



Karen Louise Wagner

February 17, 1958 - May 1, 2019

Karen Louise Wagner, age 61, of Lebanon, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 after a long battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her loving family. Karen was the wife of Stephen S. Wagner, with whom she would have celebrated 38 years of marriage on May 30. Born in Lebanon on February 17, 1958, Karen was the daughter of the late Earl and Joan (Meyer) Rittle.

Karen graduated from Cedar Crest High School in 1976. She graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1980 with a double major in Elementary Education and Psychology, and in 1985, graduated with a Masters in Education from Millersville University.

Karen was an elementary teacher in the ELCO School District and retired in 2017 after 35 years of teaching. She was a first grade teacher, a gifted facilitator, and a reading teacher. She loved all her students and wanted to instill the love for reading and learning in each one of them. In 2010 Karen was awarded ELCO's Elementary Teacher of the Year. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and the Lebanon County Educational Honor Society, where she served as the district representative for 15 years. When Karen was young she was very involved as a 4-Her, which led her to becoming a 4-H leader for over 30 years. She also helped at the Lebanon Area Fair each year in the Home Economics Department. Karen was a member of the Myerstown United Church of Christ, where she had served on church council, was treasurer of the adult Sunday school class, and was a Communion assistant.

She loved listening to her daughters play classical and sacred music on their violins and piano, attending all their school and college concerts, church services, and other community concerts when they performed. Karen's greatest enjoyment in life was spending time with her friends and family, especially her grandson. Vacations traveling to Disney World and sightseeing in other countries around the world always included her family.

Karen is survived by her loving husband, Stephen, and two daughters Jennifer Blystone, wife of David of Lebanon, and Sarah Wagner of Lititz, sister Ruth Ann Arnold, wife of Elijah (Joe) Arnold of Lebanon, brother David E. Rittle, husband of Kimberly of Lebanon, many nieces and nephews, and one adorable grandson, Noah.

A celebration of life service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, May 11 at Myerstown United Church of Christ, 306 W. Main Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067, with a visitation from 9:00am until time of service. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Fox Chase Cancer Center, 333 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111, or Myerstown UCC.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 11. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Myerstown United Church of Christ
306 W. Main Ave
Myerstown, PA 17067

Memorial Service

MAY 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Myerstown United Church of Christ
306 W. Main Ave
Myerstown, PA 17067

Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Karen Louise Wagner.*



May 10, 2019 at 06:35 PM



“ *I have fun memories of Karen in elementary through high school. We even went to girl scouts together. I remember game nights at Audrey's house when Karen would bring all of her games. Karen was a friend to many.*

Kay Mentzer-Knepp - May 07, 2019 at 02:25 PM



“ *To Steve, Jenny, Sarah and families...I have such wonderful memories of Karen first going through school with her from elementary through high school. Then reconnecting with our girls at preschool. We had many memories from going to Hershey Park to visiting each other's homes, piano lessons, school concerts and even trick or treating together. I will miss her and our prayers and thoughts will be with you and your family. Corinne Laicha*

Corinne Laicha - May 05, 2019 at 01:24 PM

JL

“ My late mother, Edna Lockart, was very fond of Karen and her family. Jennifer and Sarah played beautiful music at my mother's memorial service 5 years ago. I'm very sorry to hear that Karen has passed on after a valiant fight with cancer and I wish for all of you to find comfort and strength in the memories of so many whose lives Karen touched. I had the good fortune to get to know Karen through my mother and I remember visiting with her in the adult Sunday School class and in church when I would be in town to see my mother.

Peace be with all of you. Jill Lockart Lewis

Jill Lewis - May 04, 2019 at 12:12 PM



“ May God be with you during this difficult time. Our deepest sympathy. We remember the good times when we used to get together when the kids were younger and as they grew we seemed to part, but we can remember all the good times to get us thru difficult times.

Mark & Debbie Kieffer

Debra Troutman Kieffer - May 04, 2019 at 08:29 AM

BH

“ Karen will always have a special place in our heart. As our daughter's first grade teacher, she was very supportive in helping her understand her grandfather's illness and passing. Prayers sent for peace and comfort for the entire family.


Beverly, Howie and Sara Hissner - May 04, 2019 at 07:50 AM

SW

“ *May God wrap his loving arms around this family and give them comfort during this very difficult time*
Deepest Sympathy
Sue Achenbach Witmer



Sue Achenbach Witmer - May 04, 2019 at 03:32 AM

 Julie
McCabe

“ *Phil & family thinking of you all @ this sad time xxxxxx*



Julie McCabe - May 04, 2019 at 02:21 AM

RN

“ *Was so shocked to learn of Karen's passing. I enjoyed working with her for many years in her capacity as the the ELCO representative to the Lebanon Co. Educational Society when I served as membership chair.*

"You can shed tears that she is gone, or you can smile because she lived.

*You can close your eyes and hope that she will come back;
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she left behind."*

My deepest condolences to Karen's family.

Rachel Noll - May 04, 2019 at 02:05 AM

VK

“ So sorry to hear of Karen's passing. I knew her from elementary through high school, and we were in the same Girl Scout troop. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this difficult time. Rest in peace, Karen.

VICKI KREMER - May 03, 2019 at 10:38 PM

DH

“ My wife has very nice memories of her friendship with Karen. She has been telling me about the vacations they shared with her and other friends. Our prayers go out to Steve and her children. May they find comfort in God's love knowing that Karen is now surrounded by his love and comfort. Love Dave and LeeAnn Hanner

David Hanner - May 03, 2019 at 09:25 PM

AL

“ Thoughts and prayers as you grieve your loved one; cherish the sweet memories. Love
Alice Light



Alice Light - May 03, 2019 at 07:12 PM