



## Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender

February 14, 1946 - November 7, 2024

BENDER, Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" - age 78, passed away Thursday, November 7, 2024 in Pontiac, Michigan. Family hour 10:00AM Saturday, November 16, 2024 at Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 458 Central Street, with funeral commencing immediately at 11:00AM. Reverend Preston Hagler, officiating. Friends and family will assemble 10:00AM at the church Saturday. Pastor Bender will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 North Perry Street, and may be viewed between the hours of 12:00PM - 6:00PM, with the family being present from 4:00PM - 6:00PM Friday.

Pastor Bender leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Zora Bender; children, Kenneth Lamont (Marilyn) Bender, Kenetra (Larry, Jr.) Tisby and Kendra (Jonathan) Cody; grandchildren, Dequan Walker, Arjanai (Kris) Bolton, KeMonty Bruce and a host of other grandchildren; a host of great-grandchildren; sister, Rita Gail Bender-Glenn; and a host of other relatives.

Pastor Bender was preceded in death by his father; Jessie Bender; mother, Katie Bender; and brothers, Norris and Ronnie Bender.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **15**. 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac  
268 North Perry Street  
Pontiac, MI 48342  
(248) 758-1913

## Family Hour

NOV **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church  
458 Central Street  
Pontiac, MI 48341

## Funeral Service

NOV **16**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church  
458 Central Street  
Pontiac, MI 48341

# Tribute Wall

EB

“ *Edna Bass lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender*



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**Edna Bass** - November 19, 2024 at 06:43 PM

MR

“ *To the Bender family and the ENTIRE Mt. Olive Baptist Church, we were truly privileged to have this man of God in our lives! Pastor Bender your work on this earth has NOT gone unnoticed. You have been an amazing role model for all ministers. Take this due time to rest. You have surpassed God's expectations of his work to be done on earth! I love you with all of my soul, and you have been an amazing sergeants father!*  
~Mia Robinson



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**Mia Robinson** - November 19, 2024 at 09:58 AM

VW

“ *Rest On Pastor Bender, Take Your Due Rest, As Our Heavenly Father Awaits Your Arrival Into His Kingdom!, Thank You For The Wonderful Years Of Service!, Much Love Sister Veola Wright.*



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**Veola Wright** - November 18, 2024 at 07:57 PM

JM

“ Jerry& Pat McGowan sent a virtual gift in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender



Jerry& Pat McGowan - November 17, 2024 at 08:02 PM

JM

“ Jerry& Pat McGowan lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender



Jerry& Pat McGowan - November 17, 2024 at 08:00 PM



“ Le Le Douglas lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender



Le Le Douglas - November 16, 2024 at 09:41 AM

KF

“ Kimberly March and family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender.



Kimberly March and family - November 15, 2024 at 05:29 PM

SC

“ I met Pastor Bender When Kenetra and I Had Got Our Associates Degree at Baker College and He Took Us All Out To A Chinese Buffet Awesome Family I Am Praying For The Family. Sending You Hugs Kenetra

Sue Carey - November 15, 2024 at 12:59 PM



“ Michael Williams lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender



Michael Williams - November 15, 2024 at 12:52 PM

DF

“ Dorian and Jonathan Fowler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender.

Dorian and Jonathan Fowler - November 15, 2024 at 10:21 AM

DF

“ Dorian and Jonathan Fowler purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender.



Dorian and Jonathan Fowler - November 15, 2024 at 10:21 AM

EW

“ *Earlene Wilson lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender*



Earlene Wilson - November 15, 2024 at 01:56 AM

VR

“ *To the family of Charles K. Bender, from my family Valarie Rickman & the Carroll Family. Our love for you and your family will be forever and a day sending our deepest condolences.*



Valarie Rickman - November 14, 2024 at 10:08 PM

DE

“ *My Deepest condolences to the Bender Family, May God continue to protect you during this difficult time, for the Loss of a Loved One*  
🙏🙏

Demetra - November 14, 2024 at 07:04 PM



“ *Kenny and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you all and always. May your dad rest in peace. Love to you all, Lora and Dave Taylor*

Lora Ison- Taylor - November 14, 2024 at 02:29 PM

LW

“ *Laria White purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender.*



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**Laria White** - November 13, 2024 at 08:09 AM

JB

“ *James Brooks lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender*



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**James Brooks** - November 12, 2024 at 09:00 PM

JB

*Praying for comfort and strength. I witness his first sermon at the Cedar Grove MBC. Take your rest Man of God.*

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**James Brooks** - November 12, 2024 at 09:05 PM

GR

“ *Grace Robinson lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender*



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**Grace Robinson** - November 12, 2024 at 07:42 PM

ET

“ *Ernestine Tolbert lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender*



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**Ernestine Tolbert** - November 12, 2024 at 04:08 PM

SS

“ *He was the best Sunday school teacher I ever had. He use to give us Kennedy half of dollars when we did good. He will be missed.*  
*Stephanie Brooks Spencer*



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**Stephanie Brooks Spencer** - November 12, 2024 at 03:18 PM

TW

“ *My condolences to the family. I remember when Pastor Bender and I use to sing together. I really enjoyed singing with him.*

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**Thelma L Willis** - November 12, 2024 at 01:43 PM

LW

“ *Lance & Carla White purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender.*



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**Lance & Carla White** - November 12, 2024 at 12:32 PM

BR

“ Beverly Rollins lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender



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**Beverly Rollins** - November 12, 2024 at 11:52 AM

DC

“ My memories include him playing guitar in the group and could  
sang..you got your wings Uncle Ken

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**Djuna Cockrell** - November 12, 2024 at 10:47 AM

DC

“ Djuna Cockrell lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender



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**Djuna Cockrell** - November 12, 2024 at 10:46 AM

RB

“ *Pastor Charles Bender was a wonderful Pastor. I visited his church a few times. He and his wife were always nice and welcoming. He was honest and was not afraid to speak up on issues. He knew God and had great faith regardless of what was happening.*



*Pontiac and the World needs more Pastors like Pastor Charles Bender.*

*God Bless the family and his church members.*

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**Renee Beckley** - November 12, 2024 at 08:55 AM



*Sincerest condolences and sympathy for the family. Buddy/Pat Bender, Jr.*

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**Patricia Bender** - November 12, 2024 at 12:44 PM



“ *Steve Brooks lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender*



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**Steve Brooks** - November 12, 2024 at 08:06 AM

JC

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Jonathan Cody - November 12, 2024 at 07:15 AM

JC

“ You were truly one of a kind  
R.I.P.



Jonathan Cody - November 12, 2024 at 07:12 AM

MH

“ Sending our condolences to the family an  
Mount Olivia church fam to. Kent &Melanie Hall



Melanie Hall - November 11, 2024 at 10:20 PM

DM

“ Detra Mcafee lit a candle in memory of Pastor  
Charles K. "Kenny" Bender



Detra Mcafee - November 11, 2024 at 09:32 PM

VL

*Sending prayers and condolences to Pastor Benders family. He was a great man and I always enjoyed the word of God from him💔*

**Vanessa Lewis** - November 12, 2024 at 08:45 AM

RS

“ *Rev. Tony & Sylvia Simpson lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender*



**Rev. Tony & Sylvia Simpson** - November 11, 2024 at 09:08 PM



“ *Michele Griffin Pettis lit a candle in memory of Pastor Charles K. "Kenny" Bender*



**Michele Griffin Pettis** - November 11, 2024 at 09:00 PM



*Praying for Sister Bender, Monty, Kendra, Kendra and the rest of the family*

**Michele Griffin Pettis** - November 11, 2024 at 09:01 PM

DB

“ *Praying for the family with our deepest condolences! Sending love from Mt. Juliet Tn. (The Campbell sisters) Deborah, Barbara and Denise*

**Denise Butler** - November 11, 2024 at 08:41 PM

DJ

“ *Pastor cousin Kenny, I remember and still have the coins you gave me as my Sunday school teacher as a child 50 plus years ago. My condolences to the family. You always be remembered and loved.*  
*Dianne Brooks Jordan*

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**Dianne Jordan** - November 11, 2024 at 08:13 PM

RV

“ *I'm remembering all the great times with Pastor Bender and his wonderful and loving family. Pastor Bender always treated us church members like his own family. Literally showing up to hospitals if you were sick/having procedure and your extended family. He was always concerned if you were on the right path, and fully giving prayer to your soul. He is always kindly thought of and so many of us remember his kindness.*

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**Rosalind Vaughn** - November 11, 2024 at 05:00 PM

PD

*We are remembering Pastor Bender as a humble & generous soul. His words of wisdom & encouragement. May God rest his soul & comfort his beautiful family & church family. We'll see you on the other side. 🙏*

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**Pastor & Lady Dean** - November 11, 2024 at 05:59 PM

PL

*My prayers and sympathies to the Family*

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**Pastor Jerry Love** - November 11, 2024 at 08:46 PM

RD

*I join countless others in mourning the loss of Pastor Charles Bender. He was more than just a leader; he was a true shepherd, guiding us with wisdom, humility, and a deep, unwavering faith. His words brought comfort, his actions showed compassion, and his heart was always for God and His people. I was grateful for the time I was able to spend under his care, for the lessons he taught me, and for the kindness he extended to all. Rest in peace, Pastor Bender. May your legacy continue to inspire us as you rejoice in the presence of the Lord. From Deacon Ray Dawson and the entire Dawson Family. 🙏🙏🙏*

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**Ronda Dawson** - November 11, 2024 at 09:25 PM

MT

*To Sister Zora, his beloved wife, to his beloved children, to his sister, Sister Rita Gail and his entire family; we would like to extend our deepest sympathy, love and prayers to you. Pastor Charles (Kenny) Bender was a great warrior for the Lord. He was a joy to behold, because he truly served the Lord with gladness; whether it was singing praises to the Lord as we worked together with the Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church Choir, His teaching and his preaching; the Spirit of the Lord was upon him. Rest on my brother. Again, we extend our prayers and love, Minister Joyce and Deacon David Thompson*

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**Minister Joyce and Deacon David Thompson** - November 12, 2024 at 10:37 PM