



Michael "Mike" Fitch

April 29, 1944 - June 16, 2025

Michael "Mike" Fitch, 81, of Kankakee, passed away Monday June 16th, at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, following a sudden illness.

He was born on April 29, 1944, in Roodhouse, Illinois, to the Rev. Ralph and Gladys Fitch. He moved to Kankakee in 1959 when his father was transferred as a pastor to Trinity United Methodist Church. He met his beloved wife Linda, at Trinity, and they went on to become high school sweethearts. They were wed on April 22, 1967, in Kankakee, and were married for 48 years, before she preceded him in death.

Mike graduated from Kankakee High School in 1962 and then graduated from Devry Institute of Technology in 1965, where he was then hired on as a teacher of electronics and math. He and his wife lived in Chicago after their marriage, while she worked as a nurse, and he continued to teach at Devry. They moved back to Kankakee in 1970, as they started their family.

He joined his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Clyde and Lee Call, in their family business, Clyde's Camera 'n' Cards in 1970. After they retired in 1975, Mike and Lin and Lin's sister and her husband became the new co-owners of Clyde's in the Meadowview Shopping Center, where he continued to work actively, for the next decade. In 1984 he went to work as a design engineer for Parker Machine Corporation, in Frankfort. He made another major career move in 1994, when he began work at Phoenix Closures, in Naperville, as a mechanical/electrical engineer. He retired in 2010.

Mike loved photography and not only did it all of his life as a hobby but also

did weekly photo developing and photo restoration for Clyde's Camera 'n' cards, and photographed weddings, for a period of time. He was an enthusiastic fisherman and hunter and loved camping with his family and friends. He was happily involved for many years with Kankakee Valley Theatre, and not only did set design and construction for many of their productions but also served as President of KVT from 1991- 1996. He was a lifelong member of Trinity United Methodist Church, and through the years supported the church as a choir member, Sunday school teacher and youth group leader, trustee, and building committee chairperson. He was a much loved friend, Dad and Papa.

He is survived by his daughters Michelle (Scott) Kennedy of Elmhurst, and Lisa-Kate (Tony) Iovinelli, of Batavia, six grandchildren-Harrison, Owen, and Wyatt Kennedy and Parker, Sonia, and Mia Wilson, his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Barb and Gordon Freitag, many nephews and nieces..

He was preceded in death by his three sisters and brothers-in-law, Muriel (Bill) Dawson, Enid (A.V.) Smith, and Anne (Lee) Bedford.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, Kankakee, on Saturday July 19th with visitation beginning at 9:30, and the service beginning at 11:00. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Schreffler funeral homes in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JUL 19. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church
936 S 3rd Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Memorial Service

JUL 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity United Methodist Church
936 S 3rd Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

MC

“ So sorry for your loss ! I Graduated with your Mom in 1964 and was fortunate to work with your Grandma and Grandpa at Clyde's when the store was right next to Fannie Mae in Meadowview! So many great memories of a great family! Prayers to the family!



Mary M Chaney - June 23, 2025 at 07:13 PM

JH

“ First met Mike 20 years ago when I started to work for Phoenix in Newport. always enjoyed working with Mike and was able to keep in touch after he retired.
I will pray for your family for strength and comfort if the fact that Mike is with our Lord.

John Hoyle - June 23, 2025 at 09:56 AM

JH

should be in the fact, Not if.

John Hoyle - June 23, 2025 at 09:57 AM

JE

Thank You Mike for sharing your life with me and so many others. You helped me with photography when I was still in High School, that's been 50 years ago. And have been good friends since. Bought many cameras from you, and they have been great! And all the direction and advise over many years has helped so much. I lived only a block away, and visited many times over the years. I bid you good bye till we meet again. Love Ya and will never forget you.

Jim Enz - July 24, 2025 at 03:34 AM



“ Knew Mike from HS and the MYF group at his father's church. He was into electrical gadgetry even back in those days, a very good guy.

Jerry the Mailman

Jerrold Bjick - June 22, 2025 at 01:26 PM

MR

“ My sympathy to you Michelle and Lisa. I remember your dad and mom, and Barb and Gordon and your grandparents too from the Clyde's Camera and Cards. Your parents were both great! So very sorry for your family's loss

Marilyn Roy - June 22, 2025 at 10:39 AM

MR

“ Marilyn Roy lit a candle in memory of Michael "Mike" Fitch



Marilyn Roy - June 22, 2025 at 10:30 AM

MB

“Michelle, Kate and families. We have lost one of the greatest men ever and everyday is very difficult for me without his presence nearby. I am totally devastated at his passing. As you know, we shared so much these past 8-9 yrs. He was always there for me making sure my life was going well. The hardest thing for me now to accept is "the silence". Our ever day and evening communication; sharing so much together. He was so proud of our little Bailey, teaching him so many tricks....they spent all day, ever day together. Bailey misses him terribly too. Each day for me is a different day with fond memories. I never know what's going to crop up next memory-wise.....but there he is. He has been such a terrific companion making a difference in my life. His love will always remain in my heart. He is now with your mom catching up. Love to all, Mary Lou Bates

Mary Lou Bates - June 21, 2025 at 10:30 AM

JE

Your so right Mary Lou.....Mike sure was a GREAT man to all who met him. Kind to all and always had a smile, with a willingness to always help. He will be deeply missed. And always loved.

Jim Enz - July 24, 2025 at 03:41 AM

DS

“Michelle and Lisa, you have my deepest sympathy on the loss of your father. My memories of my early days in church have your mom and dad in them! God bless you at this difficult time.

Dorcilla Schoolman - June 20, 2025 at 10:47 PM

MK

Thank you so much, Dorcilla.

michelle kennedy - June 21, 2025 at 09:43 PM

JG

“ *A super good person will be missed.
Praying for you and yours. Joe / Julie Giacchino*

Joseph Giacchino - June 20, 2025 at 06:43 PM

LB

“ *Lauren B. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Michael "Mike" Fitch.*

Lauren B. - June 20, 2025 at 01:57 PM