



Rev. Doris A. Gunderson

October 8, 1951 - December 29, 2024

Rev. Doris A. Gunderson, 73, passed away peacefully on Sunday, December 29, 2024, at her home in Annville, Pennsylvania, surrounded by the love and comfort of her family. Doris was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ralph W. Gunderson, with whom she shared a life of adventure and love. Born on October 8, 1951, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, Doris was the daughter of the late Edwin K. and Doris A. Nordhaus Gunderson. Her life was a rich tapestry woven together by an insatiable appetite for adventure, learning, and connection.

In their 30s, Doris and Ralph boldly purchased a 50-acre farm in Northeast Pennsylvania, despite having no prior farming experience. Together with their young family, they created colorful memories tending to farm animals, caring for an orchard, and navigating the joys and challenges of rural life.

As her children grew older, Doris pursued a new dream: earning her degree in theology. Ever an advocate for women's rights, she became a Pastor with the American Baptist Church at a time when women were not widely welcomed in leadership roles. Doris was proud to be a trailblazer, using her role to inspire, comfort, and guide countless families in the communities she served.

Upon retirement, Doris embarked on a new adventure in Mt. Airy, North Carolina, where she lived for 15 years before settling in Annville, Pennsylvania, to be closer to her sons.

An avid reader, Doris often curled up with a good book and a cup of coffee, delighting in the arts and the latest in current events. Her quirky sense of

humor and quick wit united her with kindred spirits and carried her through life's challenges. These qualities, combined with her thoughtful observations, made her an accidental social media influencer, spreading positivity and laughter to many.

As she grew older, Doris' sense of style and panache flourished. She delighted in expressing her individuality, uniquely filling her home with bold, vibrant colors that reflected her personality.

Above all, Doris will be remembered for the unwavering love and understanding she lavished on her family. She had a quiet yet deeply felt way of accepting and cherishing each person in her life, offering warmth, wisdom, and a healthy dose of tough love when needed. Her sons, daughter, their spouses, grandchildren, bonus-grandchildren, and countless foster children were profoundly shaped by the vibrant love and light she brought to their lives.

Doris is survived by her children: Ralph Gunderson, Jr. (Tara), Edwin Gunderson (Laura), Dean Gunderson, and Sarah Gunderson, eight grandchildren, and her sister, Evelyn Sitch. Her unique combination of warmth, laughter, and strength was a gift to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Services will be private, with a celebration of her life to follow in the coming months. Doris' memory will live on in the hearts of her family, friends, and the countless lives she touched.

Tribute Wall

AC

“ Annville C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Doris A. Gunderson.

Annville C. - January 17, 2025 at 04:27 PM

SG

“ Sarah Gunderson lit a candle in memory of Rev. Doris A. Gunderson



sarah Gunderson - January 09, 2025 at 04:08 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rev. Doris A. Gunderson.



January 01, 2025 at 02:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rev. Doris A. Gunderson.

January 01, 2025 at 02:30 PM