

West Ohio Conference - A Call to Prayer

Let us remember in prayer those grieving the loss of their loved one, and remember in thanksgiving the life and ministry of:

Pastor Debra Sue "Deb" Berry passed away peacefully June 4, 2024 in her home.

A beloved and cherished member of the community, she dedicated 25 years of her life serving as a beacon of faith and hope.

Debra was born November 27, 1956 in Norwalk OH to the late Theodore and Mildred (Deitrick) Kearney. She was also preceded in death by her brother Theodore Kearney, sister Donna Feichtner, brothers-in-law John Feichtner and Mike Berry, as well as a nephew Owen Feichtner.

Deb was a graduate of Ehope JVS in Norwalk. She then went on to the Duke Seminary receiving a pastoral degree and would ultimately become an Associate Pastor through the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2010. From 1999-2010, she passionately preached at Holgate Methodist Church, leaving an unforgettable mark on all who had the privilege to hear her. Alongside her duties, in recent years, she shared her wisdom and kindness as a part time pastor and a friend to all in the congregation at Rhinehart United Methodist Church.

Prior to her passing, Pastor Deb was appointed to start as pastor at LaRue United Methodist Church, where her guidance touched countless lives. Debra served as the church secretary, bringing her dedication and organizational skills to the community she loved.

Beyond her ministry, Debra found comfort in the simple joys of life; gardening and cherishing moments with her beloved friends and pets were some of her favorites. But most of all, she adored her family, particularly her two grandchildren. She leaves a legacy of compassion, faith, and love that will forever be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know her. Her spirit will continue to inspire and guide us all.

Deb is survived by her husband, Richard (Rick) Berry, and they were married September 16, 1978 in Columbia, SC after just 3 months of knowing one another. This September would've been 46 years of marriage. Also surviving is their son, Tony (Amanda Harvey) Berry of LaRue; a granddaughter, Korryn Berry of LaRue; a grandson, Coltin Berry of St. Paul, MN; sisters-in-law Sharon Kearney and Sokim Berry; and a cousin and lifelong friend Luana (John) Mathew. Last but not least, she is survived by her 3 dogs and 2 cats whom she and Rick shared together.

Funeral Services will be held Monday June 10, 2024 at 11:00 am at the LaRue United Methodist Church, pastor Mike Raypholtz will officiate, burial will follow in the LaRue Cemetery. Friends may call Sunday from 2-4 pm at the Stofcheck-Ballinger Funeral Home in LaRue.

Memorial gifts can be made to the LaRue United Methodist Church at 166 N High St. LaRue, OH 43332 or the Rhinehart United Methodist Church at 17680 Twp Rd 195 Kenton, OH 43326.

Condolences and remembrances may be expressed at www.stofcheck-ballinger.com