



Elaine E. Palmer "Bunny"

DEC 15, 1928 - MAR 20, 2025



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Elaine E. Palmer "Bunny"

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Elaine E. Palmer of Lewes, Delaware passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

Elaine (Bunny) was born on December 15, 1928, daughter of Chester Reid and Gertrude Elaine Underhill at their home in Leonardo, New Jersey. It was at home that the delivery nurse called her Bunny; the nickname stuck.

Bunny graduated from Collingswood High School in 1947. She had many life-long friends from New Jersey and attended class reunions into her nineties. A few years after graduation, she enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. While stationed at Camp Pendleton, in California, Bunny met Staff Sergeant Robert Lee Palmer of Lewes, Delaware. Six weeks later they were married, before the Marine Corps sent Bunny to Hawaii. After they were discharged from the Marines, Bunny and Lee moved to Lee's hometown, Lewes and started a family. A year later they moved to Collingswood for seven years before permanently returning to Lewes. Bunny and Lee were married for forty-eight years.

Bunny retired from Beebe Hospital after thirty-eight years of service, at the age of seventy-eight. Immediately after retiring she became a volunteer at the hospital for eight additional years.

Bunny and Lee were two of the original founders of the Elks Lodge #2340 of Lewes. They enjoyed playing cards and spending time with family and friends including the Howarths, Fishers, McCartys, Elliotts, Burtons, Melotts, Cunninghams, Mitchells, and Ortons.

Bunny was a faithful sixty-year member and volunteer at Bethel United Methodist Church where she was a member of the Elizabeth Circle.

Bunny enjoyed sending cards to family and friends acknowledging their special occasions. She also liked taking and sharing pictures of family and friends at gatherings. Bunny was devoted to



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her furry companion of sixteen years, Molly.

Bunny was preceded in death by her parents, Chester Reid and Gertrude Elaine Underhill, her husband R. Lee Palmer, brother Bradford Underhill (Betty, Patricia), sister Lois Conlin (Owen), and Lee's siblings, Agnus Allen (Oscar), Evelyn Miller (Stanley), James Palmer (Audrey), Clifford Howarth, mother-in-law Blanche Palmer as well as other extended family members.

Bunny is survived by her children, Jeff Palmer (Laurie) of Ponte Vedra, Florida, Greg Palmer (Terri) of Haddon Heights New Jersey, Russ Palmer (Nicole) of Lewes, Delaware and Ellen Ritchie (Steve) of Middletown Delaware; Her thirteen grandchildren, Brian Palmer (Rene), Jennifer Palmer, Jason Palmer, David Palmer, Greg Palmer (Lexie), Michele Palmer, Zac Palmer (Kelly), Lauren Price (Sammy), Alison Palmer, Dane Palmer, Kyle Ritchie, Erin Ritchie (Joe), and Chad Ritchie (Marena); Six great grandchildren, Chase Palmer, Brody Palmer, Sydney Jefferson, Gabrielle Price, Cameron Price and Stephen Ritchie; sister-in-law Jean Howarth along with many nieces and nephews.

Memorial Services will be held on Friday March 28, 2025 at 11 am at the Bethel United Methodist Church, 129 W. 4th Street, Lewes, DE where friends may visit beginning at 9:30 AM. A reception will be held in the church hall immediately following the Services. Interment will be private at Bethel Methodist Cemetery, Lewes, DE.

The services may also be viewed via Live Stream by visiting -
https://youtube.com/live/sM_msBZNbzw?feature=share

In lieu of flowers contributions are suggested to Brandywine Valley SPCA of Georgetown, 22918 Dupont Blvd., Georgetown, DE 19947 or to the Bethel United Methodist Church, 129 W. Fourth Street, Lewes, DE 19958.

Please sign Bunny's Tribute Wall at this site.

Florist Note. Please deliver any floral tributes to our Lewes Location by 3 PM on Thursday March 27, 2025.



Events

Elaine E. Palmer "Bunny"

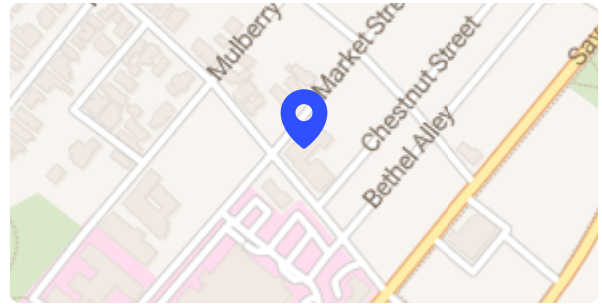
DEC 15, 1928 - MAR 20, 2025

Visitation

Friday, March 28, 2025

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Bethel United Methodist Church
129 West 4th Street, Lewes DE

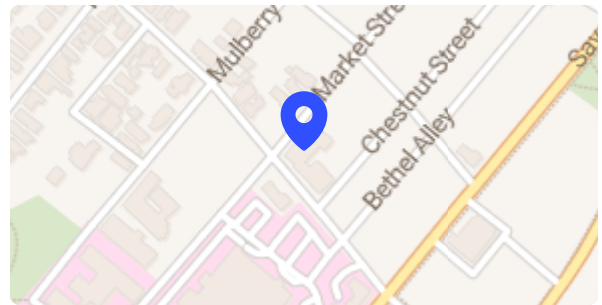


Memorial Service

Friday, March 28, 2025

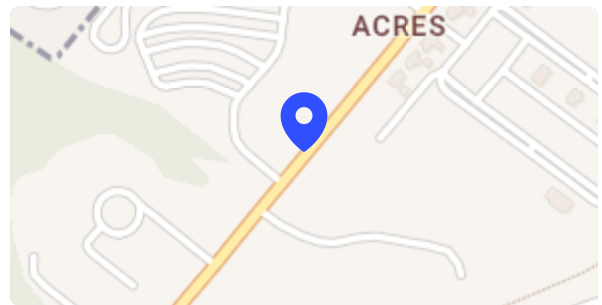
11:00 AM ET

Bethel United Methodist Church
129 West 4th Street, Lewes DE



Cemetery Details

Bethel Methodist Cemetery
Savannah Road, Lewes DE





Tribute Wall

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Buddy Clark posted:

Bunny will be sorely missed. I really enjoyed working with her for many years at Beebe. Ever Faithful and Patriotic. God Speed my friend.

March 28 at 3:43 PM



Keena Ross posted:

What a wonderful woman Mrs. Palmer was! Her legacy's revealed through her generational family of many, her deep faith, and as such, devotion to Bethel UM Church and it's members. When I returned to church after living away, she was one of the first to greet me and welcome me back. It is here where, as my Sunday School teacher for several years in my youth, and as a shining example, Mrs. Palmer was instrumental in inspiring the foundation of my faith to be what it is today.(Even when Jeff was entertaining us in class! Smile! Nice memories. She was so sweet and kind.)I'm very thankful that I was able to watch her service live streamed today, as I learned so much more of her biography and now have an even deeper appreciation of having known her. My heart goes out to each member of her family. May God sooth your hearts and cherished memories bring you smiles through your tears. Know that the Lord is watching over you because of her love for him.With kindness and condolences,Keena Parsons Ross

March 28 at 11:39 AM



Susan Best posted:

My condolences to the family especially to Jeff,Greg, Ellen and Russ. Your mom played an important part in my life. She was a wonderful, caring woman. She always had a warm greeting for me whenever we would meet. I am sorry I cannot be there on this day, however, she and all of you are in my mind and in my prayers.Sincerely,Susan Murabito Best

March 28 at 4:26 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Elaine E..



March 27 at 1:15 PM



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Charlotte A Bastian posted:

I feel a great deal of sadness that Bunny has passed and also feel a great deal of happiness that she and her family were such an important part of our community and especially Bethel Church. She was a strong pillar in our church and I was always so happy to see her. I hope all of the happy memories that you all have will give you strength and peace in the days and years ahead. Bunny, Jim and I shared the common love of the Marine Corps and Jim admired her strength and leadership throughout her beautiful life. She will surely be missed by so many and I am so happy that I considered her a friend and church family. Charlotte A Bastian

March 27 at 11:25 AM



From Gertrude Ann Mccaffery Haughey. sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Palmer "Bunny" family.



March 27 at 9:10 AM



From Gertrude Ann Mccaffery Haughey. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Elaine E..



March 27 at 9:10 AM



Mary Beth Monigle posted:

Dear Ellen and Russ, and the entire Palmer family, I'm so sorry for your loss. I will always remember your mother with a warm smile on her face and a kind word to share. She certainly left a beautiful legacy. My prayers are with you all.

March 26 at 2:44 PM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Palmer "Bunny" family.



March 25 at 11:35 AM



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Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Elaine E..



March 25 at 11:35 AM



Troy Melott posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the Palmer family. As a child, I visited Aunt Bunny and Uncle Lee many times when my parents were there playing cards. I remember playing with their pet dog "Dingky". and having them spoil me rotten like I was their own child. What a beautiful person Bunny was. I will never forget the fond times I had visiting their home. Troy Melott

March 25 at 11:15 AM



Ellen Tolbert posted:

Bunny was a Beebe rockstar! She touched so many of us with her kindness. Sincere condolences to her beloved family.

March 25 at 4:49 AM



Sandi Siegfried posted:

Sending condolences to my friend, Russell and his family for the loss of Mrs. Palmer. She patiently waited for us to grow up throughout our crazy antics. I'll always remember how sweet she was to me. May she rest in God's loving arms, now.

March 24 at 12:33 PM



Anonymous sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Palmer "Bunny" family.



March 24 at 11:34 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Elaine E..



March 24 at 11:34 AM



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MD

Midge Dinatale lit a candle in honor of Elaine E..

To me she was Aunt Bunny. As the niece of Cliff and Jean, I thought of her and Lee as my family too. I don't know of a time when I saw Aunt Bunny that she didn't have a big smile. She was always so friendly and kind. My sincere condolences to her family and all who knew and loved her. Sincerely, Midge (Bakke) DiNatale



March 23 at 3:52 PM

CR

Charlotte Reed posted:

Sending my condolences to all the family as a fellow Lewes girl. Bunny Palmer was my favorite Sunday School teacher at Bethel and I was lucky enough to see and tell her that not too long ago. Charlotte Anderson Reed.

March 23 at 11:12 AM

LS

Liz Schafer posted:

I met Mrs. Palmer in 2003 when I moved into the house next door. She "teared-up" with fond memories when she described how she and her late husband built their house. As a proud Marine, she flew the Marine Corps flag. When I asked if her husband was a Marine, she responded "I was a Marine too!" She boasted with pride when she told me about her family. I was born the same year as her twins and she always remembered to mail me a birthday card with a nice note. I enjoyed Molly, her faithful companion. Molly was the best dog. She was so friendly. Mrs. Palmer loved nature and had several bird feeders. She had a book about birds next to her window and could identify every bird that visited. Mrs. Palmer always looked after me. When I was a "weekender", there was a Nor'easter that knocked down limbs and debris in my yard. When I arrived on Friday, the yard was raked and the limbs were stacked in neat piles. When I thanked Mrs. Palmer, she responded that she liked to be outdoors and yard work. Her yard always had the prettiest flowers. When her house was robbed, she met me at my car. She was worried about my safety and stayed with me as I walked through my house. When Mrs. Palmer no longer felt like cooking but still had a nice appetite, I would bring her leftovers from meals that I prepared. One time, she told me that she would no longer accept food if I kept calling her Mrs. Palmer. She wanted me to call her "Bunny". She always reciprocated with cookies. I will miss my friend and my neighbor. All my love and condolences, Liz Schafer

March 23 at 7:52 AM



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Jim & Cindy Hennessee posted:

Dear Ellen, we have missed you this year in Naples. Our hearts grieve with you in the loss of your dear mama. Though I never met her, it sounds like she was a wonderful woman. Please know we will be thinking of you and your family as you lay her to rest. We know it is not goodbye for children of God, but rather, "See you later." With sincere love & prayers, Jim & Cindy Hennessee

March 23 at 6:36 AM



Marie Reed lit a candle in honor of Elaine E..

To Russ and Nicole and family so very sorry Mrs Palmer was a sweet lady hugs and prayers. Marie Reed

March 23 at 4:47 AM



Mary Lou Warren lit a candle in honor of Elaine E..

My thoughts & prayers go out to Jeff, Greg, Russ, Ellen & their families. When you grew up in Highland Acres many years ago, you knew just about all your neighbors. It was a tight-knit community & a great neighborhood to grow up in. Later in life, I would often see Mrs. Palmer at Beebe Hospital (where we both worked) & at Bethel UMC. I received many birthday & anniversary cards from her. I often wondered how she kept up with sending cards to so many people. She was a kind & lovely lady. I was lucky to have known her & her family all these years. Praying that God will bring you comfort & strength during this difficult time

March 22 at 7:53 PM



Carol Cunningham Brown posted:

My deepest sympathy. Bunny was a special lady. I was blessed to have known her. She and my mom played a lot of cards over the years. My prayers for peace and comfort to her family.

March 22 at 9:00 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Elaine E. by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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