

Obituary

Janet McLaughlin, 91 of Morton, passed away on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Washington, Missouri. She was born on April 10, 1935, in Peoria, Illinois, to C. Wayne and V. Ruth (Parvin) Matheny. She married the love of her life, William W. McLaughlin, in Morton, Illinois, on June 21, 1958. He preceded her in entering glory in 2021, after nearly 63 years of a beautiful marriage.

Surviving are her children, Beth Ann McLaughlin and son-in-law, Sigurd Bjorklund of Hermann, Missouri and Brent McLaughlin of Miami Shores, Florida; five grandchildren, Melanie (Garrett) Long of Mackinaw, Meghan (Daniel) Riegerix of Plano, Illinois, Josiah (Chloee) McLaughlin of Fort Collins, Colorado, Sierra McLaughlin of Paxton, Massachusetts, and Keenen McLaughlin of Miami Shores, Florida; five great-grandchildren, Willow and Ruthie Riegerix, Jocelyn, Kaelyn and Lorelei Long; one sister, Deanna Poshard of Morton; niece, Karen Poshard and nephew, Drew (Denise) Poshard, both of Morton; great-nephew and great-niece, Gil and Piper Poshard.

Janet had a long and fruitful nursing career that began and finished at Methodist Hospital in Peoria, Illinois. She graduated from the Methodist School of Nursing in 1956. After working in medical offices for a few years, she spent several years as a nurse educator and rounded out her career serving as the Director of Methodist School of Nursing from 1984-1996 when she retired.

Janet received her R.N. from the University of Illinois and was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society in April 1957. While serving at the Methodist School of Nursing, she completed two Master's degrees in Nursing and Education at Bradley University and Lewis University.

In 1989, Janet was awarded Business Associate of the Year by the Tower Park Chapter of the American Business Women's Association. Janet received an invitation to have lunch at the White House with Mrs. Barbara Bush in Recognition of National Nurses' Day on May 7, 1990. She received this invitation as a result of her position as President of the Illinois Council of Hospital-Based Schools of Professional Nursing. Both President Bush and Mrs. Bush spoke in honor of the nurses present and the nursing profession.

Before her retirement from Methodist Medical Center School of Nursing in 1996, Janet was instrumental in taking the first steps toward the school becoming a College of Nursing. She laid solid groundwork for the future development of the College.

As a faithful follower of Jesus, Janet viewed her career as a calling and stewarded well the gifts of leadership she received from her Lord. She leaves behind a rich legacy of love and joy through her family, who have been loved and inspired by her, her colleagues who worked closely with her and the many patients and students she served through the years.

*Funeral Arrangements: Knapp-Johnson Funeral Home
and Cremation Center, Morton, IL*

A SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Celebrating the Life of

Janet R. McLaughlin



April 10, 1935 – May 14, 2026

10:30 AM
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
*Morton Methodist Church
Morton, Illinois*

A Service of Death and Resurrection

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. -Psalm 23:4

Janet R. McLaughlin

April 10, 1935 – May 14, 2026

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Prayer

*Hymn of Praise

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

UMH 140

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 116:12-19 (NIV)

Rev. Meghan Riegerix, Granddaughter

*Gospel Reading

John 15:5-14 (CSB)

Melanie Long, Granddaughter

Solo

"The Eastern Gate"

Beth Ann McLaughlin, Daughter

Words of Witness

Beth Ann McLaughlin, Daughter

Sigurd Bjorklund, Son-in-Law

Meghan Riegerix, Granddaughter

*Congregational Hymn

My Hope Is Built

UMH 368

Message

Rev. Adam Penn

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Congregational Hymn

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

UMH 365

*Benediction

Postlude

**Indicates to please stand in body or spirit.*

Officiant: Rev. Adam Penn

Organist: Jane Chapman

A/V Technician: Don Chapman

Thank you for celebrating the goodness of our God with us today. Please join us for lunch in the fellowship hall immediately following our worship. Burial will be at Swan Lake Memory Gardens after lunch. Many thanks to the congregation at Morton Methodist, to those providing lunch, to Jane and Don Chapman providing music and technical support, to all working behind the scenes, and to our dear colleague and friend in Christ, Adam Penn.

Memorial contributions may be made to support the Janet McLaughlin Nursing Scholarship at Methodist College through Carle Health Center for Philanthropy, online at carle.org/giving/make-a-gift or by check, Carle Health Center for Philanthropy, 611 W. Park St., Urbana, IL 61801; or to the Morton Methodist Church, 420 N. Tennessee Ave., Morton, IL 61550.