



Celebration
OF LIFE

KAREN LOU MCNEIL

March 18, 1934 - January 10, 2024



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies.
Thou anoints my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.

KAREN LOU MCNEIL

Monday, January 15, 2024, 3 pm

Gathering

Greeting

Word of Grace

Prayer

Hymn

UMH 314

“In the Garden “

Psalms 23

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Homily

Pastor Brian Sixbey

Family Witness

Congregational Witness

Hymn

UMH 77

“How Great Thou Art”

Prayer of Commendation

Benediction

Blessing

All are invited to the Fellowship Hall following the service for a reception hosted by Martha's Ministry



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Karen Lou McNeil was born in 1934 in New Hampton, Iowa to Marian and Charles Brand. Karen was raised on a 160-acre farm among a large extended family and close-knit rural community. She attended a one-room school house from kindergarten to eighth grade. After high school, Karen graduated from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa where she met and married William Baird. As a teaching team they were employed in Antioch, Illinois before finding an opportunity to work for the Department of Defense School System. They taught in Germany, Bermuda, and the Philippines, where Karen was widowed. During the summer months, Karen attended the University of Northern Iowa and earned a Master's Degree in School Psychology.

Subsequently, Karen married LTC Charles McNeil, a widower, and returned to the United States with a blended family of seven children. After a tour at Wright Patterson, the family settled in Hampton, Virginia where Karen earned an Educational Specialist degree from the College of William and Mary. She was employed as a School Psychologist by a regional education program that served special education students until her retirement in 1996.

As a retiree, Karen involved herself with the Woman's Club of Hampton, Christopher Newport's Lifelong Learning, Woodside Women, and the First United Methodist Church of Fox Hill, where she served on numerous committees. As a retired couple, Karen and her husband traveled the world visiting forty-five countries as well as all fifty states. When in residence, Karen enjoyed the golf courses, beaches and maintained an active lifestyle with her family and friends.

Survivors include Kimberly Olson (Kent), Kelleen Baird (Jeff), Kristina Baird (Don), and Kevin Baird; step-children, Charles (Judi), Daniel (Dee) and Timothy; six grandchildren, and two great-grandsons.

A Celebration of Life will be conducted on January 15, 2024 at 3 PM, at First United Methodist Church, Fox Hill, 1 Salt Pond Road, Hampton, VA 23664, followed by a reception.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be sent to First United Methodist Church of Fox Hill.

