



## Emily Nell Simpson Wigger

August 12, 1937 - April 8, 2024

Emily Nell Simpson Wigger died April 8, 2024, at Alton Memorial Hospital. Born August 12, 1937, she was the daughter of Thomas and Cora Nell (Wade) Simpson. She married James “Jim” Wigger August 18, 1957, in Cape Girardeau where they met in college. She is survived by Jim as well as her three sons: Bradley Wigger (Jane) of Louisville KY; Steve Wigger (Ann) of Port Angeles, WA; and John Wigger (Kim) of Naperville, IL. Also surviving are six grandchildren: David, Cora, Patrick, J. Adam, Lena, and Jackson; as well as two great grandchildren, Elly and Jacob. Emily had worked in the Alton School System and was actively involved in the Presbyterian Church (USA) at local, regional, and national levels, including justice/peace advocacy with the denomination’s Presbyterian Women. A memorial service will be May 4, 2024, 11:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Alton, followed by a lunch reception. Burial will be private at Alton City Cemetery. Memorials may be given to the First Presbyterian Church soup kitchen. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and additional information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Alton City Cemetery

Alton, IL

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church  
4th & Alby Streets  
Alton, IL 62002

# Tribute Wall

SN

“ I am so surprised and sorry to see this news. Emily was such a force--so principled, so dedicated--she was someone who could easily be imagined as ageless. We in the presbytery were enriched by her presence and her leadership for so many years, as I'm sure many communities in the area were. We will all be diminished just a bit now, but inspired, I hope, to carry on the work she gave her heart to over the years. Rest in peace, Emily. Love to Jim and to her family and faith community.

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**Susan Niesen** - April 19, 2024 at 02:54 PM

MM

“ So sorry to hear this. I remember Mrs. Wigger from growing up in Alton. We talked about our connection with Cape Girardeau as well. My prayers are with you all.  
Betsy (Port) and Mark Mueth

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**Mark and Betsy (Port) Mueth** - April 19, 2024 at 09:05 AM

MD

“ I think of Emily as one of God's lovely people. Her kindness and care for others was a blessing. My love to Jim and the family.

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**Michal Dobson** - April 18, 2024 at 12:46 PM

MH

“ I am so heartbroken to hear the news of Emily's death. She was so caring and supportive in my journey. She was light and warmth and joy and spunk, every time we interacted. Sending lots of love to Brad and Jane, the whole family, and all who knew and loved her. -  
Rev. Melanie Hardison

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**Melanie Hardison** - April 16, 2024 at 11:32 PM

AS

“ I served with Emily in National Mission and found her to be a woman of light and joy. What a blessing she was to the church and to me as a colleague and friend. Allison Seed( the Rev.)

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**Allison Seed** - April 16, 2024 at 10:16 PM

SA

“ Emily and I served for several years on National denominational committees. She was sharp, wise, warm, and brave in how she led and what she said. I always thought that Emily represented the very best in Elder leadership for the PCUSA. Blessings to the family, (The Rev. Susan Andrews)

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**Susan Andrews** - April 16, 2024 at 07:08 PM

SH

“ We all remember Mrs. Wigger with great affection from First Pres Alton. May her memory be a blessing to you all.

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**Sally and Tim Hanson** - April 15, 2024 at 08:50 AM

KL

“ Our deepest condolences. We have many wonderful memories of Emily and Jim both in Alton and Canada and will cherish those memories forever. Sending peace and love, Thor and Kristin (Windmiller) Lindstrom and family

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**Kristin Lindstrom** - April 14, 2024 at 02:07 AM