



Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.

March 22, 1949 - September 21, 2021

Reverend Alphonso Lyons Jr., 72, of Peoria, Illinois transitioned from this life to his heavenly home on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at OSF St. Francis Hospital, Peoria, IL.

Alphonso Lyons, Jr., was born to Alphonso, Sr., and Ellora (Derrick) Lyons on March 22, 1949. A native of Peoria, Alphonso Lyons graduated from Manual High School in 1967. He went on to graduate from Bradley University in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Religious studies. He later received a master's degree in Education and Administration from Bradley. An avid reader, Reverend Lyons will tell you some of his biggest influencers were Dr. Fred Sampson, and Dr. E.V. Hill. A bibliophile he maybe, he was most influenced by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

In 1966, while a young member of Grace Baptist Church, Alphonso made it known that he had been called to the ministry of Christ. Ordained in 1974, he served as an Assistant Pastor under the guidance of Dr. Wendall R. Phillips at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Shortly after being ordained, Dr. Phillips accepted a pastoral position at another church in Pennsylvania. May 1974, Rev Lyons began serving as interim pastor at Mount Zion Baptist Church. October of 1974, the church selected him as the head Pastor.

Reverend Alphonso Lyons Jr., has been instrumental in providing leadership to Mount Zion Baptist Church since 1974. An effective communicator and teacher of God's word, he is known for his gentleness and dynamic teaching styles. He dedicated his life to his church and the community in Peoria.

Pastor Lyons served on numerous boards and committees that included the Peoria Area Ministerial Alliance, Chairman of the Peoria Christian Leadership Council, Moderator of the Central District Congress, past President Central District Association, Baptist General State Conventions and Illinois Peoples Action. Always looking for ways to make his church and the community more financially grounded, he founded METEC, Mt Zions' Effort to Equip the Community. METEC is a community development corporation that provides resources that helps families and individuals with housing and employment. He has served on METEC's board since its inception in 2001.

Never wanting to be seen but always willing to be that pillar of support, additional organizations and accomplishments that Pastor Lyons dedicated his life too include:

- Current Chairman of Board of PCLC (Peoria Christian Leadership Council)
- Current member of the Peoria Baptist Ministerial Alliance
- Current member of PMEDO (Peoria Ministerial Economic Development organization)
- Member of Committee to establish a Peoria Charter School
- Current member Peoria Lion's Club
- Current Board Member of Manual High School Advisory Board
- Former contributing writer to the religious column of the Peoria Journal Star
- Past President Central District Congress
- Past Corresponding Secretary for Baptist General State Convention of Illinois (2002-2008)
- Past instructor for Central District Congress
- Past instructor for Baptist General State Convention of Illinois (1976-1979)
- Past secretary PAMA (Peoria Area Ministerial Association)

Affectionally known as "Rev" by his family and students. Alphonso was a substitute teacher for Peoria Public Schools for many years. He taught several subjects including French. Children were the key to his heart. He believed the church should provide creative opportunities in helping motivate our youth and understand we only have a brief time to do so.

Alphonso married Cheryl G. Green in 1975. From that union two children were born, Danielle and Devan Lyons. He later married Charlene Grant Coates. Together they raised five children and have a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren including Jeremiah Mudd and Julissia Mudd whom they raised. He leaves to cherish his most precious memory his loving and devoted wife, Charlene Lyons; children, Devon Lyons, Frank Coates, Willie Coates and Crystal Grant all of Peoria, IL and Danielle Lyons of Atlanta, GA; his loving mother, Ellora Lyons of Peoria, IL; his siblings; Michael Lyons of San Francisco, CA, Don (Annie) Lyons of Goose Creek, SC, Curtis Lyons of Kansas City, MO, Charla (Rev. James) Fleming, Cheryll (Keith) Boswell and Ruthi Lyons all of Peoria, IL; 20 grandchildren; a host of great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends and his Mount Zion Baptist Church Family. He is preceded in death by his father and 4 grandchildren, Jeremiah Hayes, Deshaun Hayes, Jazmine "BJ" Ivy and Brandon Grant.

A two-hour visitation will be held from 5 PM to 7 PM, Thursday, September 30, 2021 at his beloved Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Funeral services will be held at 11 AM on Friday, October 1, 2021 at Mount. Zion M. B. Church with a two-hour visitation beginning at 9 AM. Pastor Lyons will be laid to rest at Lutheran Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at simonsmortuary.com.

The service will be live streamed on Simons Mortuary's Website or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Simons-Mortuary-232095303487150> promptly AT THE TIME OF THE SERVICE.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, social distancing is encouraged

To be consistent with recommendations from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), funeral home directors have been instructed and should follow CDC guidelines on gatherings, including those directly related to funerals, visitations, or graveside services.

*In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we ask that everyone in attendance: wear a face mask and refrain from hugging, kissing and shaking hands (as hard as it is to see someone you care about and not touch them).

*It is our responsibility as a Funeral Directors, to do everything we can to advise families in order to honor our beloved Families and to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

Cemetery Details

Lutheran Cemetery

914 S Pleasant St
Peoria, IL 61604-5954

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 30. 5:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
305 S. MADISON PARK TERRACE
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-4379

Visitation

OCT 1. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
305 S. MADISON PARK TERRACE
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-4379

Celebration of Life

OCT 1. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church
305 S. MADISON PARK TERRACE
Peoria, IL 61605
(309) 674-4379

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.*



Simons Mortuary - September 30, 2021 at 07:15 PM

DW

Beautiful Tribute! A God filled life of service.

Dianna and Charlie Westbrook - October 01, 2021 at 12:30 PM

AH

Now home in glory, my condolences to the family and church family 🙏

Annette Housley - October 01, 2021 at 03:59 PM

JK

To the Lyons Family - you have our deepest sympathy for the loss of your loved one, Pastor Lyons. Another soldier has been called home to receive his reward! May God comfort & keep you as you contend with your sorrow.

James & Vickie King - October 07, 2021 at 05:17 PM



“ *Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM

MI

“ *My sincere condolences to the Family of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr. May God be with you all during your time of bereavement RIP Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr..*



Ms. Brenda J. Idreez - November 01, 2021 at 07:58 PM

GR

“ Gregg Randle lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Gregg Randle - October 07, 2021 at 09:25 PM

CJ

“ To the family of Pastor Lyons and the Mt. Zion Church Family, you have our sympathy and prayers. God has called His servant home to rest. Pastor Lyons has been there for us through some good and bad times...never wavering. He had love and compassion for everyone. Thankful that he married us 40 years ago and always gave words of wisdom. He christened/blessed our children and grandson. There with our parents and sisters passing. Thank you for all you did for us and others. You will always be remembered. An angel now in Heaven with the Lord and other loved ones.

Take your rest..."Serving the Lord, has paid off"! 🙏❤️✝️
Rick and Cindy Johnson

Cindy Johnson - October 02, 2021 at 05:29 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr..



September 30, 2021 at 11:49 PM

CM

“ Our prayers go out to the family of our friend. We pray the Lord will comfort and bless you in this time of need.
Minister Johnny & Sister Carolyn Johnson

Connie Matthews - September 30, 2021 at 09:26 PM

CM

“ Our prayers go out to the family of our friend. We pray the Lord will comfort and bless you in this time of need.
Minister Johnny & Sister Carolyn Johnson

Connie Matthews - September 30, 2021 at 09:20 PM



“ 30 files added to the album LifeTributes



Simons Mortuary - September 30, 2021 at 05:42 PM

LT

Our condolences and prayers to the family. Reverend Lyons will be truly missed. We know that he is with the lord Jesus Christ and watching over us all. God bless.

Lee and Rowana Thomas - October 01, 2021 at 06:52 AM

TS

“ *Our prayers and condolences go out to the family and Mt.Zion. Pastor T.L.Hunt and Galilee M.B.C.*

Thurston L Hunt Sr - September 30, 2021 at 05:37 PM

JG

“ *To the family of Reverend Lyons and our Mt. Zion family, we extend our deepest condolences. Pastor Lyons was a kind, generous, wonderful man of God. He touched our lives and the lives of so many others. He will truly be missed. We send our Love and Prayers.*

God bless you.

On behalf of the entire Gwynn family.

John Calvin Gwynn and Corriece Gwynn

Kathy Gwynn Jones and Alexander Jones

John Calvin Gwynn - September 30, 2021 at 03:16 PM

TT

“ *Rest in Heaven preacher. Thank you for all of the decades of service. Thank you for all you did for me with my spiritual walk and faith. I will see you again.*



Tangela Taylor-Stuckey - September 30, 2021 at 11:21 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr..*



September 30, 2021 at 11:17 AM

PB

“ *Pastors Jerry & Deborah Butler purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr..*



Pastors Jerry & Deborah Butler - September 29, 2021 at 08:57 PM

BB

“ *Barbara Brown lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.*



Barbara Brown - September 29, 2021 at 06:24 PM

MP

“ *Mancy Pittman sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.*



Mancy Pittman - September 29, 2021 at 06:17 PM

EJ

“ *Earl & Essie Ellis Jr. Praying for the family*



Earl & Essie Ellis Jr. - September 29, 2021 at 05:04 PM

RN

“ Rufus And Kim Nelson sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Rufus and Kim Nelson - September 29, 2021 at 11:43 AM

RW

“ Rena Webster-Horton lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Rena Webster-Horton - September 29, 2021 at 12:47 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr..



September 28, 2021 at 11:41 PM

GT

“ Gladys Rutherford Tracey lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Gladys Rutherford Tracey - September 28, 2021 at 08:40 PM

MR

“ Mattie Risby sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Mattie Risby - September 28, 2021 at 07:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *LifeTributes*



Simons Mortuary - September 28, 2021 at 04:15 PM

DJ

“ *Doretha Jamison lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.*



Doretha Jamison - September 27, 2021 at 09:37 PM

SJ

“ *Sheila Johnson lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.*



Sheila Johnson - September 27, 2021 at 03:06 PM

TW

“ *Richard and Theresa Walker*



Theresa Walker - September 27, 2021 at 12:53 PM

SE

“ *Sandy Evans sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.*



Sandy Evans - September 27, 2021 at 08:23 AM

NC

“ 🕊️ 🙏 To the family and members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church you have our sympathy at the homegoing of your loved one, Pastor and leader Rev. Alphonso Lyons, Jr.
We are praying for each of you. Continue to trust, lean and rely on God now and the days ahead.
Again, you have our heartfelt sympathy and prayers. 🕊️ 🙏
Dr. Mark McConnell, Pastor, Founder and members of
New Cornerstone Baptist Church in Peoria, IL

New Cornerstone Baptist Church - September 26, 2021 at 11:31 PM

JB

“ Joanie Brown sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Joanie Brown - September 26, 2021 at 12:40 AM

JB

“ To The MT ZION Family So Sorry For Your Grest Loss. We All Know That God Hasn't Made A Mistake He's Done His Will Once Again And We Are True Believers Of The God We Serve. AMEN Pastor ALPHONSO LYONS Jr. Your Job Down Here Is Done (RIP) REST IN PARADISE 4EVER GBNF . We're Going To Miss Him Dearly But Knowing Where He's Going Makes Us Rest Because He's Resting In Jesus's Arms No More Worries Of This Old World . 🙏 🕊️ 🙏 🙏 🙏
Prayers Are For Us Left Behind

Joanie Brown - September 26, 2021 at 12:39 AM

LA

“ God makes no mistake. He has come to take Pastor Alfonso Lyons from this battlefield. We,the Hardy, Marshall, Bryant family of Illinois, Arizona, Colorado Springs and Georgia bow in humble submission, sending prayers of comfort and peace to your family. May pastors Light forever glow in eternity.
Praying for you all.



Linda Hardy and family Phoenix Arizona - September 24, 2021 at 06:53 PM

LH

“ To 1st lady Lyons, family and Mount Zion Baptist Church family, we are sad to hear of the transition of our wonderful man of God, Pastor Alfonso Lyons. My prayers are for healing and comfort as you go thru this storm. Pastor Lyons is a mighty Pastor who helped and nurtured many. He is now your guardian angel watching over you from. HEAVEN. THANK YOU JESUS FOR PASTOR REVEREND ALFONSO LYONS.



Linda Hardy - September 24, 2021 at 06:30 PM

LP

“ To the Lyons Family sorry for your loss and May God's Angel's Wings spread around you all and bring you all comfort during this time of sorrow !!! R.I.P. Rev. Lyons !!! 🙏



Linwood Family Peoria,IL. - September 24, 2021 at 05:39 PM

JH

“ You were one of the best men I knew Rev. Sleep easy now sir, miss you. Can't wait one day to have our prayer when we last talked 🙏

Justin B. haliburton

justin Haliburton - September 24, 2021 at 03:26 PM

AS

“ Anita Scott lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Anita Scott - September 24, 2021 at 02:51 PM

LJ

“ Lisa Allen Jones lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Lisa Allen Jones - September 24, 2021 at 12:45 PM

CB

“ *Forever Pastor! He will be missed dearly ,We will see him later!!!*



Cynthia Barnes - September 24, 2021 at 12:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr..*



September 24, 2021 at 11:10 AM

BD

“ *You used to babysit me as a kid and I can remember you sitting on an open porch at your home studying the word of God. This was 71 or 72, and you were a student at Bradley. Later, I vividly remember you sitting in the pulpit at the old Mt. Zion (4th and Sheridan Rd) as Pastor Phillips introduced you to the congregation as the associate Pastor. You were tall, lanky and that big fro is all I can remember. All I remember was the congregation mumbling no doubt wondering like me is this guy a Pastor or a Jesus version of a Black Panther.*

You were close to my grandmother as I would stopped by to see her at the Herbert House when I was a teenager and you and her were there having one of your many conversations. Your presence in our family, like other families at Mt. Zion, was a constant. Your officiating of weddings, funerals and etc, was and is iconic. Like us all, you were not a perfect man but you were called of God, and you had a servant's heart.

I am inspired by your service to Christ. You were a very powerful and humble man! Love you bro, SEE you soon enough! Well done, Pastor Lyons! Well done!

Brother DR - September 24, 2021 at 08:58 AM



“ Karen Ashby sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Karen Ashby - September 24, 2021 at 12:13 AM



“ Elaine sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Elaine - September 23, 2021 at 09:44 PM



“ Dee Taylor lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Dee Taylor - September 23, 2021 at 09:39 PM



“ Praying for peace to bring you comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart., Aunt Stella Derrick, Muskogee, Oklahoma

Aunt StellaDerrick - September 23, 2021 at 08:31 PM



“ Nettie M Banks lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Nettie M Banks - September 23, 2021 at 08:03 PM

MM

“ Melvin M. McAfee lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Melvin M. McAfee - September 23, 2021 at 07:41 PM

PF

“ Lighting a candle in remembrance of Pastor Lyons.. Lifting up his children in prayer ❤️



Pamela Farmer - September 23, 2021 at 07:18 PM

AN

“ NEW HOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 433 East First Street Galesburg, Illinois 61401 Church Number (309)337-1686 September 23,2021 To the family of Pastor Alphonso Lyons, Once again we find ourselves bowed down in humble submission to the divine will of almighty God. Be assured that the passing of your loved one was his will and that all things done by him are not to be doubted even through we don't understand. We hope that these few words will comfort you in the tomorrow's to come. There is promise in each sunrise. There is hope for each new day; There's a sunbeam for each raindrop, There is help along the way. There is faith for all life's problems, There is strength for the trials you face, There is mercy and compassion, Even in life's darkest place. That makes all life's sorrows dim. When you place your hand in God's hand, And walk life's path with him. We, the Pastor and Members know that he will be missed. Respectfully Submitted Pastor Rev Kemp Jones Church Clerk Annette Cato

annettr - September 23, 2021 at 07:11 PM

HW

“ Harrell And Dorothy Williams lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Harrell and Dorothy Williams - September 23, 2021 at 06:06 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr..



September 23, 2021 at 05:21 PM

BC

“ BRENDA CAYSON lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



BRENDA CAYSON - September 23, 2021 at 05:04 PM

EJ

“ Earl & Essie Ellis Jr. lit a candle in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Earl & Essie Ellis Jr. - September 23, 2021 at 04:22 PM

AL

“ Annette Lucy sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.



Annette Lucy - September 23, 2021 at 03:51 PM

RS

“ To The Family and Mt. Zion Church Family and Friends,
Of Pastor Alphonso Lyons Jr.

*God Knows Everything, God Cares for Everyone,
But God so loved the World that He gave His Only Son,
God Loves us Dearly, so that We can say I Love you!
God Bless ! Amen, Amen and Amen!!*



Rev. John H. Lee Sr. - September 23, 2021 at 03:51 PM

MS

“ Rest in peace Pastor Lyons. Pastor Lyons was a one in a million kind of person. He was always humble, respectful and kind. He always had words of encouragement to share and scriptures to lead you too. He will be missed.



Minister Tonja Scott-Pate - September 23, 2021 at 02:30 PM