



Pastor Kevin L. Lewis, LMFT

June 14, 1964 - October 27, 2023

ONEIDA – Pastor Kevin L. Lewis, LMFT, age 59, passed away on Friday, October 27, 2023, in the comfort and dignity of his home with his loving family by his side.

Born on June 14, 1964, in Dover, Delaware, Kevin was the beloved son of Joseph and Nelli (Inman) Lewis. He was raised and educated in Winter Haven, FL, and Rochester, NY, where he completed his primary education and graduated from high school. After high school, Kevin proudly served in the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed at Griffiss Air Force Base, and it was there that he met the love of his life, Rene Heyward. On May 24, 1986, they were united in matrimony; their union was one of deep love and devotion, marked by countless cherished memories.

Kevin had a great passion for education. He earned an associate degree in accounting, and a bachelor's degree in science from SUNY. Kevin continued his education earning a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Liberty University and a Theology degree from Maryland Bible College and Seminary and was pursuing a doctorate in Ed.D.

Kevin's career was diverse. He worked as a bridge inspector for the NYS Department of Transportation and after several years, he served as Executive Director with the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District from

which he retired. Concurrently, his faith led him to establish and pastor the Greater Grace Church of Utica. He loved serving his church with dedication to God and the community.

Following his retirement, Kevin remained active, offering his expertise as a board member of Cornell Cooperative Extension, a counselor with Alkira Marriage and Family Therapy, and as an adjunct professor at MVCC teaching psychology.

With a strong desire to give back to the local community, Kevin had a special place in his heart for Helio Health, formally Insight House. Because he truly loved to help people in need, Kevin established ADAYA Counseling Services with locations in New Hartford, Syracuse, and Rome.

A man of humor, competition and fun, Kevin enjoyed coaching little league, golfing, hunting, paintballing, mountain climbing, flag football and basketball to name a "few." He loved to take his grandson to fly their drones and spend time with his family, to whom he was extremely devoted. A man of great emotional intelligence, Kevin was humble and loyal to a fault. He loved the challenge of a good religious or political debate. Kevin enjoyed many traveling experiences, especially his missionary journeys to such places as Liberia, Ghana, Russia, Sweden, Lithuania, Siberia, Hungary, and France. He was proud to have friends all over the world. In his earlier years, he was an assistant pastor at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church of Utica and Greater Grace Christian Fellowship in Rome and accepted the role of pastor at Greater Grace Church in 2005.

Kevin is survived by his beloved wife, Rene; mother, Nellie King of NC; father, Joseph Lewis of FL; son, Kowone (Bianca) Lewis-Nevith; grandson, Kaleb Alexander Lewis-Nevith of Utica; sisters, Kimberly Lewis, MD. Sonya Ellis, MD and Caprice Lewis of NC; his brother Joseph, Jr. (Ann) Lewis of NY; in-laws,

Sabrina Heyward of NY, Sharon “Niscé” Thomas of NJ, Quinten (Monique) Heyward of MD, and James (Sandra) Heyward of MD. He also leaves many aunts and uncles, nieces, and nephews; especially acknowledging nieces Ebony Pringle and Kenneisha Watts, who provided loving care for their uncle; and great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and his godchildren, Traci Brown, Justine Crook, and Kingston Raysor; along with a myriad of friends from all walks of life. A special acknowledgment to Carolyn Bivens, a sister-friend to Rene, for her love, support and dedication to Kevin and the entire family. Kevin was predeceased by his mother-in-law, Carrie Heyward; and brother-in-law, Samuel “Burt” Heyward.

The family would like to extend their sincere thanks to Dr. Wade T. Hunt for his professionalism and friendship and Dr. Manzurul Sikder for his perseverance and care. Gratitude is also extended to the staff of Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. for their unwavering care and compassion.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Greater Grace Church, 1112 Ney Ave., Utica, NY. Kevin’s Celebration of Life will commence at 12:00 p.m. at the same location, with repass to follow. Those unable to attend may be present virtually at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88307701551> Interment will take place in Forest Hill Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Details

Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida St
Utica, NY 13501-6006
(315) 735-2701

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 2. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Greater Grace of Utica
1110 Ney Ave.
Utica, NY

Celebration of Life

NOV 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

Greater Grace of Utica
1110 Ney Ave.
Utica, NY

Tribute Wall

PA

“ I am so sorry to hear of Kevin’s death. I am a better person because I knew him. Patty

Patty - November 11, 2023 at 09:53 PM

WL

“ Kevin was a fantastic mentor. I will cherish his memory.

Woo Chan Lee - November 06, 2023 at 09:50 PM

KF

“ Condolences to Rene, Kowone and family, I don’t even know where to start. Kevin has filled the dad spot in so many young kids lives. He was the Howard Ave pops to my children the neighbors and all of their friends. There wasn’t a Thanksgiving that he didn’t have them outside playing football, and didn’t matter what the weather was. Coaching them in baseball, providing rides for them, Kevin treated them all like they were his kids. Anyone that new Kevin , you better believe that he made some kind of impact on them. Kevin will truly be missed by so many people. Rene just know that it’s going to be a tough time, but you have a lot of family and friends that are here for you.

Kim and family - November 03, 2023 at 07:26 AM

TH

“ Thank you for teaching us the importance of healthy families and marriages. Thank you for teaching us doctrine and also showing us how to feed our souls. Thank you for giving to our church body unselfishly. Thank you for giving your life for the Gospel of Christ. You will be truly missed.. My Pastor Lou.. ❤️❤️❤️

Tekeysha Hendricks - November 02, 2023 at 07:19 PM

BM

“ *Brena J Moreland lit a candle in memory of Pastor Kevin L. Lewis, LMFT*



Brena J Moreland - November 02, 2023 at 03:29 PM

DB

“ *Pr Kevin was a dear brother in Christ. IM thankful to have known hiim and to have had the honor to graduate bible College with Him. Praying for the family and for peace which only our Lord Jesus gives. he is now home in glory and seeing his Savior face to face! What a great man and a wonderful person to have known. I look forward to seeing you when God calls me home to be with Him also.*

Debora Messier Briggs - November 02, 2023 at 01:05 PM

BM

My condolences to Sister Renee and the family. Hold on to God's unchanging hand.

*Brenda & Ellis Moreland
Yonkers, NY*

Brena J Moreland - November 02, 2023 at 03:27 PM

TB

“ *Timothy Barnes purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Pastor Kevin L. Lewis, LMFT.*



Timothy Barnes - November 02, 2023 at 12:22 PM

TB

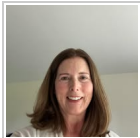
“ Timothy Barnes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Kevin L. Lewis, LMFT.

Timothy Barnes - November 02, 2023 at 12:22 PM

TB

“ I knew Mr. Lewis as my therapist. He helped me through a lot of tough times in my life. Mr. Lewis was a very private person and I respected that about him. I never knew he was even sick. He carried himself the same way at every session. This was a very big eye opener for me that life is too short. My condolences to the family, sending many prayers of strength to everyone.

Timothy R Barnes - November 02, 2023 at 12:16 PM



“ We are so very saddened to learn of Kevin's passing, and send prayers and love to his family and friends. We were blessed to know and work with Kevin for 7 years. Working with Kevin wasn't work- it was having conversation after conversation about relationships, life, religion, ourselves, our hopes for our clients, and the mystery of life. He is missed. With love, Jill Weldum and the Alkira Marriage & Family Therapy community

Jill Weldum - November 02, 2023 at 08:46 AM

SL

“ So saddened to hear of this news. Frank and I send our prayers and comfort for you and your family. He was such a gentle man of God, and it always showed in his smile and laughter. Our memories with him will last a lifetime, and we thank you for sharing him with all who knew him. May God wrap his arms around you during this time of need. Love you all, Frank and Sandie Lagasse

Sandra Lagasse - November 01, 2023 at 07:40 PM

PG

“ *Hearing the news was rather unexpected and heartbreaking. Our church back in Russia has been blessed by the visit of P. Kevin some years ago. The gentle posture, the Word in season has brought a great encouragement to us all. P. Kevin will be missed. Our church in Siberia sends their love and condolences to the family!!!*

Pavel Gailans - November 01, 2023 at 06:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pastor Kevin L. Lewis, LMFT.*



November 01, 2023 at 04:03 PM

RW

“ *Rhonda M Wells lit a candle in memory of Pastor Kevin L. Lewis, LMFT*



Rhonda M Wells - November 01, 2023 at 08:33 AM

RB

“ *Robin Carter Bedford lit a candle in memory of Pastor Kevin L. Lewis, LMFT*



Robin Carter Bedford - November 01, 2023 at 03:54 AM



“ *My condolences and prayers to the family
Rest In heavenly peace 🙏*



Ernesto montanez - October 31, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Pastor Kevin L. Lewis, LMFT.*



October 30, 2023 at 12:24 PM