



David A. "Dave" Wonder

January 12, 1982 - November 4, 2025

David A. "Dave" Wonder, age 43, of Bourbonnais passed away Tuesday, November 4, 2025. He was born January 12, 1982 in Bloomington, IN, the son of Kenneth & Marta (Howard) Wonder. Dave married Lisa Brinkmann on May 29, 2004 at Zion Lutheran Church in Beecher.

Dave loved the Lord. He lived his life according to Romans 12:1-2, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Dave truly enjoyed spending time with his family-playing sports, being outdoors, and watching the kids' sporting events. He was so full of joy, overflowing from his love of Jesus, it was obvious to all he encountered.

Dave was a gifted teacher and musician, sharing his love of both with many students at Hickory Creek Middle School for 21 years.

He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park, where he served on the worship team.

Surviving are his wife of 21 years, Lisa Wonder of Bourbonnais; one son, Brooks Wonder of Bourbonnais; one daughter, Grace Wonder of Bourbonnais; his father, Kenneth Wonder of Bloomington, IN; his mother, Marta Wonder of Bloomington, IN; two brothers, Jimmy Wonder of Bloomington, IN and Tommy Wonder of Anderson, IN; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ken & Judy

Brinkmann of Momence; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Mark & Jamie Brinkmann of Momence and Elizabeth & Jeramiah Dickey of Boise, ID; nephews, Brody, Eli, and Easton; nieces, Emerson, Amber, and Autumn; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Visitation will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, November 7, 2025 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. Additional visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the time of the 11 a.m. funeral service on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park. Interment will follow at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Tinley Park.

Memorials may be made to the family wishes.

Cemetery Details

Trinity Lutheran Cemetery

6850 W. 159th St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Visitation

NOV 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
6850 W 159th St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Funeral Service

NOV 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
6850 W 159th St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477

Tribute Wall



“ I have many memories of David as a kid at his grandma's lake house as a kid. Many summers days spent fishing and swimming. I wish our family would have stayed close. I will cherish your memory always rest in peace cousin. And to your family my condolences

Jon Shaffer - December 12, 2025 at 10:28 PM

DL

“ Dave was my music teacher in middle school. He had best energy and biggest heart and was my favorite teacher by far. I always remember his very impressive collection of pez dispensers. He brightened everyone's day and made us all laugh. Rest easy

Daniella Laino - November 25, 2025 at 09:34 PM

NA

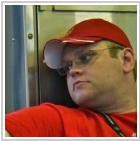
“ Dave was my music teacher in 6th grade. It's not common to have a middle school teacher have such an impact on you as you reflect back as an adult to your pre-teen years. Although music class was already exciting for me, Dave somehow made it better. I anticipated every day to walk into Mr Wonders classroom filled with Pez dispensers, Wonder Bread memorabilia, and of course Mr Wonders corny joke of the day *ba dum tss!*. Dave has instilled so much from music that I incorporate into my every day life now, such as recognizing a songs BPM. Dave made sure to make ALL his students feel recognized, and me being a shy student, really made me feel seen. My deepest condolences go out to Dave's family, I want you all to be reminded that Dave lives on, and he won't be forgotten. Thank you Dave for your brightness and the love of music you put into the world.

natalie - November 08, 2025 at 06:41 PM

PE

“ I was a kid when I met him. He was a Young Life youth group leader at the time. His personality was infectious and we all loved him as kids. He was driven to bring happiness to everyone. Anyone that interacted with him was better off. I'm crushed and I haven't seen him in 20 years. I will pray for his close family and friends. He was a very special person.

peter - November 07, 2025 at 08:11 PM



“ David always lived up to his last name. He was one of the kindest and brightest individuals I met at ONU He will be missed. I am so sorry for your loss. May God bless you, shine his face upon you and give you peace.

Brandon Johnson - November 07, 2025 at 03:26 PM

NV

“ Lord Jesus - It's not too often you give us someone like David. Reminds me of another who was anointed by Samuel - one on whom the Spirit of God rested. Thank You Lord for shining Your Light through David to me. For the gift of his friendship both at Olivet, and again these last couple years, I am so grateful. I love you and miss you, Brother. - Nathan

Nathan Vail - November 07, 2025 at 02:52 PM

MS

“ I worked with Dave at HCMS and he and Lisa also photographed my wedding. I will always remember Dave with a smile on his face ready to bring the fun. His positivity was contagious, and it was impossible to be in a bad mood if he was around. The way he would interrupt any and all classrooms with his silly "dad jokes" were always a fan favorite, and he is probably the only person that could come interrupt what you were doing without being upset by it; it was Dave, and just what Dave did. I also loved how if something surprised him unexpectedly, his filter did not always kick in, he would say what he was thinking, and than apologize while laughing; his intentions were never ill intended, and again, you could not help but laugh alongside him. He never had a negative to say about anyone, and always found the best in the people he worked with and kids in the building. Dave, I hope you are at peace, and know how much of an impact you had on my life. Thoughts and prayers with all of the Wonder family as they learn to navigate without him. He was truly one in a million.

Mary Sopha

Mary Sopha - November 07, 2025 at 02:42 PM

CA

“ Lord Jesus, thanks for Dave. It's a blessing to have known him. Most of my memories are from decades ago, but those were important moments for me. His smile and willingness to help out, and curiosity born of compassion. God's Love was rooted deep In Dave, and obviously continued to bear fruit in the years to come. I look forward to singing with him again one day, in the full presence of Jesus. May the Holy Spirit come and bring comfort, as we remember...

Chadwick Anderson - November 07, 2025 at 07:45 AM

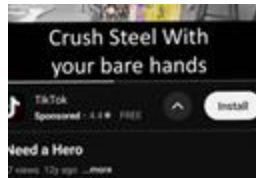
HH

“ Mr. Wonder was my 8th grade music teacher. We bonded over our obsession with watching the YouTube Casey Nusrat, and making music on SoundCloud. In fact, one of the first songs I made was with the help of Mr. Wonder! And it was a song I posted on SoundCloud. He was a kind, supportive, driven, and heartwarming person who sought to inspire all of his students with the love of music. He was also very knowledgeable and cultured! He had a giant world map in his classroom, and he knew all about the city of my heritage, Hyderabad India. A person who lit up every room and made all feel welcome, rest in peace

Husna Hussaini - November 06, 2025 at 08:34 PM

SS

“ I'll never forget being part of his I Need A Hero Music Video but also he was an amazing and encouraging music teacher I have ever had during my time in middle school. I'm gonna miss him.



Sean Spicer - November 06, 2025 at 07:03 PM

EC

“ I was in school so long ago, but still I remember Mr. Wonder. I was not lucky enough to have him as a music teacher, but I remember the day we had him as a stand-in teacher for only about thirty minutes. To this day I remember how he enchanted us with a hilarious story about being in line at an amusement park and watching the people in front of him start to make music by beat boxing and rapping. We couldn't stop laughing at his story telling, and I think about how cool the short time we got to spend with him was. When I heard about his passing I knew I wanted to share the fact that I spend thirty minutes with him as a ten year old, and still remember it as a twenty-two year old. That's how impactful Mr. Wonder was. God bless him and his family, my heart goes out to them.

Elizabeth Cissell - November 06, 2025 at 06:09 PM

CN

“ Another fun memory of Mr David Wonder (and Mr Ryan Talaga) at one of the many FSD 157-C Education Foundation fundraisers where he generously served as our DJ and party-maker. He gave so much of his personal time and energy to help raise funds to fulfill teacher written grants for his classroom, his fellow educator's classrooms and for all of his students. His smile, kindness, hard work, boundless energy and compassion will be GREATLY missed by all of Frankfort 157-C...



Carrie Nagle - November 06, 2025 at 04:47 PM

CN

“ Mr Wonder loved to spin the tunes for his students at many of their school events! He often served as a DJ at Hickory Creek Middle School and brought so much happiness to his students...



Carrie Nagle - November 06, 2025 at 04:33 PM

CN

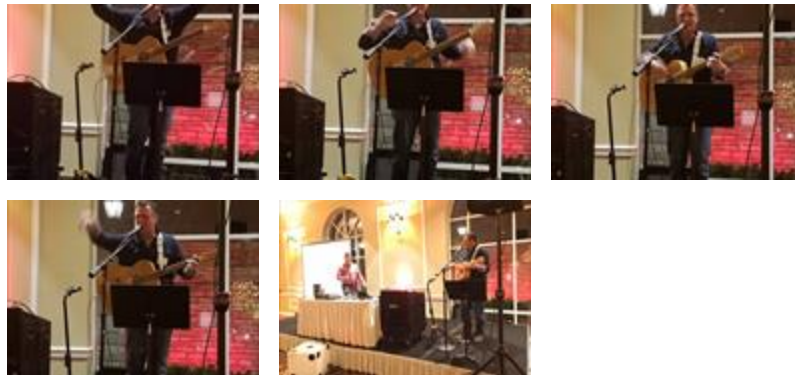
“ Mr Wonder was a generous and loving soul. Each year he would donate a “Day with Mr Wonder” as an auction item at our annual FSD 157-C Education Foundation Fundraiser. Parents scrambled to outbid one another for this coveted opportunity! Each student that won this day RAVED about how much fun it was to spend a day teaching with him in his classroom. He will be greatly missed by everyone who ever had the opportunity to meet him and experience the JOY that was Dave Wonder.



Carrie Nagle - November 06, 2025 at 04:29 PM

CN

“ Mr Wonder was an incredible human being! Not only was he an AMAZING music teacher and mentor to the students, staff and administration at Frankfort 157-C but he was an inspiration to EVERYONE he met. Both of my sons raved about how kind and fun he was when they attended his classes at Hickory Creek Middle School. He also volunteered his time and energy each year to serve as our DJ, Host and Auctioneer at our annual Education Foundation fundraisers. He brought a JOY to so many! I will forever remember Dave as a GIFT to our entire community. His smile, guitar playing and enthusiasm lit up every room he entered! And his PEZ candy dispenser collection was legendary amount his students. Every Christmas my boys would try to find a new PEZ for Mr Wonder to add to his collection. My heart breaks for his wife and beautiful family. We are praying for them as they navigate this tremendous loss and thank each of them for sharing their beloved husband, father, son and brother with our Frankfort community. May God welcome him and hold him in love and perfect peace.



Carrie Nagle - November 06, 2025 at 04:20 PM

RN

“ *The impact Dave had on my son while coaching him on multiple occasions in baseball as well at Adventure for fall baseball and flag football will never be forgotten. He had a way of being able to communicate with my son in his difficult moments when he was hard on himself that nobody else could ever do. He was the biggest cheerleader for the team and could always make the best out of the worst situation. My thoughts and prayers are with Dave's family during this time.*

Robin Nauyokas-Anderson - November 06, 2025 at 03:35 PM

NH

“ *Lisa, our hearts go out to you and your family in deepest sympathy. Our prayers and hearts are with you. May God give you an extra measure of comfort in the loss of such a special person.*
Uncle Neil and Aunt Harriet

Neil and Harriet - November 06, 2025 at 03:22 PM

DP

“ *When I think of Dave, I sense joy — complete and utter JOY. What a beautiful soul!*

Dawn Plestina - November 06, 2025 at 03:00 PM

MW

“ *Mr. Wonder was truly the best teacher! I remember looking forward to his class every day, and his insane PEZ collection. Cared for each and every one of his students like they were his own. He will be missed greatly!!* ❤️🙏

Meredith W - November 06, 2025 at 02:48 PM

CA

“ I remember Mr. Wonder being such an amazing and patient teacher. He was the reason I fell in love with the guitar and having jam out sessions with friends of mine for years, all because he taught one of the most fun and informative classes on how to play guitar. I remember being tired for that class since I think it was zero hour? But I would always be super excited to go to his class simply because of his energy and how much he believed in his students. I still play guitar today, using the chords he taught in that class. Will always think of him every time I strum. Sending my condolences to his family, friends, and prior students.



Charlee Amacher - November 06, 2025 at 01:14 PM

SM

“ I came to know Mr. Wonder as my music teacher at HCMS. His enthusiasm and his love for music and life contributed greatly to my development as a life-long musician and earning a degree in music.

The poem below was written by Irish poet John O'Donohue, and I share it in hopes it helps to comfort the Wonder family as they navigate this great loss ,as it has helped me through my own feelings of grief.

*"When you lose someone you love,
Your life becomes strange,
The ground beneath you gets fragile,
Your thoughts make your eyes unsure;
And some dead echo drags your voice down
Where words have no confidence.
Your heart has grown heavy with loss;
And though this loss has wounded others too,
No one knows what has been taken from you
When the silence of absence deepens.
Flickers of guilt kindle regret
For all that was left unsaid or undone.*

*There are days when you wake up happy;
Again inside the fullness of life,
Until the moment breaks
And you are thrown back
Onto the black tide of loss.*

*Days when you have your heart back,
You are able to function well
Until in the middle of work or encounter,
Suddenly with no warning,
You are ambushed by grief.*

*It becomes hard to trust yourself.
All you can depend on now is that*

*Sorrow will remain faithful to itself.
More than you, it knows its way
And will find the right time
To pull and pull the rope of grief
Until that coiled hill of tears
Has reduced to its last drop.*

*Gradually, you will learn acquaintance
With the invisible form of your departed;
And, when the work of grief is done,
The wound of loss will heal
And you will have learned
To wean your eyes
From that gap in the air
And be able to enter the hearth
In your soul where your loved one
Has awaited your return
All the time."*

Scott M - November 06, 2025 at 12:49 PM

BA

“ We knew Dave from St Paul’s when Jess was in youth group there and Dave was one of the youth group leaders , I always loved his children sermons , also liked listening to him play the guitar & the violin during church too Dave was always a very upbeat positive guy always smiling I don’t think I have ever met a more upbeat guy before in my life my heart goes out to Lisa , Grace & Brooks you are in my prayers

Bree Anderson - November 06, 2025 at 10:47 AM

KP

“*Dave and his family are neighbors. He was always outside with his kids throwing a football or baseball or just running around with them. Great father. I remember he bought my son’s unicycle at a garage sale I had. Just a wonderful spirited guy. He will be missed in our neighborhood.*”

Karen Powell - November 06, 2025 at 10:05 AM

TF

“*The Svehla Family lit a candle in memory of David A. "Dave" Wonder*”



The Svehla Family - November 06, 2025 at 09:33 AM

TF

“*The Svehla Family - Our hearts are just broken upon hearing the passing of Mr. Wonder. A kind and caring soul that brought joy into the world with his music. Three of our four children had Mr. Wonder and he was the "best". We wore our t-shirts in honor of him and are so very sad for your loss. We know the Kingdom of Heaven is ablaze with his glorious music. You are all in our prayers and thank you for sharing this wonderful man with the kids of Hickory Creek. Mr. Wonder you will be missed. RIP dear and faithful servant. Michael, Holly, Michael, Chloe, Laurel and Willow Svehla*”

The Svehla Family - November 06, 2025 at 09:32 AM

NM

“ Oh Mr. Wonder, where do I begin? The best music teacher in the world. He not only made sure all of his students were happy but they always felt safe in his classroom. I will never forget him teaching me guitar and sharing his love of music with me. I always tried to find Pez dispensers that he didn't have so that I could help add to his collection. And how could you ever forget another the wonder bread signs he had hung up on the walls? He was an icon. My 3 siblings and I all got the pleasure of walking through Mr. Wonder's classroom door and he left his mark on each and every one of us. Middle school for me was a very difficult time since my parents were in the middle of a divorce but there was always something about his music class that made it all seem like everything was going to be okay. His contagious smile and laughter is something I have not and will not ever forget. I bet he's up there now playing the best music Jesus has ever heard with his guitar in hand! We love you Mr. Wonder, rest easy up there.

Nicole Mauriello - November 06, 2025 at 09:20 AM

JT

“ I don't believe I ever saw Dave not smiling, always had the best biggest smile. Such a pleasant young man, always enjoyed when he was on the worship team at Southside. Prayers for David's family. RIP David!
Jackie Tate

Jackie Tate - November 06, 2025 at 07:22 AM

DB

“ Dena Barnett purchased the Treasured Memory - 8" x 7" Frame (Holds 4x6 Photo) for the family of David A. "Dave" Wonder.



Dena Barnett - November 06, 2025 at 06:49 AM



“ *From great conversations in your room to helping me perform at Hickory Creeks talent show, It is hard to just count on one memory. Mr. Wonder you have done more for me and your students than you know. Thank you for everything you have done.*

Rest in Peace to my dear caring friend.

Jordan Lowe - November 06, 2025 at 12:51 AM



“ *I don't remember every detail about Hickory Creek, but I remember his class vividly. Mr. Wonder had such an enthusiastic and positively contagious aura in his classroom. I've never been musically inclined, but he made his class the most enjoyable part of the schedule, and instilled an appreciation for classical music that's never left me. Our community lost an outstanding man; rest in peace.*

Ethan - November 06, 2025 at 12:03 AM



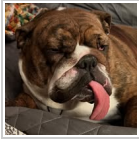
“ *I remember when he was my middle school teacher for music! He always knew how to make music class fun! He also always made sure everyone was having a good time and everyone was always laughing! In music class he couldn't promise my name when he first meet me so he gave me a nickname Shay Shay and ever since then it stuck and became my new nickname ever since! Also my favorite part in class he taught was the guitar! So I feel in love with that instrument and then I got a guitar as a gift and Mr wonder and I have have private lessons and he would teach me how to play! Each time I've gotten better because of him! If it wasn't for him I probably wouldn't have learn to play the guitar or bass or drums or loved music as much as he did! He was the best teacher anyone could ask for.*

Shaleigh O'Gorman - November 05, 2025 at 10:39 PM



*Pronounce**

Shaleigh O'Gorman - November 05, 2025 at 10:41 PM



“ *I first met Dave in 2004 as he bounded out of the principal’s office ready to start his first day at HCMS. The first thing he did was smile, introduce himself, exude positive enthusiasm and proceed to ask me about myself! All before he stepped into his first classroom! That was Dave. Interested, caring and invested for all those around him.*

Over the years, as we would run into each other in the halls, we would have a chance to catch up on faith and family, and his love for both, always shined through. As we ran into each other at the start of this year, the first thing Dave did was ask how my daughter was doing, as she was one of Dave’s first students almost 20 years prior.

Dave touched everyone and similar stories and the love for Mr. Wonder will continue for a long time.

Gracious God, look with mercy upon the soul of Dave. Grant that calling Dave from his home and our hearts, that he may enter the embrace of Your faithful and everlasting love in Heaven. You will be missed. Our thoughts are with your family at this time.

Rich Zaremba - November 05, 2025 at 10:27 PM

AI

“ Mr Wonder grew my interest in both music and helped me find a real passion in my life. He would share jokes with me and other classmates and it was impossible to find him without a smile. He encouraged me to do the talent show in 8th grade, and it ended up being a highlight of my life. I hope you're eating all of Ed's big greasy donuts

Aidan - November 05, 2025 at 10:18 PM

MT

“ We are so sorry to hear of this news. We lived on Zikes for many years when all our boys were growing up. Sending you all hugs and prayers. 💕🙏💕
Randy & Mary Anne Thacker

Mary Anne Thacker - November 05, 2025 at 10:16 PM

KC

“ Dave was a good friend back in the day and we had many of great times in on the rugby pitch. My thoughts are with his family and all that knew him.

Kc - November 05, 2025 at 10:06 PM

CC

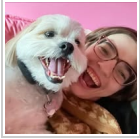
“ Mr Wonder was my favorite teacher in 8th grade (2007) he gave me private guitar lessons and coached me up when I had severe social anxiety. He will be missed so much! I know work with kids with anxiety as a mental health professional. He was a huge impact in me wanting to give back to the community like he did for me. Praying for his family and sending hug hugs to all who knew him.

Chloe Cooper - November 05, 2025 at 09:55 PM

FE

“ Fran E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David A. "Dave" Wonder.

Fran E. - November 05, 2025 at 09:53 PM



“ Rest in Paradise Mr. Wonder! You made music at Hickory Creek so much fun 15 years ago! Sending thoughts and prayers to his family, friends and colleagues 🙏💔

Jessie Pavlacka - November 05, 2025 at 09:33 PM

LS

“ We will miss you Mr. Wonder thank you for being the best music teacher, 8th grade graduation, many fond memories & I'm beyond shocked and upset, may you RIP, you didn't deserve this



lauren spengler - November 05, 2025 at 08:58 PM



“ I knew Dave from his Olivet days and my summer camp days with his band Praize. He spent time pouring his love for God and Gods love for us into teenagers even though he was only a few years older than us. We made a reconnection when friends of mine ended up being at the same church as them. His smile was contagious and he helped me know I mattered as a person. He will be truly missed by many.

Heather McKinley - November 05, 2025 at 08:51 PM

CH

“ *We all loved Dave. Jenna and Jayce especially with his youth gatherings and trips. So heartbreaking. Our deepest condolences to the entire family.*

Cathy Hedge - November 05, 2025 at 07:23 PM