



Mary Magdalena Yoder

December 25, 1942 - September 8, 2022

Mary M. Yoder was born on Christmas Day, 1942, to Amanda and William Chupp, Sr., in Chouteau, Oklahoma. She died peacefully on September 8, 2022, in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Mary grew up on a farm in Chouteau, OK, learning from an early age to cook and bake for her family and the farm hands. She started baking pies for a restaurant at the age of 9, and her pie baking remained one of her signature talents through her life. She was an incredible cook and loved to entertain, with countless friends and family members served around her table over the years.

Moving to La Junta in 1976 with her husband Paul and their three children, Beth, Mark, and Dave, she quickly became an active member of the community at the hospital and in Emmanuel Mennonite Church. Her nursing career started at Goshen College and spanned decades, during which she worked as a nursing instructor, volunteered time in Appalachia, spent time in the oncology clinic and education department at AVRMC, and then co-founded Edu Care to provide home health care to the Arkansas Valley. As the first certified wound and ostomy nurse in southeastern Colorado, she traveled all over providing care to people in their homes. In 2006 she won the prestigious Florence Nightingale Award for Human Caring, a fitting tribute to her career. Mary passed her love of people and service to her children, all of

whom have careers in health care.

Grandchildren brought joy to Mary, and Victoria, Roman, Carlos, and Emilia were a source of great love and happiness through the last years of her life. Her living sisters, Ruby, Ann, and Peggy, and her daughters-in-law, Tara and Adriana, held a special place in her heart as well.

The last number of years were increasingly difficult for Mary health-wise, but she managed to stay in her beloved home at Casa del Sol until she finally required more care and moved to Fort Collins to be near her daughter, Beth, and son-in-law, Thomas, in March, 2022. Her friends in La Junta were her village and she talked daily about going back to La Junta, her home. Her brother Bill, sister Barbara, her parents, and beloved stepmother Ann all died in Oklahoma, her childhood home, and she has asked to be buried there, in Pryor, Oklahoma.

Mary will be remembered for her love of people, her generosity, kindness, her lifelong commitment to serving those in need, and her sweet demeanor no matter the situation. Her family will be forever grateful for the love and support she received from so many people along the way.

A Celebration of Life Open House will be held 3-6pm, Friday, September 16 at Aspen Center at Casa del Sol, 1002 Casa Del Sol, La Junta, Colorado. The Memorial Service and Interment will be held 11 am, Monday, September 19, 2022 at Zion Mennonite Church, 429 E. 450 Rd., Pryor, Oklahoma.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Mary's name can be made to Casa del Sol or Associated Charities in La Junta, or Pathways Hospice in Fort Collins.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **16.** 3:00 PM.

Aspen Center

Interment

SEP **19.** 11:00 AM.

Zion Mennonite Church

Tribute Wall

DF

“ Stan and I want Beth, David, Mark and their families, and Ruby, her sister, to know that we also miss her loving and gracious hospitality, many stories, memories, cheerful smile, and chuckle. She was a dear friend for over seventy years to me in Oklahoma, Hesston, Goshen, and La Junta, all places where we lived, studied, worshipped, or worked together. She and I used to go to 4-H Club state competitions together, and spent many Sundays of our childhood at each other's homes. She was a woman of deep faith, courage, and compassion. I am sorry we did not know of the memorial activities in time to be present. We were baptized at the same time at Zion Church, and sat together at her brother Floyd Ray's funeral in that church - I hope to go there to pay my respects. I miss her and her hugs, but will always treasure what she taught me through both words and example. Our prayers and thoughts are with all of you who are grieving. Delores Histan Friesen

Delores H Friesen - September 21, 2022 at 02:09 AM

BK

“ Paula and I send our condolences to all the Yoder family as you grieve the loss of Mary. We especially appreciated Mary's friendship and care given to my mother, Alma, over the years in La Junta. They were fellow congregants for many years at Emmanuel Mennonite and neighbors at Casa del Sol the last number of years Alma was in La Junta. Mary truly was a gentle and caring spirit who will be missed by so many. Sending prayers your way, Bruce Kuhns

Bruce Kuhns - September 18, 2022 at 07:13 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Magdalena Yoder.*



September 16, 2022 at 08:45 AM



“ *As a newcomer to La Junta in 1978, Mary was the first person to stop by my apartment with a welcome note, and fresh tomatoes from her garden. That small act of kindness was so welcoming. I have fond memories of delicious meals enjoyed with her family, including a Christmas brunch. I will always remember Mary's unfailing kindness and cheerfulness. My heart goes out to you, her family, as you adjust to a new normal. Sending prayers for peace and comfort. Warmly, Linda Miller*

Linda Miller - September 15, 2022 at 08:35 PM



“ *I first met Mary when I moved to LJ in 1979. I had the privilege of working with her at home health, working with wounds and wound vacs. I never could get her to ride the motorcycle with me. Smart woman. I will never will forget when I brought a kitty litter cake to work and later she asked me for the recipe. My thoughts, prayers and love goes out to the family. She will be missed. ❤️🙏 Carolyn Nesselhuf.*

Carolyn Nesselhuf - September 14, 2022 at 11:58 PM

MB

“ *Mary taught me so much about wound care I feel so bad about her passing! She’s an angel now watch over her family and friends 🙏*
🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏. Malvina broadbent

malvina broadbent - September 14, 2022 at 06:30 PM