



Edmund Janzen

October 4, 1937 - April 14, 2026

Born in Laird, Saskatchewan on October 4, 1937, Edmund Janzen went home to be with the Lord at age 88 on April 14, 2026. Edmund's faith profoundly shaped a rich professional life as pastor, educator, administrator, university president, and church leader. In 2005 Fresno Pacific University established a lectureship endowment to honor Edmund's 35-year contribution to the community. He served in various roles: innovative theology professor, chaplain, Chair of Bible Studies, and President. As a professor, Edmund developed the university's popular Contemporary Christian Ministries major. As President, Edmund expanded community outreach when in 1983 he established "Broadening the Base," an initiative that offered all students an education centered on Christ, scripture, and servanthood. Beyond Edmund's commitment to the Fresno Pacific community, he served both nationally and internationally in leadership of the Mennonite Brethren church, both as Moderator of the North American Mennonite Brethren Conference, and as Chair of the International Committee of Mennonite Brethren.

Edmund is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mary; four children: Joel [Judy], Rhoda [TR]; Jennifer, Joanne [Will]; and by eight grandchildren: KJ, Sam, Holly, Korry, Ethan, Izzy, Mia, and Emma. A celebration of life will take place at Edmund and Mary's home church of 60 years, Butler Avenue Mennonite Brethren Church at 4884 E. Butler Ave, Fresno, CA, on Monday, April 20, at 11:00 a.m. For those who cannot attend in person, the service will be

livestreamed on Butler's YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/butlerchurch/streams>.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **20**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Butler Church
4884 E Butler Ave
Fresno, CA 93727

Tribute Wall

DW

“ *My thoughts are with the family as you process this loss. Uncle Ed was a joy and a force. With love from David Wagner*

Dave Wagner - April 20 at 02:01 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Edmund Janzen.*

April 17 at 08:39 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Edmund Janzen.*



April 17 at 08:39 PM

SP

“ *Farewell good friend. Your friendship has meant a lot to me from the College days in Winnipeg to the Seminary days in Fresno through many family adventures and vacation times up to the present. I will miss your infectious sense of humour and your acute insights into all things political, religious and practical. Over the years I have valued your unwavering commitment to the Anabaptist distinctives of servanthood, community and peace. Rest assured that Ruth and I will continue to stay in touch with the love of your life and our very good friend, Mary.*

Sig (and Ruth) Polle, Winnipeg, Canada

Sig Polle - April 17 at 03:05 PM

MA

“ Mary's sisters - Susan, Helena, Anne planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Edmund Janzen.

Mary's sisters - Susan, Helena, Anne - April 17 at 02:08 PM

MA

“ Mary's sisters - Susan, Helena, Anne purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Edmund Janzen.



Mary's sisters - Susan, Helena, Anne - April 17 at 02:08 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Edmund Janzen.



April 16 at 09:17 PM