



Sean M. Curbow

October 29, 1990 - March 18, 2026

Sean M. Curbow, age 35, of Bourbonnais passed away Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. He was born October 29, 1990 in Valparaiso, IN, the son of David Curbow & Dawn (Cardenas) Smith. Sean married Gabrielle Guebert on July 6, 2013 at Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene.

Sean worked as Operations Pastor for Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene. He enjoyed Disc Golf, construction work, soccer, riding his bike, and collecting Spiderman memorabilia. He loved his dogs, Kylo & Robin. Sean loved being a part of the church youth groups, where he went on many mission trips and conferences. Most of all, Sean cherished spending time with his wife and family.

He was a member of the Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene.

Surviving are his wife, Gabrielle Curbow of Bourbonnais; his father, David Curbow of Valparaiso, IN; his mother, Dawn Smith of Kouts, IN; one sister, Tara (Patrick) Enocksen of Valparaiso, IN; two brothers, Eric Curbow and Seth Curbow, both of Valparaiso, IN; two nieces, Jayden Enocksen and Jocelyn Enocksen; one nephew, Jaxson Enocksen; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Kent & Jeannie Guebert of Bourbonnais; his grandmother, Sharon Cardenas of Valparaiso, IN; one brother-in-law, Kyle Guebert of Bourbonnais and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Sean is preceded in death by his grandfathers, Chris Cardenas and Jessie Curbow; and his grandmother, Shirley Mann.

Visitation will be held from 3-7 p.m. on Monday, March 23, 2026 at Kankakee

First Church of the Nazarene. An additional visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until the time of the 11 a.m. funeral service on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at the Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene. Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene Youth Group or to the family wishes.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **23**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1naz.org>

Visitation

MAR **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1naz.org>

Funeral Service

MAR **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1naz.org>

Tribute Wall

BB

“ I had the privilege of working under Sean as a youth volunteer at K1 during college. I remember I had just begun attending church there and was nervous and a little uncomfortable but knew I wanted to help out in some way. Sean met me at the door the first day I helped with the junior high with a big smile and immediately all the nerves went away.

For that year, I was able to watch the way that Sean cared for every kid and teen that walked through those doors. I watched him counsel and have patience no matter how difficult the kid and every single one of them knew he cared for them. Sean's life truly did show what it was like to love like Jesus. Though I was only around Sean for a short time he helped shape my view on what it looked like to care for others like the Father cares for us.

You will be missed Sean. By your family, by the many many kids you cared for, and by all the many people you impacted just by living out your faith.

Rest easy brother and I look forward to seeing you on the other side.

Ben Brown - March 25 at 11:27 AM

PS

“ Patrick & Michelle Stiles purchased the Comfort & Sweetness Gift Crate for the family of Sean M. Curbow.



Patrick & Michelle Stiles - March 24 at 12:08 AM



“ *Serving as an intern at the church was an honor because it meant we were mentored by Sean. He poured so much in us and made sure we were taken care of. Every day was met with a bear hug and conversations about how we were doing honestly. He gave rides to all of us to get to church or youth group and he and Gigi always had people over to their house. If you needed something fixed, he could help you. He was a servant leader to the highest degree. We will miss Sean. Prayers for Gigi and their families*



Ashley Mansell - March 23 at 08:00 PM

RW

“ *Sean was not only a mentor to my husband & I, but a good friend. When we only had 1 car - he would drive my husband to work every day without fail. That was the kind of person he was. He had a servants heart. We served in the youth group for 3 years with him and he had such an incredible heart for them. I remember nights where we would just sit in his office and talk about life. I also remember when we as youth leaders went to skyzone. I was in the back of the van & he was driving. I don't have car sickness but that day I did lol. He without fail would always text me words of encouragement when I needed them most. I know he got to give Jesus the biggest bear hug of them all. I will miss him & our chats so dearly. Won't feel the same without him here. Oh what a good one has heaven gained.*

Rachel Wilson - March 23 at 07:14 PM

VT

“ Sean was introduced to me by Jonathan when I was ask to assign the officials for the K1 basketball league. Sean would have every thing set up for the teams, officials and the score table. He greeted you with a smile every time. He enjoyed life, and always was thankful. He came to a Bulls game and with Pastor Dave, Jonathan and his wife. All I remember him saying to me at the united center was thank you about 5-times, and that meant so much. He truly is a God sent person, and it showed in his words of kindness and compassion.

You will truly be missed Sean.



Vern Turner - March 23 at 11:07 AM

LO

“ Sean was an Awesome Pastor leading the sheep as a Shepherd would tend the sheep. He had a servants heart and served as Jesus led him to answer every call or need in his church and community. Sean loved people and service projects above himself and always took the extra mile to get the job done. His love for people was felt in his church and community as he served and loved all ages and stages and all walks of life. His teddy bear hugs were felt with the church youth group as well as the senior groups at K1. I know as Jesus took him home he would say "Well done thy good and faithful servant." As days press on lives will be changed through his testimony as Sean's first and most call was leading people to Jesus. May we follow in his footsteps and walk on reaching out to people to know Jesus and serve Jesus in our gifts God has given us also. Prayers to the family and friends of our Pastor and Friend Sean Curbow.



Leila Owen - March 23 at 09:40 AM

PH

“ Sean would pick me up from Olivet every Sunday my sophomore year so I could serve in teen Sunday School at K1. We'd always go through the BK drive-thru and get breakfast. I spend most every Sunday that year with him in his car, at church, or at his house with him and Gigi. In so many ways I am the man, husband, and Pastor I am today because of Sean's taking an interest in my life. I always looked up to him growing up at Real Life. He was a safe space for so many, and he was exactly the sort of friend, mentor, and Pastor I would call to share my heart when faced with the exact sort of pain losing him has been. Sean--I wish I called more when things were good. I wish I could have told you how thankful I am for your love-filled friendship, for the drop-anything to listen sort of man you were, for the way you taught me to hold space for others, to genuinely love and enjoy them, to see them how Jesus sees them. Sean, I love you brother. Till we meet again when heaven meets earth in the New Creation.

Peter Joel Hrab - March 21 at 09:30 PM



“ I never thought I would lose my uncle so soon. He was one of the best uncles and he was the light when there was darkness. He will always be by me even if he's not breathing. I will love him forever.

Jocelyn Enocksen - March 21 at 04:43 PM

CM

“ My heart breaks for Sean's wife and family at this loss. I only got to know him from church, but every encounter he was always so incredibly nice and every time I seen him he always had the most genuine smile.

Christina Martin - March 20 at 10:47 PM

MH

I met him last fall at an event our family held. He was so nice and very enjoyable to talk with. His church family will miss him. Prayers for his wife and family and for his church family. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to meet him. I'm thankful that he was always there to help with the youth. May they remember him and his love for them.

Marlene Heagle - March 21 at 12:48 AM

LC

“ I never saw Sean without a smile on his beautiful face. He gave the absolutely most heartfelt, long, loving hugs ever. He was a precious Jesus loving man. Not a mean bone in his body. He will never be dearly missed by everyone he has touched. I am proud to have had him as my nephew.

Lori Cardenas - March 20 at 06:38 PM

LC

He will be dearly missed by all!!

Lori Cardenas - March 20 at 06:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Sean M. Curbow.

March 20 at 02:39 PM

LN

“ *My heartfelt sympathies to everyone grieving this tremendous loss. Sean touched my daughter's life in a profound way. Just a few weeks ago she told him she wanted to be baptized and asked Sean to be the one to baptize her. He immediately wrapped her in the biggest hug and told her he would be honored. May the beautiful memories of Sean carry everyone who loved him through the coming days.*



Lindsey Nichols - March 20 at 12:49 PM

JG

“ *I went to college with Sean and I remember vividly the joy that he had at all times. He always greeted me with a smile and looked at people like they mattered. I'm sad to hear he has passed but grateful he is with his Savior!*

Josh Griffes - March 20 at 11:47 AM

MW

“ I don't think we could have asked for anyone better to officiate our wedding. Some of the best advice for our marriage came from Sean and this was it:

“Make each of your hellos and goodbyes matter. Say good morning with newness and freshness each day. Walk in the door anticipating giving and receiving love. Make sure the other one anticipates your hello, and say goodbye as if each exit would be your last. Never depart without reassuring your love for one another. Leaving for the store or on a cross continent trip should feel the same. Keep each other the center of your own universe.”

He will be greatly missed



Madeline W - March 20 at 10:59 AM

DT

“ My condolences to the family 🙏. I was a patient of Dr. Gueberts until he retired. To hear of his families loss saddens me. Such a tragedy. Y thoughts & prayers are with all of you. So very sorry 🙏



Deborah Tofte - March 20 at 08:32 AM

WS

“ With so much love, Shikha purchased the My Soul Lives On Blanket for the family of Sean M. Curbow.



With so much love, Shikha - March 20 at 02:06 AM

WS

“ With so much love, Shikha planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sean M. Curbow.

With so much love, Shikha - March 20 at 02:06 AM

PD

“ Phil and Libby Dorries purchased the *I Have You In My Heart Plush Blanket* for the family of Sean M. Curbow.



Phil and Libby Dorries - March 19 at 08:48 PM

PD

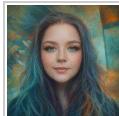
“ Phil and Libby Dorries planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sean M. Curbow.

Phil and Libby Dorries - March 19 at 08:48 PM



“ I knew Dean briefly but work with Gigi. My heart goes out to her and his family.

Vikki Ann - March 19 at 08:25 PM



Oh my goodness...what a time for auto correct! I am so sorry, Sean.

Vikki Ann - March 19 at 08:26 PM

GL

So Sorry for your loss may God comfort you during this difficult time.

Glo - March 20 at 09:17 AM



“ Sean i love you so much little big brother you are the reason I am alive today you saw something in me I never saw in myself you will forever live on through all of the lives you touched!!!!!!



Nate Aldridge - March 19 at 07:42 PM

RB

Condolences to his family, friends and church members

Rebecca Burdick - March 19 at 10:00 PM

GK

“ Our sympathy and prayers are with Sean’s family, as well as his church family, which we are proud to be members of. He was a special special man and will be missed by many many.

Glendal Kilbride - March 19 at 06:39 PM

KB

“ Sean was such a loving and caring man. He had such a giving heart and will be missed by so many. His smile would light up the room. Condolences to Gigi and to Dr. Kent and Jeannie.

Kathy Buescher - March 19 at 06:34 PM

CW

“ I have known Sean and his family for years. He always had a smile and a hug for everyone. God be with his family.

cecilia watson - March 19 at 06:15 PM

EJ

“ Edrick Jefferson sent a virtual gift in memory of Sean M. Curbow



Edrick Jefferson - March 19 at 06:07 PM

AN

“ God bless Sean & his family. He was way too young to leave & honorable for the work he did on the church. He’s definitely in God’s arms.

anonymous - March 19 at 05:42 PM

TA

“ Sean was a great youth pastor to my daughter and helped me guide her thru a tuff teen step and I am forever grateful she got to meet a awesome person like him so she knows what true good looks like in this world



Tiffany Saathoff/ Aldridge - March 19 at 05:42 PM

RD

“ I am so sorry for this loss. We at Real Life Community Church of the Nazarene in Portage, IN are praying for Sean's family and his family at Kankakee First Church. Please know you are all loved! -Pastor Rich Doering

Rich Doering - March 19 at 05:39 PM

PD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Phillip Dorries - March 19 at 05:10 PM

PD

*Sean was an amazing young man, with a big heart and big hugs. One of the amazing qualities of Sean was when talking with you he looked you in the eyes and made you feel like you were the most important person in the room. He was always willing to help anyone at any (Gigi would agree) and when you thanked him he replied it was my pleasure. Libby and I loved him so much.
Go rest high on the mountain my friend, and brother*

Phillip Dorries - March 19 at 08:40 PM

RP

*Our deepest sympathies to all of Sean's family. We pray for strength for all those that knew and loved him and to keep his memory close. He was called Home far too soon and will be greatly missed.
Larry and Ruth Penilla*

Ruth Penilla - March 19 at 11:56 PM



So much love sent your way to the Curbow and Cardenas family along with many friends. I saw him grow up in church. Always smiling.

Donna Eckelbarger - March 22 at 04:00 PM