

*“He will wipe away all the tears
from their eyes, and there shall
be no more death, nor sorrow,
nor crying, nor pain.
All of that has gone forever”
Revelation 21:4*

*“Not that I speak in respect of want;
for I have learned,
in whatsoever state I am,
therewith to be content.”
Philippians 4:11*

*Life is changed...
not taken away.*





Jean was born on October 12, 1939, to Eilert and Ruth (Heubrock) Wilken in rural Plymouth County Iowa. She graduated from Hawarden High School in 1957. Jean worked in grocery stores in Akron and Hawarden where she met her future husband, Kenneth Carlson. They married on August 4, 1963, at the Associated Church in Hawarden, Iowa. They had one daughter, Ann.

Jean and Ken owned Ken's IGA for many years. She gave herself some of the worst jobs at the store like mopping the floor and sorting pop cans. This was a source of humor to her customers. They sold the store in 1987 and spent many happy years in retirement traveling, working at Calliope Village, being involved in the church, warm water exercise, and collecting. They moved to Trail Ridge in Sioux Falls in 2003 where Jean lived until 2014 when she moved to Bellevue to be closer to family.

Jean was active in the Associated Church for most of her life. She sang in the choir, was a member of Women's Fellowship, taught Sunday School and Bible School, and served as a deacon and elder. She was President, clerk and financial secretary for the church's Parish Council, and a delegate to many Presbytery meetings. Her love and faith in the Lord were defining characteristics as well as her curiosity, joy in spending time with family and friends and avid crafting. She suffered with rheumatoid arthritis and was a two-time breast cancer survivor. Despite health concerns, she persevered and used her giving heart to serve others.

Jean's final years were spent at Heritage Ridge in Bellevue, Nebraska where she made many new friends and enjoyed activities and crafts.

She passed away on Friday, April 28, 2023 at Bellevue Medical Center in Bellevue, Nebraska at the age of 83.

Jean is survived by her daughter, Ann (Dan) Prekker, her granddaughters, Elizabeth (Dylan) Sherrill, Eleanor and Claire, her great-grandson, Kit all of Papillion, Nebraska; several nieces and nephews; and her "extra blessing" Susan Smith of Sioux Falls.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ken; infant siblings, Betty and Frank; brother, William Wilken; sisters-in-law, Mary Wilken, Florence Hanson, Eleanor Raynie, and Ruth Wyatt; and special friend, Russell Christy.

In Loving Memory Of
Jean Carlson

October 12, 1939 ✠ April 28, 2023

FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 a.m. Thursday, May 4, 2023
Associated Church
Hawarden, Iowa

OFFICIATING

Pastor Jean Layton

ORGANIST

Julie Hummel

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" #60
"When Peace Like A River" #519
"Precious Lord, Take My Hand" # 638

CASKET BEARERS

Pete Daale ~ Jerry Emerson
Casey Havelaar ~ Kevin O'Keeffe
David Smith ~ Gary Witt

INTERMENT

Grace Hill Cemetery
Hawarden, Iowa

Please join Jean's family for lunch and fellowship in the church basement following the committal service.