

Ardene Marie Wheeler

was born November 7, 1927, on a ranch southeast of Philip, South Dakota, to Arthur and Marie (Valet) Wheeler. She attended country school at Brady School until seventh grade and graduated from Philip High School in 1945. She worked for Northwestern Bell Telephone. Ardene attended Nettleton Commercial College in Sioux Falls. She worked at Klawiter School Supply and at Empire Equipment Co. in Sioux Falls until 1950; she worked for Jacobs & Goode in Rapid City, until 1958. Ardene was united in marriage to Jiggs O'Connell on Nov 15, 1958 in Deadwood, South Dakota. To this union two children were born. They made their home on a ranch in the North Dakota Badlands until they retired to Dickinson in 1994. While on the ranch, Ardene was known for her donuts and coffee. Later, she was known for her dedication to Jiggs' care during his Alzheimer journey. Ardene was active in her churches: the Belfield Lutheran Church and later St. John's Lutheran Church in Dickinson. She volunteered at St. Luke's Nursing Home fixing hair. Ardene was a charter member of the West River Community Center. She was an avid reader with a keen mind, quick wit, and innate wisdom. She enjoyed her travels within the US and abroad. Grateful for having shared her life are daughter Kathy O'Connell, son Scott O'Connell, honorary daughter Gwen Davis, and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. In addition to her husband Jiggs, Ardene was preceded in death by her parents, Art and Marie Wheeler and all her siblings, Richard Wheeler, Durward "Dud" Wheeler, Lillian Phillips, and George Wheeler.

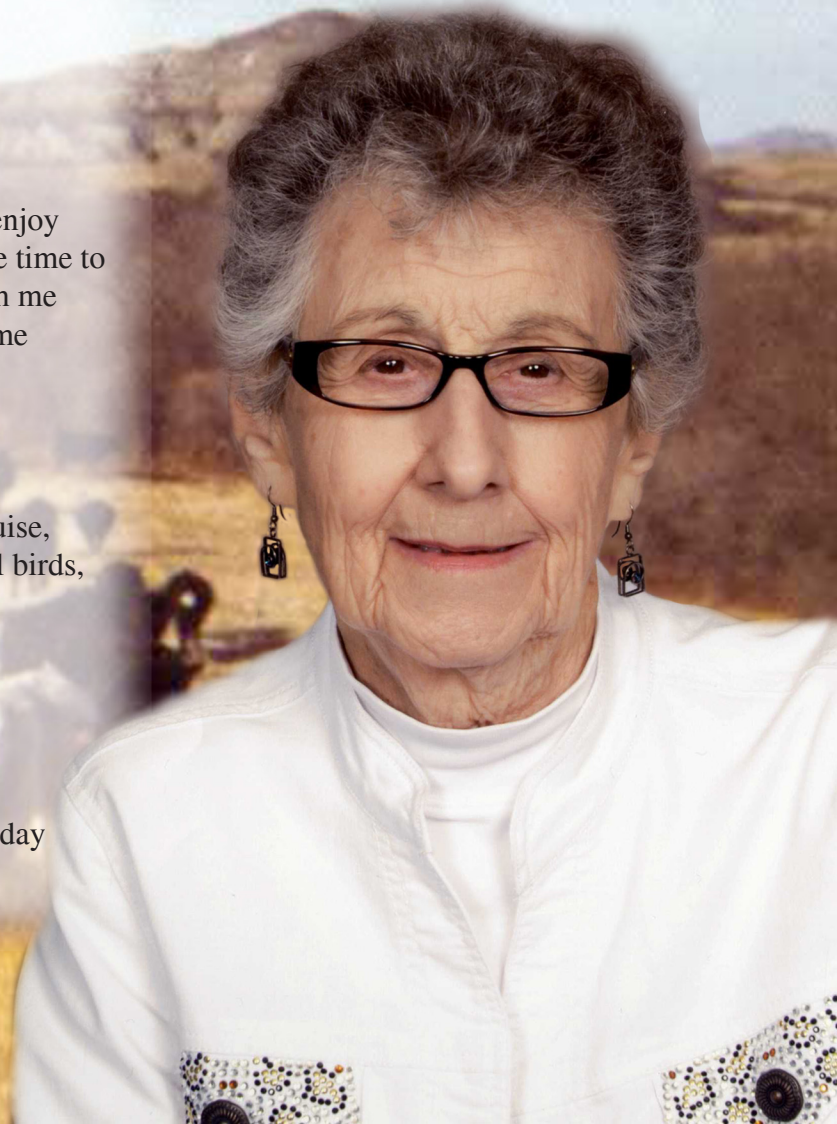
Time

Time on your hands
Time on your wrist
No hands on your time
Time has passed, it's your birthday
Time is yours
Time is precious
'Time' has 'me' in 'it'
There's no time like right now
What was the time of your life?
If you had all the time in the world,
what would you do?
If you had very little time left,
what would you do?
Spend time with people you enjoy
Good times are created doing what you enjoy
It's about time that I thank you for taking the time to
Have me ... teach me ... spend time with me
You are my mother ... then it came time
to be my friend
I want to spend more time with you
I love you 80 times more than
you could ever know
Soon it will be time to take your first cruise,
read a book on the lanai, watch the tropical birds,
laugh at the pelicans,
have your temperature taken
Can you tell time?
If you did, would it listen?
Time to make the doughnuts!

By Kate O'Connell - for her 80th Birthday

Ardene O'Connell

November 7, 1927 - January 8, 2022



FUNERAL SERVICE:
Friday, January 14, 2022 11:00 a.m.
St. John Lutheran Church
Dickinson, North Dakota

OFFICIATING:
Pastor Lisa Lewton

MUSIC:
Jean Franklin

ARRANGEMENTS BY:
Stevenson Funeral Home
Dickinson, North Dakota

Lunch will be served in the basement
of the church following the Funeral Service.
Everyone is welcome.



Ardene O'Connell

*Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.
Mary E. Frye*

FUNERAL SERVICE:
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:00 a.m.
First Lutheran Church
Philip, South Dakota

OFFICIATING:
Pastor Kathy Chesney

MUSIC:
Marilyn Millage

INURNMENT
Masonic Cemetery
Philip, South Dakota

Lunch will be served at the church
following the Graveside Service.
Everyone is welcome.

