



Daniel Ray Fancher

November 25, 1949 - April 3, 2026

Daniel "Ray" Fancher, age 76, of Newport, went to his Heavenly home on Good Friday, April 3, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene Eben Fancher and Edna Dean White Fancher as well as a host of loving grandparents; Francis Marion and Myrtle White, Katherine Woody Kyker, Ray Fancher, Paul and Ollie Mae Balch Hammond.

Ray was the faithful caregiver for many years to a very special family friend, Dan Burnett.

He is survived by his wife, Rhonda Williams, son, Josh (Valerie) Fancher and daughter Rayanne (Mike) Gregory. His grandchildren held a special place in his heart, Steele Rayne Fancher (Justin Peters), Grayson & Graham Gregory, and Colin Stepp. Brothers, Terry (Beth) Fancher, Jeff (Elexis) Fancher, and Houston (Cathy) Fancher. Ray's nieces and nephews were loved fiercely by him, Megan (Brian) Fancher Edkin, Malerie Fancher, Murphy & Morgan Fancher, Hayden, Ethan & Cameron Fancher.

Born November 25, 1949 in Knoxville, Tennessee at Baptist Hospital, he entered the world in a memorable way. As one of the first babies born at Baptist Hospital he quickly became a favorite among the nurses who dressed him up and took countless pictures, recognizing even then the joy he would bring to others.

He grew up in Newport, Tennessee, where he attended Newport Grammar School and later Cocke County High School. He continued his education at

Hiwassee College in Madisonville, graduating in 1969 with an Associate of Arts degree. He then earned his Bachelor of Science in History from East Tennessee State University in 1971.

That same year, he began what would become a remarkable 35.5-year career in education. He started teaching in the fall of 1971, briefly serving at Bridgeport before moving to Parrottsville High School, then to Central School, located at what is now the Tanner Building. There, he became one of the first special education teachers in the newly formed Special Education program for Coker County Schools, a role that reflected both his compassion and commitment to helping every student succeed.

After two years at Central School, he moved to Coker County High School, where he spent the majority of his career. He dedicated approximately 13 years to special education before pursuing his passion for history, teaching American History, Government, and Sports History. His classrooms were known not only for learning, but for inspiration, respect, and genuine care. In addition to teaching, he made a lasting impact through athletics. He served as assistant basketball coach alongside Coach Gary Brown and John Frazier. He also coached both golf and girls' basketball for many years. He also held the role of co-athletic director with Coach Larry Williams, helping guide and support student-athletes across programs for many years.

Even after retirement Ray remained active and engaged in the outdoors. He continued to work at 5 Rivers Adventures rafting company and dedicated himself to the cherished role of facility manager at his family church First United Methodist Church. Last but not least, his greatest adventure of all was the CEO of Rock Hill River Retreat.

Above all, he will be remembered for his unwavering love for his family and friends. He was a steady presence, a kind heart, and a source of encouragement to everyone who knew him. His legacy lives on in the countless students he taught, the athletes he coached, and the lives he shaped.

He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

The family will receive friends from 4:00pm - 6:00pm, Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at First United Methodist Church in Newport, TN with the funeral service to follow, with Rev. David Woody officiating.

Burial will be held 11:00 am, Thursday, April 9, 2026 at Resthaven Memorial Gardens.

Serving as pallbearers are: Grayson & Graham Gregory, Terry, Jeff & Houston Fancher, & Johnny Williams.

Honorary pallbearers include: Murphy & Morgan Fancher, Steve McNabb, Richard Carmichael, Michael "Square" Swagerty, Hayden & Ethan Fancher, Will Lewis & Thomas Smith.

In lieu of flowers and as a tribute to Ray's dedication to education the family requests that donations be made to the Edna Dean Fancher Memorial Scholarship fund managed by First United Methodist Church, 212 Washington Ave. Newport, TN 37821.

Family and friends may sign the guest register online at www.manesfuneralhome.Com.

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

APR 8. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
212 Washington Ave
Newport, TN 37821

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Funeral service

APR 8. 6:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
212 Washington Ave
Newport, TN 37821

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Burial

APR 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Resthaven Memorial Gardens
2642 US-25W #70
Dandridge, TN 37725
(865) 509-3263

Tribute Wall

RW

“ 1 file added to the album *Ray Fancher's Service Slideshow 2026*



Rhonda Williams - May 20 at 10:24 PM

KG

“ Kay Gates lit a candle in memory of Daniel Fancher



Kay Gates - April 27 at 07:21 PM

RH

“ Terry, Jeff and family of Ray. So sorry to hear about Ray's passing. Thoughts and prayers to the whole family.

Richard Hixson - April 12 at 01:50 AM

CH

“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Chris and Wendy Hogan - April 10 at 10:59 AM

CB

“ I'm sorry to read of Ray's passing. Though we lost contact after high school, I still remember stopping by his house on my way walking home from Newport Grammar School to play for a while. Ray obviously positively impacted many lives during his stay on this earth and will long be remembered. My condolences to Terry, Jeff and Houston and the entire family.

Charlie Buckner

Charles Buckner - April 10 at 07:00 AM

JF

Thank you Charles

Jeff Fancher - April 10 at 09:07 AM

KM

“ I was so sorry to hear of Ray's passing. He always greeted me with a smile and something funny to say each morning at CCHS. My condolences to all the famil

Kathy Mccarter - April 09 at 07:49 PM

AN

“ So sorry to hear of Ray's passing. Sending love and prayers to his loved ones. Rhonda please let me know if I can do anything.

Anna Norton - April 09 at 04:32 PM

JF

Thank you Anna

Jeff Fancher - April 10 at 09:09 AM

RL

“ Prayers to all the family
Ronald and Carolyn Laws

Ronald and Carolyn Laws - April 09 at 01:35 PM

JF

Thank you, Carolyn. We appreciate the thoughts and prayers.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:20 PM

SM

“ Thoughts and prayers to all the family.
Susan Laws Moser

susan moser - April 09 at 01:33 PM

JF

Thank you, Susan!

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:21 PM

TB

“ Tammy Binkley lit a candle in memory of
Daniel Fancher



Tammy Binkley - April 09 at 09:20 AM

JS

“ James S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Daniel Ray Fancher.

James S. - April 08 at 06:33 PM

NS

“ Sending love and prayers to the whole family. Ray was one of a kind and he'll be so missed.

Nikki Seay - April 08 at 06:27 PM

JF

Thank you, Nikki!

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:22 PM

RR

“ Guys, I'm so very sorry to hear about Ray. Such an amazing guy and come from one of the best families around. May God give y'all comfort during this very difficult time ❤️🙏❤️

Rhonda Rice - April 08 at 06:12 PM

AH

Sending love and prayers to the whole Fancher Family 🙏 Gail Fancher & Family

Allison Hutson - April 09 at 08:11 AM

JF

Much appreciated, Rhonda!

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:22 PM

DF

“ My sincere condolences. May your wonderful memories bring comfort and peace to your hearts.

Debbie Fullington - April 08 at 05:55 PM

JF

Thank you, Debbie.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:24 PM

JB

“ So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family in this difficult time. Ray was a really great person and will be greatly missed.
Jimmy and Charlotte Blazer



Jimmy and Charlotte Blazer - April 08 at 01:08 PM

JT

“ Janice Buckner & Valecia Tedder purchased the Southern Magnolia Tree for the family of Daniel Ray Fancher.



Janice Buckner & Valecia Tedder - April 08 at 12:49 PM

DS

“ Our Deepest Sympathy
Doug & Joyce Shoemaker

D & J Shoemaker - April 08 at 11:16 AM

KJ

“ Loved Ray, who was a dear friend and solid rock in the community, school system and FUMC Newport. Condolences to the family. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Ken & Carol Johnson - April 08 at 08:16 AM

JF

Thank you!

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:23 PM



“ *Continued love and prayers to the family.
Love, Shane Tanya & Jaxson Harden*

Tanya Harden - April 07 at 07:31 PM

JF

Thank you, Tanya!

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:24 PM

RL

“ *Sending thoughts and prayers to the family. I worked with Coach Fancher at CCHS. He was a wonderful person. I pray God wraps his arms around you all, comforts you as only he can.*

Rochell Lewis - April 07 at 07:07 PM

MM

“ *Thoughts and prayers with Ray's family. I was his neighbor years ago and he was a very nice man. Martha Myers*

Martha Myers - April 07 at 06:48 PM

JF

Thank you, Martha.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:25 PM

YH

“ *Your IPC Ohana, Oahu, HI purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Daniel Ray Fancher.*



Your IPC Ohana, Oahu, HI - April 07 at 02:55 PM

JB

“ *Mr. Fancher was my favorite teacher in high-school and has been part of many of stories told to my kids. He will definitely be missed.*



Jennifer Frazier Blazer - April 07 at 02:17 PM

JF

Thank you, Jennifer!

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:26 PM

TE

“ *The Edkin's purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Daniel Ray Fancher.*



The Edkin's - April 07 at 01:00 PM

BP

“ *Dear rhonda and fancher family,
Mike and I will miss ray.he was a funny ,smart and sweet friend to us h
Love to you all and may Jesus give you peace and loving comfort.
Barbara proffitt.*

Barbara Proffitt - April 07 at 11:25 AM

AO

“ I am so sorry for your loss, Ray was a great man & will be missed by so many people.



Audrey Owenby - April 07 at 09:50 AM

DO

“ So very sorry to hear this. Our condolences to all.

Duay, Kay, and Amber O'Neil - April 07 at 08:44 AM

JF

Thank you Duay.

Jeff Fancher - April 07 at 11:14 PM

JF

We appreciate your condolences, Duay.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:30 PM

PF

“ Josh, Rayanne, and family, we are so sorry for your loss. You all are in our thoughts and prayers now and in the day ahead.

Parker, Nanette Wilds and Family - April 07 at 07:45 AM

JF

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:29 PM

MH

“ Prayers for the family. Ray was my first love in high school and we had many wonderful times. He'll always be in my heart.

Marilyn Hines - April 06 at 08:20 PM

MS

“ Mr. Fancher was one of the best teachers I've ever had. So sorry for your loss.

Mac Sane - April 06 at 08:03 PM

JF

We are so glad to hear he had a positive impact on you. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:34 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. David and Kathy Whaley

Kathy Whaley - April 06 at 07:45 PM

JF

Thank you, Kathy.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:34 PM

CA

“ So sorry for your loss..Our prayers are with you and the family. 🙏

Carroll and Marilyn Austin - April 06 at 07:42 PM

GW

“ My sincere condolences.

Glenda Willis - April 06 at 04:17 PM

BE

“ Ray was one of my favorite teachers in high school, even though I just had him for a homeroom teacher. My mother also had Ray as a teacher when she was in school.

May God bring peace and comfort to Rayanne, Jeff, Terry, Houston, and the rest of the family during this difficult time.

Benjamin Evans - April 06 at 01:49 PM

WC

We are so very sorry for your loss, Rhonda. Praying for you and the entire family during this most difficult time.
Tommy and Wanda Chambers

Wanda Chambers - April 07 at 11:14 AM

CS

“ Sorry for your loss. We will keep the family in our prayers.
Charlie&Patti Seehorn

charlie seehorn - April 06 at 12:50 PM

JF

Thank you, Charlie.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:35 PM

SO

“ Rhonda, Terry, Jeff, Houston and ALL the family: I am so so sorry to hear Ray has passed away. Ray was such a good man. He loved the children he taught, he loved the sports he coached, and he loved his family unconditionally. Ray was a kind man, never met a stranger, and extremely loyal to his friends. Ray has helped mold so many young lives and kept them in sports and out of trouble. Ray Fancher was a good soul, and he will be missed terribly but never forgotten. Rest in peace Ray. Many prayers for this precious family. God be with you in the days ahead. I'm so sorry for your loss. 💔



Susie O'Dell - April 06 at 11:56 AM

JF

We appreciate the kind sentiments, Susie. Thank you for the thoughts and prayers.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:37 PM

SB

“ Josh, Valerie and family,

So sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Fancher. Your family is in our prayers during this difficult time.

Susan Ball

Susan Ball - April 06 at 11:18 AM

JF

Thank you, Susan. We appreciate the thoughts and prayers.

Josh & Valerie Fancher - April 07 at 07:10 AM

SH

“ Prayers for all the family. May you each feel God's loving arms around you and give you strength for the days ahead and peace.
Sharon and Jimmy Styles

Sharon - April 06 at 07:39 AM

JS

“ Prayers, so sorry for your loss

John and Lisa Large Stewart - April 05 at 08:19 PM

CI

“ So sorry for your great loss.

*Our deepest sympathies
Cindy Wise and family
John Frazier*

cindy - April 05 at 04:37 PM

SW

“ We are so sorry. We pray for peace during this very difficult time.
Jamie and Shandi Wheeler

Shandi Wheeler - April 05 at 03:21 PM

VF

Thank you, Shandi. We love yall and appreciate the prayers. -Josh & Valerie

valerie fancher - April 06 at 04:58 PM

SE

“ Sending our love and prayers to Rhonda....you are in our hearts, sweet girl.

Susan and Ronnie Ellison - April 05 at 02:21 PM

LH

“ Prayers!

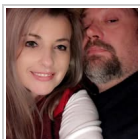


Louise & Jimmy Hux - April 05 at 02:00 PM

JF

Thank you, Louise.

Josh and Valerie Fancher - April 12 at 08:38 PM



“ *My heart breaks but I'm rejoicing knowing his body is whole again. Ray always treated me as family and I will forever be grateful for that love. Sending many prayers. Love you Rhonda!Love, Becca (RGJMFSPF)*

Rebecca Clabough - April 05 at 12:46 PM