, in Scio, Ohio. He passed away on November 20th, 2024, at the Smithville Western Rehab and care facility in Smithville, Ohio surrounded by his family.

I was honored to know Jim beginning in December of 2009 when I tried out at the Burbank Road Church of Christ in Wooster, Ohio. I worked with the congregation there from January 2010 until June 2017. I had two tryouts in December and during my second tryout I spent the entire afternoon with Jim and his wife Barbara. I remember he said that he was retiring from his family operation of bagging landscaping materials that they started in 2006. However, to this past summer before he had open heart surgery he was still out there working as he did all year!

Jim loved nature. If you went out to his home he loved the Spring, Summer, and Fall where all the flowers and wildlife passed through his yard. You could just go out to his house and sit on the porch and not say a word and just enjoy the beauty of God’s creation. He loved to hunt for food and was a member of a local pheasant hunting group and helped trained dogs for hunting and securing pheasants.

Jim had such a lot of wittiness. We laughed a lot together at some of the things we saw and witnessed together and always remembered the laugh he had after those situations. He had a since of humor and knew when to use it to help lighten the load but knew there was a time for humor and laughter and a time for seriousness.

But I want to share with you more of his love for our Lord. Jim spent a lot of time with Larry Devore and Doug Roush, a couple of people local to Ohio. Doug now preaches in Bowling Green Kentucky. Larry lived in Wooster for a substantial portion of his life preaching at Wooster in the early seventies and eighties then in Medina until he had to step down in 2009. Larry passed away in 2016. Jim and Larry used to travel to several small congregations in the southern Ohio area, especially the Roseville Ohio congregation where they preached and taught classes all in the southeastern part of the state in their younger years.

This passion for the gospel was in Jim and I was in several of his classed in my time at Wooster. I sat and got to hear him teach classes. He was an avid participator in class and always counted on him for comments or even helping answer questions. He had a gentleness to him where he believed in Proverbs 15:1 “***A soft answer turns away wrath***.” He was truly knowledgeable in the scriptures took a role like Timothy “give attention to reading, exhortation, and doctrine” (**I Timothy 4:13**).

In May 2011 he was appointed as one of two elders to oversee the church at Burbank Road in Wooster, Ohio. He was a man along with Eldred Hess that met the qualifications of an elder and was appointed at that time. He served as an elder there until his passing. He took this role with all seriousness and love for God. He helped all he could within the local church there and was a “pillar” of the local work there. His family has always had a presence within this church since it started in 1957. The last time prior to Jim serving as an elder was when his dad and Eldred Hess served together until his dad’s passing in 1995.

Jim loved God! If you were over at his house, you knew he was going to talk to you about God. Whether it was a member there and discussing certain matters. Or even, family visiting him and he would invite them to come. Those that fell away he tried to countlessly help be restored. All with that Proverbs 15:1 mentality in mind to help each person.

His favorite passage that he mentioned in Bible class constantly was **Ephesians 1:3-10**. God has blessed everyone with every blessing both physical and spiritual. Through Jesus Christ we have been blessed. Through Jesus we have the opportunity to be accepted and be found in favor with God. That is through following the example of Jesus! Through Jesus Christ we have forgiveness of sins. Through Jesus Christ we have hope! Through Jesus Christ and only Him we have salvation! Through Jesus the mystery of the gospel is revealed.

It is through Jesus we can know the way (**John 14:6**). It is this message that Jim believed in and constantly preached and shared with others in his 82 years of life. He is no longer here in the flesh but now has gone on to stand before God looking forward to crown of life (**II Timothy 4:7-8**)