

A person is shown in silhouette, looking out over a body of water towards a sunset. The sun is a bright yellow circle on the horizon, casting a warm glow across the sky and water. The person's head is tilted back, and their hands are clasped near their face. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

*Do not let your
hearts be troubled.
You believe in God;
believe also in me.*

John 14:1



Edward Christian Church

9/7/2025

When a Servant Goes Home

1 Thes 4:13–18

**Edward Church
Sept 7, 2025**



Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

Death Does Not Have the Final Word


1 Corinthians 15:50-58



Church family

- today we are gathered in a moment we never wanted to face
 - We've lost our brother, our friend, our deacon
- His life was woven into the very fabric of this congregation
His passing was sudden, and shocking
 - Not ready to say goodbye
 - Feel the weight of absence
 - The empty seat, the missing voice
 - And yet, even here, we remember:

“we do not grieve as those who have no hope”

A soft-focus, warm-toned photograph of a woman with long, light brown hair. She is shown in profile, facing left, with her eyes closed. She is holding a small, light-colored seashell to her ear, as if listening to the ocean. The background is a bright, hazy sky or beach scene. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Mikki & Proffitt

Grief teaches us that love is not the
absence of pain but rather the
willingness to embrace all facets of
our human experience.

-Mikki

The Reality of Grief

- **Scripture: John 11:35 — *Jesus wept***
- **Grief is not a sign of weak faith — even Jesus grieved**
 - **Grief is the language of love when words fail**
- **It's Ok to give selves permission to feel and express sorrow**
- **Paul's words in 1 Thess 4 are not a command to skip grief**
 - **they are an invitation to grieve differently**
 - **We grieve with hope because we know...**
 - ...this is not the end of the story**

7 keys to life:

- 1. GOD FIRST.**
- 2. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**
- 3. NEVER HATE.**
- 4. GIVE GENEROUSLY.**
- 5. LIVE SIMPLY.**
- 6. FORGIVE QUICKLY.**
- 7. BE KIND ALWAYS.**

Honoring a Faithful Servant

Mark 10:43–45 *Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant*

Don was not just a deacon in title — he was a deacon in heart

- **He served without seeking recognition**
- **He ministered to this church and its members**
- **He visited the sick, encouraged the weary, and welcomed the newcomer**
- **He loved his family deeply — his children and grandchildren were his joy**
- **His life was a sermon in action**

His ministry was not about position, but about people

1. BE KIND ALWAYS.

Dealing with Sudden Loss?



The Shock of Sudden Loss

Sudden loss leaves us with unanswered questions

- **Why now? Why this way?**
- **The truth is, we don't have all the answers —**
 - **but we do have all of God's promises**

Isaiah 55:8–9 reminds us:

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord

- **We may not understand the timing...**
...we can trust the One who holds time in His hands



God is good, even
when life is not.
Believe in Him.

- Unknown

@therandomvibez

The Hope We Hold

John 14 Jesus comforts His disciples:

***‘Do not let your hearts be troubled...
I go to prepare a place for you.’***

That’s not a metaphor — it’s a promise.

**The moment our brother closed his eyes here..
..he opened them in the presence of his Savior**

**Psa 116:15 *‘Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of
His faithful servants.’***

**He is more alive now than he has ever been...
...free from pain, weakness, and the shadow of death**

A scenic landscape featuring a bright sun in a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is a dark, dense forest of green trees. In the middle ground, a body of water is visible, reflecting the sunlight. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inspirational.

Until
the day
GOD
calls me
home.



**When a servant like Don is called home, it leaves a gap
We feel it in our ministries, in our fellowship, in our hearts**

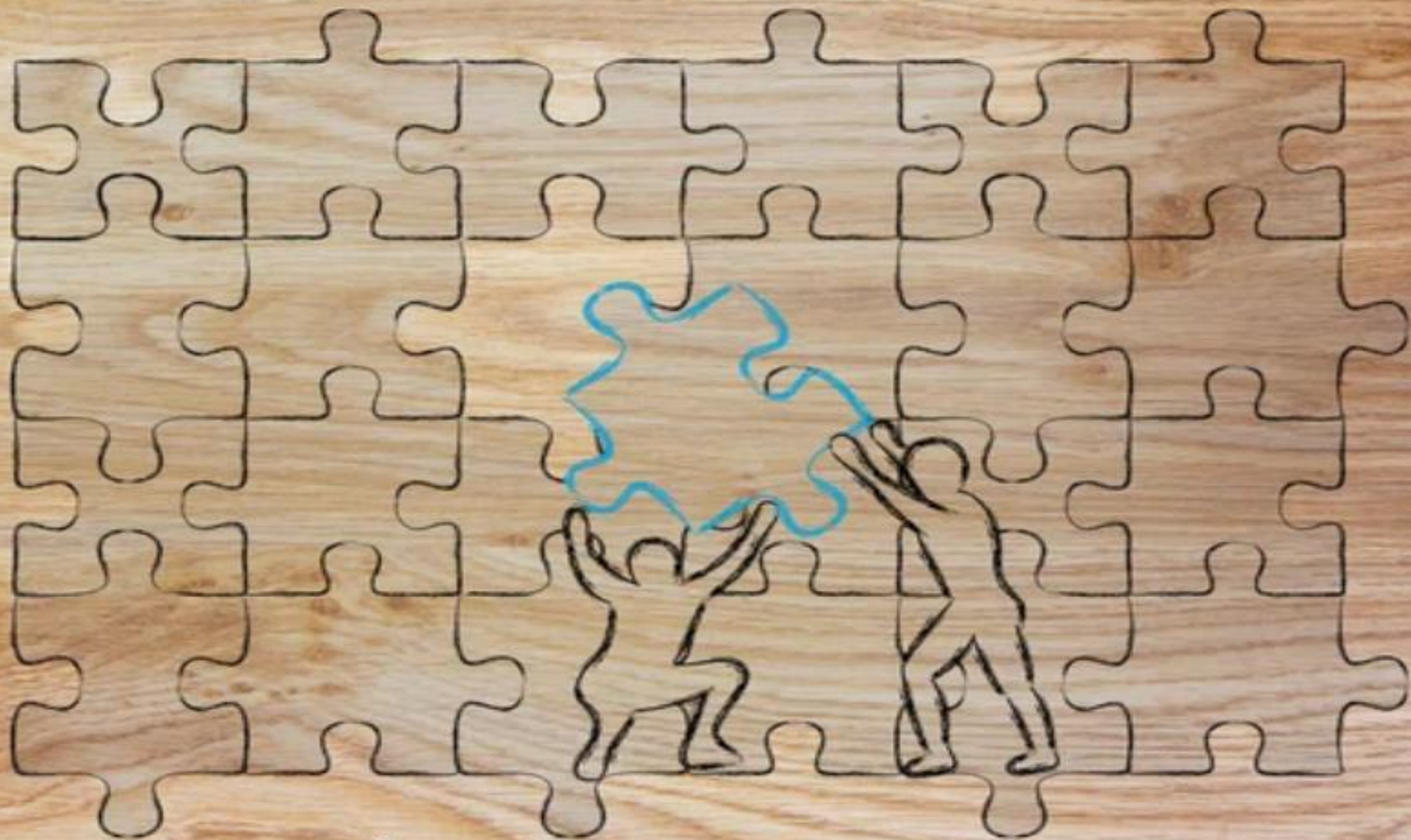
But his legacy is not gone —

it's in the way he taught us to serve, to love, to be faithful

- **Hebrews 12:1 says, *'Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.'***

- **Our brother has finished his race...**

Now it's our turn to run ours with the same faithfulness



FILL THE GAP

**Don Left Us ..
a Legacy
of
Love
Devotion
Servant's Heart
His Death Left a Gap
It's Time to Fill the Gap**



FILL THE GAP

Proffitt

at love is not the
but rather the
race all facets of
experience.

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With

God's Got This

It Didn't Take Him By Surprise!

He Gave Don What He Needed

He's Got What We Need Now!

es Not Have the Final Word
Corinthians 15:50-58

GOD
calls me
home.

4. GIVE

5. LIVE SIM

FORGIVE CHUCK



*CHRIST OUR HOPE IN
LIFE AND DEATH*