

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:

Diane Devers Sprague, age 86, of Columbus, passed away Sunday, February 22, 2026

She was the daughter of Irene Haupt Devers and Donald D. Devers, step-daughter of Delbert Allford (upon the premature death of her father), was born in Dayton, and graduated from Trotwood-Madison High School, Miami Jacobs and North Central Colleges. For nearly 66 years, she was the loving wife of Bishop C. Joseph Sprague, who survives her.

For more than 45 years, Diane was a devoted supporter of Joe's ministry as pastor and bishop in the United Methodist Church, while distinguishing herself as a Head Start teacher and Recreational Therapist in nursing homes and the former Central Ohio Psychiatric Hospital in Columbus. Her students, co-workers, and patients highly regarded Diane because of an empathetic heart that identified graciously with the wounds of others. She had a rare capacity to value and accept all people equally, regardless of their life situation.

Diane was particularly at home in her kitchen, where cooking delicacies to share with family and neighbors was a hospitable trait acquired from her mother. She enjoyed lake cottages, beach vacations with her autoharp tuned and ready, OSU women's basketball, Scrabble, giving birthday parties (even for her adored dogs), working out with a trainer, singing in the church choir, and the Cincinnati Reds.

Most of all, the abiding joy of Diane's life was her treasured family, including children and spouses Joseph D. (Denise), Mary Anna Paumier (Vince), David J. (Jane), Becca Burlison (Todd), and Mark C. (Deceased); 10 grandchildren: Mylene (Kevin), Lyda (Jesse), Dan (Haley), Victoria (Jacob), Anna (Rafal), JD (Sydney), Sam (fiancé Madelyn), Charlie, Drew, and Ben; and 10 great-grandchildren: Caroline, Wyatt, Wesley, Ella, Henry, Milo, Malcolm, Camden, Caysen, and Jack; and sisters Jeanie Hertlein and Nancy Roberts.

A former athlete herself, Diane was an avid fan of her family's many athletic involvements, and immensely proud of their academic, professional, and community accomplishments. She was overjoyed by their values and ethics, grateful for all they did for others, and constantly rejoiced in the strong family tradition they represent.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 14th, at North Broadway UMC, 48 E. N. Broadway St. Columbus, Ohio, 43214, her family will greet friends following the services. Arrangements entrusted to the Snyder Funeral Center in Delaware.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be sent in Memory of Diane Sprague to the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 3081 Columbus Pike, Delaware, Ohio, 43015, for the Mark C. Sprague Scholarship Fund, that assists minority students preparing for urban ministry.

Condolences may be expressed at www.snyderfuneralhomes.com